

**SOUTH AFRICAN
JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES**

REPORT

SEPTEMBER, 1955 TO MARCH, 1958

Submitted to the

Twenty-first Congress

Johannesburg, 13th to 16th March, 1958

360.68

S

155/58

American Jewish Committee
LIBRARY

**SOUTH AFRICAN
JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES**

R E P O R T

SEPTEMBER, 1955 TO MARCH, 1958

Submitted to the

Twenty-first Congress

Johannesburg, 13th to 16th March, 1958

South African Jewish Board of Deputies

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

President:

I. A. MAISELS, Q.C.

Vice-Presidents:

Adv. D. COHEN (Cape)
A. SCHAUDER, J.P. (Eastern Province)
L. S. DITZ (Natal)
HENRY BRADLOW (O.F.S.)
B. A. ETTLINGER, Q.C. (Transvaal)
M. H. GOLDSCHMIDT (Additional)
E. J. HORWITZ (Additional)
A. B. KLIPIN (Additional)

Treasurer:

MAX GREENSTEIN

Chairman:

Adv. N. PHILIPS

Vice-Chairmen:

Dr. T. SCHNEIDER
A. SUZMAN, Q.C.

Members:

Mrs. MARY ADLER	Adv. AARON MENDELOW
EDGAR BERNSTEIN	A. L. MEYER
GEORGE BEROLD	MAURICE PORTER
Dr. I. BERSOHN	H. X. RAJAK, J.P.
Dr. L. EISNER	RUDOLPH RAPHAELY
ABE GRABMAN	WALTER SEEHOFF
JACK HERSOV	HARRY SEREBRO
S. KESSEL	Mrs. LILY SIVE
Dr. J. C. LAZAROW	N. M. SLOOT
Col. D. H. LEVINKIND	N. WINIK
LOUIS A. LIPSHITZ	

General Secretary:

G. SARON

Secretary:

J. M. RICH

Assistant Secretary:

L. DRUION

Offices:

Sheffield House, 29 Kruis Street, cor. Main Street, Johannesburg
P.O. Box 1180

Telephone: 22-7206.

Telegrams: "Deputies"

Contents

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
THE BOARD AND OVERSEAS JEWRY	1—4
Israel—Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations—Co-operation in the International Sphere—Jewish Material Claims Against Germany—Co-operation with other Bodies—Overseas Visitors.	
SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH APPEAL	4—6
Ashkelon—Future of Ashkelon—Subventions	
PUBLIC RELATIONS	6
Board's Attitude Re-stated—Afrikaners and Jews—Israel—Anti-Semitic Writings—Activities of Public Relations Committee.	
YOUTH WORK	12—16
Student Counsellor—Youth Organizer—Training Local Personnel—University Students—Services to Youth—Personnel of Committee.	
COMMUNAL RELATIONS	17—19
Bringing the Board to the Community—Regional Conferences—Exhibition of Jewish Religious Art—Lecture Service—Prof. Salo Baron—Jewish Memorial Day—Staff.	
PEOPLE'S COLLEGE	19—20
<i>THE JEWS IN SOUTH AFRICA: A HISTORY</i>	20
S.A. JEWISH SOCIOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY	21
<i>JEWISH AFFAIRS</i>	21
LIBRARY OF JEWISH INFORMATION	21—22
JEWISH MUSEUM	22—23
AUDIO-VISUAL LIBRARY	23
COUNTRY COMMUNITIES	23—26
Rabbi to the Country Communities—Shortage of Ministers—Ministers from Overseas—Temporary Services—Pastoral Tours—Officiants for High Festivals—Correspondence Courses and Sermons—Miscellaneous Assistance—Defunct Communities—Thanks.	
WELFARE WORK	26—27
Restitution Office—Ex-Servicemen's Committee.	
JEWISH REFUGEES FROM HUNGARY AND EGYPT	27—28
IMMIGRATION OF MINISTERS AND TEACHERS	28—29
Immigration Formalities.	

	Page
JEWISH MEMBERS OF THE FORCES	29
SHECHITA	29
CECIL LYONS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION	30
WEISS MEMORIAL BURSARY	30
GENERAL SECRETARY'S OVERSEAS VISIT	31
FUNCTIONS OF DEPUTIES	31—33
Meetings of Deputies—A Local Community Council—Com- mittee on Local Co-ordination	
UNITED COMMUNAL FUND FOR S.A. JEWRY ..	34—42
Introduction—Difficulties Encountered by the Fourth Cam- paign—The Israel Emergency Appeal—Cuts in the Alloca- tions—Women's Campaign—Results of the Fourth Campaign —Distribution of Funds—Distribution by Headquarters— Cape Western Province Distribution—Natal Distribution— Negotiations Regarding Fifth Campaign—Basis of Fifth Campaign—Progress of the 1957 Stabilization Campaign— Thanks—Administration.	
UNAUTHORIZED OVERSEAS APPEALS	42—43
MESHULLOCHIM	43—44
PENSIONS FOR HEBREW TEACHERS	44—45
FINANCE	45
BEQUESTS	45
MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD	45—46
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BOARD ON OTHER BODIES	46
THE BOARD'S STAFF	46—47
OBITUARY	47—48
CONGRATULATIONS	48—49
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES ..	49—53
Attendances at Executive Council—The Committees—Attend- ances at Committees.	
PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES	54
CAPE COUNCIL	54—61
EASTERN PROVINCE COMMITTEE	61—65
COUNCIL OF NATAL JEWRY	65—69
THE ORANGE FREE STATE COMMITTEE	70—71

FORM OF BEQUEST

I HEREBY GIVE AND BEQUEATH

free of all estate duty the sum of

.....
*to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Johannesburg, to
be used by the said Board for the carrying out of the objects for
which it has been constituted and I hereby direct that the receipt
signed by the Secretary for the time being of the said Board shall
be a sufficient discharge for the payment of the legacy.*

South African Jewish Board of Deputies

Report of the Executive Council for the period

SEPTEMBER, 1955 to MARCH, 1958

To be submitted to the Twenty-First Congress, Johannesburg,
March 13th to 16th, 1958

INTRODUCTION

Owing to certain practical difficulties in finding a suitable meeting place, the present Congress, which was due to be held last September, had to be postponed until the new Zion Hall became available. This report therefore covers a period of two-and-a-half years, instead of the usual two years.

The inter-Congress period has been overshadowed by the unease in the Middle East and the consequent threat to the security of the State of Israel. Happily, the State enters its tenth year even stronger from its trials and has also been able to provide a home for many thousands of our people.

The report now submitted is necessarily only a very brief summary of the activities of the Board during this period. The basic pattern of work has been maintained and the Board has also reacted to the numerous new problems that have arisen. Many aspects of the Board's work can necessarily receive only a passing mention, if any, in the report. We trust, however, that the general picture here presented is that of a live and vigorous organization endeavouring to fulfil its function as the representative body of the South African Jewish community.

THE BOARD AND OVERSEAS JEWRY

The Board continues to keep a close watch on Jewish developments of importance overseas, particularly in regard to Jews resident in countries where, unhappily, they are subject to religious, civil or economic restrictions. The Board, as the community's instrument for watching these matters and of assisting if it can, in remedial measures, is constantly at pains to inform itself of all aspects of Jewish life overseas. It maintains contact with the representative Jewish communal bodies in the free world and welcomes whatever opportunities offer themselves of learning at first-hand of overseas Jewish conditions from visitors to this country or through visits paid by members of the Executive Council and others overseas.

Israel

The Board has continued to follow with the closest interest the fortunes of the State of Israel.

In October, 1955, the Board and the South African Zionist Federation sent joint cables to the Foreign Ministers of the United States, Great Britain, France and Soviet Russia, then in conference in Geneva, protesting against the arming of the Arab States and appealing for the establishment of peace in the Middle East. In the following month, the Honorary Officers of the Board attended a meeting of the South African Zionist Council and declared the Board's support for the Israel Emergency Fund, necessitated by the crisis that had arisen consequent upon the provision of arms for Arab States by the Soviet countries.

The Board is represented on the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations Committee, set up by the South African Zionist Federation to organise the celebration in South Africa of the Tenth Anniversary of the State of Israel.

In March, 1956, Mr. E. Eylon, the Consul for Israel, and Mrs. Eylon, attended a meeting of Deputies and took leave of the Board on their departure from South Africa. A presentation was made to them to mark the esteem in which they were held by the Jewish community.

At the same meeting, the new Consul-General, Mr. G. Doron, and Mrs. Doron, were officially greeted on their arrival in this country.

Special meetings of the Executive Council were held to hear addresses by distinguished Israel visitors as follows: in October, 1955, Mr. Louis Pincus, General Manager of El Al Airways, a former member of the Executive Council; in June, 1956, Brigadier Yigal Allon, a member of the Israel Parliament and former Chief-of-Command of the Haganah during the Israel War of Liberation; and in August, 1956, Lieut.-Col. Basil Herman, of the Israel Office of Information in New York.

Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations

The Board continues to be a member of the Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other specialized agencies of the United Nations. The other members are the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the B'nai B'rith of the United States.

The head office of the Co-ordinating Board is maintained by the B'nai B'rith in Washington and there is also a London office, maintained jointly by this Board (through a subvention from the South African Jewish Appeal) and the Board of Deputies of British Jews. From time to time, meetings of representatives of the three

member bodies of the Co-ordinating Board are arranged. Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C., attended a meeting in New York in 1956, and Mr. G. Saron attended a meeting, also in New York, in 1957.

Co-operation in the International Sphere

Ever since the termination of the last World War the Board has been greatly perturbed by the lack of co-ordination between the Jewish bodies operating in the international sphere. There are no fewer than five Jewish bodies that have been granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. These are the Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, of which this Board is a member (the other partners being the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the B'nai B'rith), the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations (composed of the Anglo-Jewish Association, the Alliance Israélite Universelle and the American Jewish Committee), the World Jewish Congress, the World Agudas Israel and the World Union for Progressive Judaism. The conflicting ideologies of these bodies have prevented a union of forces and have been apt on occasions to be detrimental to the common cause.

The report to last Congress recorded that at the instance of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the President of the World Jewish Congress, discussions had been initiated between the major Jewish representative bodies with the object of devising means for future co-operation between the organizations and the co-ordination of their work. It is gratifying that practical steps towards the achievement of this goal have at last been taken.

As the climax of patient negotiations by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, who circulated certain tentative proposals, a conference was held in Rome in January this year. It was attended by Mr. N. Philips, on behalf of the Board. The representatives of the ten major Jewish bodies present unanimously agreed to set up a new organization, known as the Conference of Jewish Organizations. The bodies represented were the American Jewish Congress, the B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Labour Committee, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Conseil Représentatif des Juifs de France, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the World Jewish Congress. Delegates of the Jewish Agency were present as observers.

The Alliance Israelite Universelle, the Anglo-Jewish Association and the American Jewish Committee, the three partners in the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, were not present at the Conference.

The purpose of the new body was declared to be to exchange information between organizations in the various countries, to hold regular meetings in order to discuss and if possible to deal with

matters of common Jewish interest, to endeavour to co-ordinate their policies on such matters and to take such action as may be unanimously agreed upon.

Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

The Board's representatives on the Board of Directors of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany are at present Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C., and Mr. N. Philips. The Conference was established to allocate the sums received annually by way of reparations and compensation to Jewish victims of Nazism (other than the payments to the State of Israel and the claims by individuals).

The following represented the Board at annual meetings of the Board of Directors of the Conference: 1956, New York, Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C.; 1957, New York, Mr. G. Saron; 1958, Rome, Mr. N. Philips.

Co-operation with Other Bodies

The Board is loosely associated with the World Jewish Congress, to which it is indebted for a constant and most valuable flow of documentation on world Jewish affairs.

Special thanks are due to the Board of Deputies of British Jews, with whom there is constant collaboration.

Close relations are also maintained with the Rhodesian Jewish Board of Deputies. In October, 1956, Mr. N. Philips, Chairman of the South African Board, attended by invitation the Congress of the Rhodesian Board.

Overseas Visitors

In July, 1956, Rabbi André Zaoui, Rabbi of the Union Libérale Israélite, of Paris, who was on a mission to South Africa on behalf of the Alliance Israélite Universelle, addressed the Overseas Committee of the Board, and in August, 1957, Mr. Eugène Weill, General Secretary of the Alliance Israélite Universelle, addressed a meeting of the Executive Council.

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH APPEAL

The principal activities of the S.A. Jewish Appeal continue to be based on Israel. It is helping to develop Ashkelon, subsidizing the Ort vocational training schools, the medical institutions of the Ose-Israel, the schools of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, refugee rabbis, Yeshivoh, the United HIAS Service and the Brit Avodah.

Ashkelon

In January, 1956, Dr. H. Sonnabend, who was Managing Director of the Afridar Housing Corporation, Ltd., and Mayor of

Ashkelon, died suddenly, to the great grief of the inhabitants of Ashkelon, by whom he was much loved, and of South African Jewry, who held him in high regard.

His duties as managing director were taken over by Mr. Selwyn Lurie, who was also appointed Managing Director of Afrihon, Ltd., the company in control of the commercial enterprises of the Appeal at Ashkelon.

Mr. Lurie had been appointed a Director by the Ashkelon Council some six months earlier to deal with certain financial difficulties in which the Afridar Housing Corporation found itself. His task called for a great deal of skill, tact and patience. The finances of the company are now on a sound basis. It is paying its way from its local resources and is no longer subsidized from South Africa.

To the vacant position of Mayor of Ashkelon the Minister of the Interior appointed Mr. Leo Tager, who has a long record of communal work to his credit in South Africa.

During the period under review there were completed in the Afridar neighbourhood, which was planned by the South African Jewish Appeal, 120 dwelling units for workers of the Yuval Gad Cement Pipe Factory and 250 dwellings under the "Mifal Hachishachon" scheme, making a total to date of about 900 dwellings. The President of Israel, Mr. Itzhak Ben Zwi, acquired one of these dwellings, and frequently spends week-ends in Ashkelon.

Future of Ashkelon

Since September, 1954, the management of the Ashkelon project has been vested in an Ashkelon Council, which is composed of an equal number of representatives of the South African Jewish Appeal and the South African Zionist Federation, the Chairman of the Council being appointed by the Appeal.

In the period under review, sharp differences have emerged regarding the control of the Ashkelon project and its ultimate future. At one stage the Zionist Federation contended that the Ashkelon Council should become a department of the Zionist Federation, but this view was resisted by the Appeal, which believed that the change would be detrimental to the work. The matter was eventually considered by a joint meeting of representatives of the Board of Deputies, the Zionist Federation and the Appeal, as a result of which the proposal was not pursued and the *status quo* remained. Later, the Zionist Federation urged that the time had come to hand over the Ashkelon project to the Government of Israel. Accordingly, Dr. P. Snideman, the Chairman of the Ashkelon Council, accompanied by Mr. G. Osrin, Secretary of the Appeal, visited Israel and had discussions with the Government, which did not favour the proposal, but instead suggested that the Ashkelon Council should join with the Government in establishing an industrial development corporation with the object of attracting new

industries to Ashkelon. This scheme has not, however, been found acceptable.

Discussions are now taking place between the Board of Deputies, the Zionist Federation and the Jewish Appeal on the fundamental question of the continued future association of South African Jewry with Ashkelon.

Subventions

During the period under review, the S.A. Jewish Appeal voted subsidies to the following organizations: World Ort Union, World Union Ose, Rabbis and Yeshivoh, Alliance Israelite Universelle Schools, World Jewish Congress, United HIAS Service, Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, Jews' College, YIVO, Wiener Library, Brit Avodah, Tomb of the Unknown Martyr, Paris, "Aid to Intellectuals." The budget also covered the costs of the clothing depots in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban and the needs of the Migrants Committee in South Africa, as well as a vote for general welfare to cover emergency calls.

The clothing depots received altogether during this period over 408,000 items of used wearing apparel and used household linen, and 43,456 pairs of used footwear, as well as 581 items of new clothing and 752 pairs of new footwear. Practically all these goods, contributed by residents of the Union of South Africa, Rhodesia and South West Africa, were shipped to Israel. In addition the clothing depots shipped 12 cases of used sports goods and a quantity of used toys. Permits were issued by the Union Department of Commerce and Industries to cover these goods.

The Union Government continues to make six-monthly allocations of foreign exchange jointly to the Jewish Appeal and the Zionist Federation, for division by mutual agreement between the two bodies.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The safeguarding of the civic rights and status of South African Jewry, and the promotion of goodwill and understanding between Jews and their fellow citizens, continue to be one of the fundamental functions of the Board.

This report closes on the eve of the general election—always a season of intense political activity and a heightened sense of party loyalties. It is therefore opportune to recall the view consistently emphasized by the Board, namely, that for the citizen of Jewish faith there can be no question of attachment or subservience to a Jewish group standpoint in the exercise of his civic responsibilities at or during the election. There are happily no specific "Jewish issues." The right and duty of every Jewish voter is to follow the course advised by his own judgment on the issues before the electorate; and this will be determined by normal considerations and convictions on what he regards to be in the best interests of the country.

In this connection it is pertinent to quote the terms of a resolution passed by the Canadian Jewish Congress last year in a similar situation: "The forthcoming federal election prompts the Canadian Jewish Congress to reaffirm its views which it has publicized in the past as follows: Jewish citizens participate in Municipal, Provincial and National elections as citizens of Canada, sharing with the citizens of all other faiths and origins a common interest in the proper and efficient administration of our country's affairs. The Congress consequently rejects on principle any political appeal directed by a candidate based on racial or religious grounds, designed to give the impression that there is an ethnic or religious bloc such as the 'Jewish vote', and which is aimed at attracting votes by favouring or discriminating against any group in the electorate."

In essence that is the principle habitually maintained by the Board in the South African context. Board spokesmen have found it necessary periodically to re-emphasize the fundamental point involved, in view of the evident misunderstanding in some Jewish and non-Jewish circles of the actual position. Outstanding examples that attracted much attention in recent months were provided by articles which appeared in certain Jewish journals published in the United States. These were strongly critical of the South African Jewish attitude in the political debates on race relations and policies in South Africa, and the Board itself was enjoined to take a positive stand on these matters.

Board's Attitude Re-stated

The Board's position was defined by the Chairman of the Executive Council, Mr. N. Philips, on 30th September, 1956, as follows: "It (the Board) had been established as the representative body of the community to deal with matters which directly concern the Jewish community as a community. It had been stressed time and again that while individual Jews, as citizens of this country, have the right and duty to react to all questions of public interest, the Board as the representative body must confine itself to matters of purely Jewish concern. Furthermore, it was well known that all shades of public opinion were to be found among Jews and it would therefore be impossible for a representative Jewish body to speak on behalf of the Jewish community on controversial public questions."

In its issue of January, 1958, *Jewish Affairs* also replied to the critics in an editorial article which said *inter alia*: "It is true South African Jews have not adopted a collective attitude in regard to the racial policies and problems of this country. They have not done so, in the first place, because no collective attitude exists and there are as many different approaches among Jews as among all other South Africans. They have also not done so because the majority of Jews feel that such a collective stand is neither possible nor desirable. Racial issues form the very warp and woof of party politics in South Africa, and it has been a long-standing principle of the Jewish community that there is not and should not be a

Jewish vote on controversial questions of national policy. The only possible exception to this rule is where the rights and status of Jews themselves as citizens may be directly threatened.

For the rest it is as South African citizens that each of us must act according to his individual insight into our country's problems (and that insight, we may hope, will be influenced by each person's understanding of what the Jewish traditions and the teachings of Jewish history demand of him)."

Jewish Affairs went on to say that "the long-established policy of the Jewish community . . . certainly does not imply any indifference on the part of the individual South African Jew to the grave problems facing our country." The journal also answered the critics who called for an explicit statement on controversial racial issues from spokesmen of the Synagogue. It pointed out that although Jewish opinion was not unanimous on the subject, having regard to the concrete South African position, Jewish ministers and rabbis had in fact from time to time made their stand clear, with the full support of their congregants.

At the other end of the scale were those members of the community and outside observers, particularly in pro-Government newspapers, who looked to the Jewish community for signs of a favourable attitude towards current official policies, notably on racial questions.

Every suitable occasion was taken to re-define and explain the accepted principles of the Board and the position of the community for the enlightenment of these critics. The same action was taken, with apparently good results, in answering the complaints voiced in sections of the Nationalist press to the effect that Jewish supporters of the Government, especially at the Cape, were being "edged out" from the councils of the Board for political reasons. Misapprehensions on that score, mainly due to a lack of knowledge of the facts, were set right, and with the passage of time less was heard of such unfounded allegations. Individual Jews are nowadays to be found among all parties and his political affiliation does not affect the standing of any Jew in the community.

Although as has been remarked above, "Jewish issues" were not much in evidence in the recognized political field, there was an occasional tendency among some Parliamentarians and provincial councillors as well as certain newspapers to inject derogatory allusions to Jews into discussions on highly-controversial questions of general public importance. This was apparent in heated debates concerned with racial, religious and educational problems in particular. Speakers and writers were disposed at times to drag in offensive references to the alleged association between Jews and Communism and "Liberalism" (used in an obnoxious sense), or to make disparaging remarks about Jewish public men holding different views.

Responding to suggestions that as Jews they should abstain from intervening in political debates on delicate racial issues or modify

their modes of expression for the good of their community, Jewish public men, very properly, in the Board's opinion, asserted their rights and responsibilities to their constituents to make their voices freely heard on these questions.

Afrikaners and Jews

Exaggerated or not, such incidents were not to be ignored as symptoms of racial prejudice manifesting themselves too readily in moments of unrestraint and excitement. On the other hand, there were notable signs of better mutual understanding in the relations between Jews and Afrikaners at many levels. These were exemplified in public statements by leading personalities such as the Administrator of the Orange Free State, Mr. J. J. Fouché, in articles in the Jewish and non-Jewish press, at meetings held by bodies like the Union of Jewish Women in association with non-Jews, and generally speaking, in expressed desires on both sides for more cultural and social contacts. In that connection, a knowledge of the Afrikaans language and literature, as Afrikaners have repeatedly urged, is a passport to better relations.

It is noteworthy that spokesmen of the Afrikaans community have acknowledged on various occasions that they have found a commendable spirit in that respect, among Jewish fellow citizens with whom they have come into contact.

Israel

Developments in Israel have continued to excite the sympathetic interest and, taken by and large, the admiration, of non-Jewish South Africans, conspicuously so among Afrikaans-speaking churchmen, journalists and other members of the Afrikaans public. Trade and cultural relations between the two countries have been fostered by visits of business men, industrialists and farmers to and from Israel and by visits of Israeli scientists and artistes as well as by exhibitions of Israeli arts and crafts. Almost invariably, the progress made by Israel economically and otherwise and the youthful State's cultural achievements have received favourable comment. Leading Israeli personalities who have toured South Africa have met with friendly receptions outside no less than inside the Jewish community. A notable case was that of General Moshe Dayan, at the time Chief of the Israeli General Staff, whose personality, modest bearing and military prowess, so spectacularly evidenced in the Sinai campaign towards the end of 1956, made a deep impression on many South Africans.

Politically the Government's attitude towards Israel has been marked by the same practical sympathy as it has displayed since the foundation of the State. The Israeli action at the time of the Suez crisis was well understood in responsible South African quarters, even among those who disapproved of other aspects of that episode in the relations between the West and Egypt. This was in line with the general realization of the common interests which South Africa

and Israel had in the preservation of peace and security in the Middle East.

In 1956 a complete number of *Lantern*, a magazine of considerable standing issued under State patronage, was devoted to Israel and South African Jewry. It was prepared and published in collaboration between the South African Association for Adult Education, Arts and Science and the Board of Deputies, the Zionist Federation and the Israeli Minister in the Union. Its extensive circulation in this country and overseas no doubt contributed towards a better knowledge of Israel and the Jewish part in South Africa.

The spirit of understanding was also reflected, on the whole, in the appreciation of the motives and sentiments inspiring the attitude of South African Jews towards the State of Israel. Here and there a jarring note was struck—as for example, when exception was taken by an Afrikaans newspaper to the manner in which the Yom Haatzmaut celebrations were conducted in Johannesburg in April, 1956. The Jewish viewpoint was explained in press correspondence that ensued.

Another topic that caused some discussion during the period under review was the Israeli vote at the United Nations on matters affecting South Africa. It was argued in a section of the press that the Union's many gestures of friendship with Israel justified the expectation that Israel would reciprocate by refraining from any association with the United Nations' critics of South Africa. The South African Jewish community was urged to impress that point on the Israeli Government. South African Jewish reactions varied, depending upon the view taken of South Africa's case on the issues raised at U.N. and Israel's own position, but there was general agreement that Israeli foreign policy was a matter on which the Jews in South Africa or elsewhere outside Israel could hardly be expected to exert any influence.

If there is a moral to be deduced from such incidents it is that the Jewish community, perhaps more than any other in this multi-racial land, is seldom entirely free from surveillance and potential criticisms. This imposes an additional responsibility both on the leaders and organizations of the community and on individuals whose acts of omission and commission, are, however unjustifiably, held to the account of the community in general.

Anti-Semitic Writings

In this report, as in its predecessors, it is unfortunately still necessary to refer to the flow of anti-Jewish propaganda material into the Union from abroad. These originate from familiar sources like Einar Aberg of Sweden, whose extensive activities in Southern Africa and other parts of the world have not been appreciably curbed by the efforts to restrain him under the laws of his own country. Aberg has been joined, more sporadically, by anti-Semitic propagandists in North America, South America, Egypt, Australia and the United Kingdom, whose effusions have come to the notice

of the Board. Egyptian anti-Jewish propaganda assumed a particularly virulent character during the Suez crisis.

The ban on the importation of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, imposed by a former régime and continued by the present Government confirms that power to prevent entry of these objectionable and inflammatory writings does exist and could be exercised. The Board has not neglected opportunities of bringing to the attention of the authorities the possible harm to good relations that might result from the unrestricted introduction and spread of this propaganda, whose close affinity to the discredited Nazi doctrines needs no emphasis.

However, the Union law as it stands today does not permit interference with material of this type published in South Africa itself, as long as it keeps within the bounds defined by the law of libel. The activities of R. K. Rudman and, to a lesser extent, of Johann Schoeman in this direction have been well known for years and they are still an unsavoury part of the South African scene. More recently they have been joined, in a more subtle and subdued form, by a monthly publication *South African Observer*, a militant supporter of "White Supremacy", which, though not professedly anti-Semitic, misses few chances of introducing into comments on public affairs allusions hostile to Jews individually and as a group, for their alleged "liberalism" on colour policies, with frequent reference to "political Zionism."

Activities of Public Relations Committee

In one form or another the work of the Public Relations Committee has been concerned in the main with such problems as have already been touched upon in this section of the report. From time to time the committee has been called upon to consider both the principles and the practical applications of the Board's policy for furthering a good understanding between the Jewish community and the rest of the population. This is the positive aspect of the tasks envisaged under the heading of Public Relations and it has assumed more and more importance in the deliberations of the committee. In the words of a resolution adopted at the 1953 Congress of the Board, the objects aimed at were to be achieved "by fostering a knowledge of the history, culture, religious observances and aspirations of the Jewish community."

Faithful to its mandate the committee has at various times taken the initiative in the publication of pamphlets, in both official languages, on Jewish customs, traditions, religious practices and the ethical teachings of Judaism. The latest of these, written by Rabbi Dr. S. Rappaport under the title *The Way of Good Men*, has been widely distributed and was welcomed by the public and in the press as a valuable contribution to better relations between Jews and non-Jews. Clearly a well-marked need exists for informative and stimulating literature of this kind.

The Board has also tried to meet the demand for such literature by the publication of its monthly journal *Jewish Affairs*. It also collaborated in the publication of the issue of *Lantern* referred to above, and it gave every possible encouragement to the preparation of the substantial *History of the Jews of South Africa*, a volume which represents a landmark in South African Jewish historical research. The Board's audio-visual material is drawn upon by non-Jewish organizations desiring to learn about Jewish life; and the Jewish Museum, too, is often visited by non-Jews.

The committee continues to issue to a selected number of specially interested persons the *Press Digest*, a weekly publication based on a regular study of the South African press and summarizing, briefly and impartially, the main trends of public opinion as expressed in the principal newspapers. A special section containing items of more direct Jewish interest (and having a more limited distribution than the general portion) has been added.

The committee has also welcomed and encouraged the efforts to provide public lectures from Jewish and non-Jewish platforms on appropriate Jewish topics. This is a feature which, the committee believes, ought to be largely extended, preferably under some form of Central Lecture Bureau functioning with material and moral help from the Board.

The Public Relations Committee has, as in previous years, kept a watchful eye on anti-Semitic propaganda in the Union and on manifestations of anti-Jewish prejudice and discrimination, whether in the field of public affairs, employment, education and the like. Wherever possible it has endeavoured to meet and combat activities and practices harmful to the legitimate interests and rights of Jewish citizens.

Essential though it is that the committee should continue this work as effectively as it can, it has never lost sight of the fact that an ever-greater emphasis should be laid on positive public relations work. As was pointed out in the Board's report to the 1955 Congress, present conditions provide a favourable atmosphere for consolidating good relations between the Jewish community and other sections. A continuous educational programme, fostering goodwill and better understanding of things Jewish within and outside the community, calls for an alert and energetic Public Relations body with an adequate staff and the resources necessary to maintain proper two-way contacts between South African Jewry and its fellow South Africans. It is to be regretted that the work in this field has been hampered for some months by the difficulties encountered in filling the vacant post of Public Relations Officer.

YOUTH WORK

Great difficulties have been encountered in implementing the decisions of last Congress calling for the extension of the Board's services in the sphere of youth work. Congress resolved that more

intensive efforts should be made to implement the report on Jewish youth, more particularly university students, by Rabbi Louis Milgrom. Congress further urged that the Board should continue its efforts to promote co-ordination between the main organizations active in the field of youth and should extend its existing services, both as regards personnel and material, especially in connection with group and leisure-time facilities.

Early in its deliberations, the newly-appointed Youth Committee came to the conclusion that before it could embark on any ambitious schemes, it would have to find qualified personnel to direct the work. Continuous efforts were therefore made, both in South Africa and overseas, to find such personnel; but notwithstanding high hopes entertained and also definite promises made, nothing materialized.

As a result, the Youth Committee could do little more than continue with its existing work, without the facilities for expansion. The difficulties were enhanced when Dr. H. Abt, then Cultural Officer to the Board, who had been acting as Secretary to the Youth Committee, resigned from the Board's staff on accepting a call to become the minister of the Oxford Synagogue in Johannesburg. The committee takes this opportunity of recording its appreciation for the many services rendered to groups of Jewish youth by Dr. Abt while he was on our staff.

Student Counsellor

It is particularly disappointing to have to record that no progress was made in the appointment of a counsellor for Jewish students. Following upon extensive correspondence with the national office of the Hillel Foundations in the U.S.A., the General Secretary of the Board took this matter up personally at the end of 1956 during his visit to America. Negotiations were far advanced for a Director of one of the Hillel Foundations in New York to be seconded to South Africa; but they were abandoned when it was made clear by a section of our community that his appointment would be strongly opposed because of his religious affiliation.

Little purpose would be served in reviving the controversy which, in our opinion, was largely due to misconceptions regarding the functions and duties of a Hillel Director, and also regarding the personal views of the candidate concerned. Although firmly convinced that this candidate was well qualified to fulfil his duties most competently and that the objections against his appointment were ill-founded, the Executive Council felt that, in the interests of communal unity, it should not press the matter. The failure to make this appointment caused much disappointment among university students, who have constantly stressed that the appointment of a counsellor to direct Jewish work among students has become a matter of pressing importance.

During last year, the national office of the Hillel Foundations was again requested to try and find a suitable Hillel Director for work in this country. A promise of co-operation was readily forth-

coming, but since the demand exceeds the supply of suitable personnel in the United States, it is not surprising that great difficulties have been encountered in finding and persuading a suitable candidate to offer himself for service in this country, even for a limited period. The possibility is also being explored in Israel.

Youth Organizer

Apart from the university field, it was deemed essential to appoint a qualified man to head the Youth Department which the Board wishes to set up. Advertisements inserted in the overseas press and also in this country brought forth no suitable candidate. When the General Secretary was in Israel, however, in March last year, he enlisted the interest of the Youth Department of the Ministry of Education of the Israeli Government. Later, when Mr. A. Grabman, Vice-Chairman of the committee, visited Israel, a definite promise was made to release one of the leading officials in this department to direct the Board's youth work for a period of two years (on the understanding that at the end of that period, he would be replaced by another official). The Youth Committee, after going into the question fully, came to the conclusion that the experience in the field of youth in Israel in recent years could, with great advantage, be adapted to South African requirements, and the particular candidate was very highly recommended.

Here again, we sustained a disappointment when we were later notified that, because of subsequent unexpected developments, it had become extremely doubtful whether this official would be available to leave Israel. While we are still hopeful that he, or an alternate, may be made available, there is no further news at the time of going to press. The Youth Committee is not giving up its search to find the required personnel.

Training Local Personnel

In the meantime, the committee is convinced of the need to encourage suitable South African-born young men and women to take up professional training for youth leadership and group work. It believes that provision of such persons is no less important for our communal welfare than that of other full-time officials. Young people should be able to look forward to a fruitful and well-paid career in this field. The Board has indicated its readiness to assist suitable candidates to proceed overseas if necessary, in order to obtain the required training, and it has been promised the co-operation of overseas bodies for this purpose. The Board looks forward to the co-operation of the youth movements and similar organizations in this country in finding suitable candidates and in encouraging them to take up this career.

University Students

Notwithstanding the disappointments there is quite a volume of useful work to our credit.

As regards university students, ever since the S.A. Federation of Students' Jewish and Zionist Associations came into being in

1953, the Board has taken a very active interest in its progress. Indeed, the Board, jointly with the S.A. Zionist Federation, has financed the budget of the Students' Federation, making it possible for the students to have a National Organizer (himself a part-time student) and also part-time organizers in the Transvaal and Cape respectively. Representatives of the Zionist Federation, of the Board of Deputies and of the Students' Federation, constitute a Students' Liaison Committee in Johannesburg—there is a similar body in Cape Town—which meets periodically to review the activities of the Students' Federation and to scrutinize its budget.

The student leaders are in frequent contact with the Board; members of the Board and its staff participate in students' conferences; and when Dr. Abt was a member of the staff, he was in constant touch with student activities and also led student study circles.

An important stimulus is expected to be given to student activities as a result of the interest taken by the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa. The Honorary Officers of this body have had several consultations with representatives of the Board in regard to the form in which they might promote such activities. The Union, some years back, undertook to raise a substantial sum of money for the building and equipment of a hostel for students of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. That commitment having been fulfilled, the Union now intends to embark upon a project for the benefit of Jewish youth, especially university students, in South Africa itself.

The Board has warmly welcomed the initiative taken by the Union. The decision as to the exact nature of the project will be taken at the Triennial Congress of the Union in May this year. It is likely that the Union's contribution will be by way of capital funds. The Union has undertaken that whatever plans it eventually resolves upon shall be implemented in co-operation with the Board of Deputies. In the meantime the Union is to be represented on the Students' Liaison Committee.

Another organization which will be represented on the Liaison Committee is the B'nai B'rith Lodge of Johannesburg. In conformity with the leading part taken by the B'nai B'rith in the U.S.A. in establishing and maintaining Hillel Foundations at American universities, the lodge here expressed a desire to be associated with similar work among Jewish students in this country, and offered a financial contribution for the next two years (with a promise of more to come later). This offer has been gratefully accepted.

Grateful acknowledgment is made of the assistance given by the Johannesburg Branch of the Union of Jewish Women in furnishing the new Student Office near the University of the Witwatersrand, and of the generosity of the B'nai B'rith Lodge in providing funds for a library.

Services to Youth

Although the Board has not been able, for the reasons already stated, to carry out a full programme in the field of youth it continues to render many useful services to youth groups. Individuals and representatives of organizations consult frequently with the Board's staff with regard to their problems and the preparation of programmes of work. In particular, youth groups, both junior and senior, have continued to make full use of the Board's library of audio-visual material such as gramophone records, film strips, etc. (see page 23). A large number of the lectures supplied by the cultural service of the Board have been given to youth groups, who have been helped to organize discussion groups.

A growing need has manifested itself for co-ordination in the field of youth work. During the short visit of Rabbi Kopul Rosen, representatives of a number of youth organizations in Johannesburg co-operated, under the auspices of the Board, to arrange a special rally of young adults. The success of this rally led to requests for closer co-ordination among such groups in Johannesburg and the Board has taken the first steps to set up a representative committee which will enable all groups of this kind to pool experiences and to help each other wherever possible. It is clear that the youth groups require adult assistance and in particular, that they need a regular supply of lecturers and discussion leaders. There also appears to be a need for the provision of more social, recreational and cultural facilities for our young people.

Association with the Board's Work

The Youth Committee wishes to stress the importance of drawing young people into the general orbit of the Board's work. Although previous attempts to do this have not met with the hoped-for result, the committee urges that practical steps be taken without delay to bring about a closer association with all the young people's groups, and to encourage suitable individuals to become actively associated with all facets of the Board's work.

Personnel of Committee

The following are the members of the Youth Committee in Johannesburg: Dr. T. Schneider (Chairman), Mr. A. Grabman (Vice Chairman), Mrs. M. Adler, Mr. Edgar Bernstein, Dr. L. Eisner, Adv. A. Mendelow, Mr. R. Raphaely, Mr. G. Saron.

Dr. Schneider assumed the chairmanship of the committee in November, 1956, when the former Chairman, Mr. M. Porter, resigned from that post. Miss K. Alexander, Secretary of the Communal Relations Committee has acted as interim Secretary of the Youth Committee. Grateful thanks are due to her.

The Youth Committee wishes to record its special thanks to Mr. Saron for his indefatigable labours in this field.

COMMUNAL RELATIONS

The Communal Relations Committee continued to perform its two-fold function of providing cultural services to the community, both urban and rural, and of informing the community of the activities of the Board.

Bringing the Board to the Community

The committee's offer to send speakers to Johannesburg organizations to address meetings on the subject of the Board's work was welcomed by a number of organizations, and addresses were given both by members of the Executive Council and by senior members of the staff. These addresses, it was evident, filled a very real need, for in spite of the regular reports of its doings which the Board presents at the monthly meeting of Deputies, there still seems to be an astonishing ignorance of the scope of the work which it carries out. It is regrettable that so many organizations failed to take advantage of the committee's offer.

Mr. Saron visited all the major towns to consult the leaders of local Jewry and to inform the Jewish public on current events, and visits of a similar nature were also paid on occasion by members of the Executive Council and by other senior officials.

Regional Conferences

The same need for enlightenment about the work of the Board was revealed at the many Regional Conferences organized during the period under review. These conferences were organized either by the Communal Relations Committee or by the Provincial Committees of the Board, and were attended by local residents and by Jewish families in the surrounding countryside and neighbouring towns. They served a very valuable purpose, providing, as they did an opportunity for a free interchange of views, both on current and on wider problems, between the smaller communities and the Board.

Exhibition of Jewish Religious Art

The Travelling Exhibition of Jewish Religious Art organized by the Rev. Dr. H. Abt, which aroused so much interest in 1954 and 1955, was taken to a number of fresh centres and proved as popular as before. It is now lodged in the Jewish Museum of the Board, and continues to attract much attention, both among the Jewish and the non-Jewish public. From time to time a special exhibition, such as the exhibition of Chanukkah Lamps, was arranged by the Curator, Mr. F. Abt, and aroused lively interest.

Lecture Service

There were frequent calls for the services of lecturers, particularly on the part of youth groups in Johannesburg and its environs and of communities in country centres. Mr. M. Bakalczuk made several tours both of the Transvaal platteland and the rural towns of the O.F.S., delivering lectures on Yiddish literature. A number of other lecturers (often members of the Board's staff), lectured on the Reef

and elsewhere in Yiddish or English as required; and in addition lectures were given to non-Jewish groups on Jewish cultural subjects. The total number of lectures given in this category since last Congress is approximately 250, i.e. 100 in Johannesburg and 150 in other centres in the Union.

Furthermore, Mr. Joseph Leftwich, who was on a private visit to South Africa from Britain, gave 27 lectures on behalf of the Board, with great success. He was received with particular enthusiasm by country communities because it is so seldom that it is possible to arrange for an overseas lecturer to visit these places.

When the noted Yiddish dramatic artiste, Madame Chayele Grober, visited the Union, the Board, although not acting as sponsor for her tour, assisted her in her arrangements, and in this way made it possible for her to visit many small towns which she might otherwise not have been able to reach.

Memorial meetings for the late Sholom Asch, who died in June, 1957, were held in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban.

Prof. Salo Baron

Prof. Salo Baron, Professor of Jewish History, Literature and Institutions in the Columbia University, New York, came to South Africa in February, 1958, at the Board's invitation, for a six-weeks' lecture tour. He has drawn large audiences.

Jewish Memorial Day

After correspondence with the World Jewish Congress in the U.S.A., and with the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Israel, it was decided that the Board would in future use the name "Jewish Memorial Day" (instead of "Jewish Day of Mourning") for the annual commemoration of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto and of the six million martyred Jews. South African publishers of calendars and diaries were asked to include the date (Nissan 27) in future issues.

This day has been observed either by religious services or by public meetings, the latter predominating. Material for speeches, sermons and lessons for use in Hebrew and Yiddish schools was provided wherever requested and speakers were sent to a number of centres outside Johannesburg. In Johannesburg itself, each year, a mass meeting was held at the City Hall and was attended by over 1,500 people.

In 1957, the Jewish Museum in Johannesburg provided a special exhibition of pictures and documents of the Nazi atrocities, which was seen by many visitors.

Staff

In March, 1957, the Rev. Dr. H. Abt relinquished the post of Cultural Officer to the Board which he had held since 1948. Dr. Abt's work was throughout closely associated with that of the Communal Relations Committee, which desires to place on record its great appreciation of his valued services. It is a cause of satis-

faction to the committee that it has continued to have the benefit of his experience and advice as a co-opted member.

No successor has been appointed to Dr. Abt although the Communal Relations Committee has strongly urged the need for such an appointment. One of the reasons which has influenced the Executive Council in deferring a new appointment is its belief that the work of Cultural Officer is closely linked with that of youth work. Accordingly, pending clarification of the position regarding the latter appointment, no further action has been taken.

The committee wishes to record its sincere appreciation of the work of Mrs. H. Kehr, who after 12 years' service, resigned in order to rejoin her son who has settled in London. Mrs. Kehr did much to build up the work of the Communal Relations Committee and in addition, maintained a continuous liaison with the work of Jewish women's organizations, particularly the Union of Jewish Women. The Board is deeply indebted to her for the able and devoted service which she rendered.

Miss K. Alexander was appointed in February, 1957, as Secretary of the Communal Relations Committee and has carried out her duties with distinction. In addition, she has acted as Registrar of the People's College.

PEOPLE'S COLLEGE

People's College has continued to function under the joint auspices of the Board and the Zionist Federation, with two terms a year, each term having approximately 15 lectures. With the change of venue from the old Coronation Hall to the new Zionist Centre, attendances have been even better than before.

There have been four complete terms of People's College each consisting of three separate series of lectures. The themes dealt with were "Judaism and Islam", "Biblical Personalities" and "Books of the Day." These were followed by "The Jew Meets the Challenge", "Jews of Other Lands" and "Philosophers of Modern Zionism." The next three topics were "The Jew in the Literature of Europe", "Jewish History from the Dawn of Jewish History to the Establishment of the Kingdom", and "Aspects of Jewish Law", and the last three "Jewish History from David to the Period of Secession", "Israel—The Land of the Bible" and "Books, Writers and Artists."

Our gratitude is due to the lecturers who have made it possible to conduct People's College.

Programmes have included special memorial lectures on the passing of great figures in the Jewish world, among them the late Prof. Liebmann Hersch and Rabbi Leo Baeck, and also a lecture to celebrate Thomas Mann's 80th birthday. The centenary of the death of Heine was also commemorated.

There have been three guest speakers from overseas—the Hon. Edwin Samuel, who gave a series of four lectures on "Life in Israel",

Mr. Joseph Leftwich, who also gave four lectures on "Sholom Asch" and other topics, and Dr. Simon N. Herman, who spoke once on "Kurt Lewin: Resolving Social Conflicts."

The present committee is as follows:

Chairman: Mr. I. Goss.

South African Jewish Board of Deputies: Rev. Dr. H. Abt, Mrs. A. Levy, Miss K. Alexander (Registrar).

South African Zionist Federation: Mr. R. Egert, Dr. W. Kark, Mr. H. S. Liebgott, Dr. M. Natas.

South African Yiddish Cultural Federation: Mr. L. Goodman.

Histadruth Ivriih: Mr. M. Ben Moshe.

Department of Hebrew, Witwatersrand University: Chief Rabbi Prof. L. I. Rabinowitz.

Ex officio: Mr. Z. Infeld, Mr. G. Saron.

In April, 1957, Miss K. Alexander replaced the Rev. Dr. H. Abt as Registrar of People's College.

THE JEWS IN SOUTH AFRICA: A HISTORY

In November, 1955, *The Jews in South Africa: A History*, edited by Gustav Saron and Louis Hotz, was published by the Oxford University Press, Cape Town. This was not an official publication of the Board. Its compilation was made possible, however, only by the systematic research undertaken by the South African Jewish Sociological and Historical Society, which is maintained and financed by the Board, and also by the protracted labours (mostly out of office hours) of the Board's General Secretary, who played a leading part in initiating the project and bringing about its materialization.

The volume is the first comprehensive history of South African Jewry to appear. It covers in detail the growth of the Jewish community throughout South Africa, from the earliest beginnings until 1910, and there is a long epilogue summarizing developments from 1910-55. The work was very well received both in this country and overseas and was welcomed as an important contribution, not only to Jewish history, but to South African history as a whole.

The Board records its gratitude to all who collaborated in the work and also to the management of the South African Branch of the Oxford University Press, which gave most careful attention to the production of the book and assumed full financial responsibility. The Board believes that the book deserves to be widely read both by the Jewish and the general community.

S.A. JEWISH SOCIOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society, which is maintained by the Board, continues to do useful work, and, among other activities, it traces and photographs documents of historic interest, interviews old pioneers, catalogues and indexes material of South African Jewish interest in early South African and overseas periodicals and cognate sources, and answers queries pertaining to South African Jewish History.

The Society's offices and archives are housed in the Board's premises. Its archives are, indeed, an integral part of the Board's archives and Library of Information, with which it works in closest co-operation.

An Exhibition of Photographs and Documents of Early Johannesburg Jewry (1886-1910) was held under the aegis of the Society from November 21-28, 1956, on the premises of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies.

The Exhibition, which was the first of its kind ever to be held locally, not only drew some favourable notice in the Johannesburg press but also attracted more than customary attention from many of the Rand Jewish pioneers who attended it. It may be added that many of the interesting and rare items shown at the Exhibition came from private sources.

"JEWISH AFFAIRS"

Jewish Affairs, the monthly journal of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, continues to appear regularly and judging by letters of appreciation which arrive from both Jewish and non-Jewish readers in South Africa and overseas, the journal is highly esteemed. It publishes articles dealing with cultural, artistic and literary subjects bearing on Jewish life and aims at reflecting important trends in Jewish life the world over. In addition it regularly reports significant aspects of the Board's work.

The journal is also a useful bridge between the Jewish and non-Jewish community of South Africa, as a very considerable number of non-Jews receive the magazine and the number of requests from this category is growing. Many letters have been received from non-Jewish readers stating that the magazine has done more than anything else to help them understand their Jewish fellow-citizens and to derive an insight into the Jewish way of life, Jewish history and Jewish aspirations.

The Editorial Board consists of Dr. H. Abt, Mr. E. Bernstein (Chairman), Mr. N. Philips, Mr. J. M. Rich, Mr. G. Saron, Dr. T. Schneider and Mrs. Amelia Levy (Editor).

LIBRARY OF JEWISH INFORMATION

The library, the most comprehensive of its kind in South Africa, has continued its work of amassing and organizing material on

subjects of Jewish significance. It steadily acquires and classifies information on Jewish history, education, religion, anti-Semitism, inter-faith relationships, Israel and prominent Jewish personalities.

The book collection has been catalogued and so made readily available for consultation. The collection of pamphlets and periodicals is being indexed and correlated. Most South African Jewish publications are received and preserved—an important function of the library. Significant Jewish periodicals from other parts of the world are collected for reference purposes. The emphasis in the functioning of the library is, of course, on the South African scene.

Useful additions have been received in the form of gifts from the Johannesburg Public Library, the South African Board of Jewish Education, Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock and Mr. Percy Cowen, whose donation constituted a valuable contribution to our collection of South African Jewish historical material.

Requests for information have been constant and have varied from inquiries for population figures to an investigation into the architecture of community centres and research into the history of Zionist youth movements in South Africa. It is evident that through the fulfilment of such requests the library is performing a useful service to the community. The nature of the inquiries indicates that it is becoming known as a source of information that is not readily available in libraries of a more general character.

JEWISH MUSEUM

The Jewish Museum, which had been planned ever since the Board received from "Jewish Cultural Reconstruction Inc.,"* a collection of Jewish ceremonial silver, at last became a reality, when the Board entered into occupation of its new offices in Sheffield House.

Since its opening early in 1956, the collection has been much enlarged by donations and loans. Warm thanks are offered to the donors and lenders.

A tribute must be paid to the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. H. Abt, who have laboured with devotion and enthusiasm to establish and develop the museum.

The emphasis in the present collection is on religious art. Although the museum has been in existence for only two years, the character and value of its contents are representative enough to allow it to rank with similar institutions overseas. Fruitful contacts with the overseas museums have been established.

The interest displayed by the public—Jewish as well as non-Jewish—is shown by the many visitors. Numerous among them are church guilds, Sunday school teachers and similar groups, so that

* *The organization which was entrusted with the distribution of the synagogue and private ritual objects confiscated by the Nazis and salvaged by the Allied Governments on the defeat of Germany.*

the museum, apart from being an educational institution for Jews, serves also as a valuable instrument in the sphere of public relations. Following on a visit to the museum, many churches have arranged lectures on the Jewish religion, Jewish customs and Jewish symbolism, under the auspices of the Lecture Service of the Board.

The Museum Committee consists at present of the following members: Mr. Ph. Kaplan (Chairman), Rev. Dr. H. Abt (Hon. Secretary), Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P. and Mr. N. Winik. The Curator is Mrs. F. Abt.

AUDIO-VISUAL LIBRARY

The Board's audio-visual library has grown very considerably since last Congress. It contains a fine collection of plays, records and film strips on Jewish themes. The records are varied in character, consisting of cantorials, Biblical and historical themes, classical records of Jewish interest, Yiddish songs, folk music and Israel songs and dances.

The film strips deal with Jewish festivals, the Sabbath, historical subjects, e.g. *The Prophets of Israel*, *The Kings of Israel*, *Torah in Jewish Life*. With all the film strips there is an explanatory booklet which gives a guide to each still, and a number of film strips also have a recorded narration.

Adult organizations, youth groups and a considerable number of individuals in the Jewish community are continuously availing themselves of this service, and the Board's audio-visual department has helped to plan many programmes for young people with the use of this material.

We desire to record our appreciation to Mrs. Amelia Levy, the editor of *Jewish Affairs*, who has made the audio-visual library her special concern.

COUNTRY COMMUNITIES

Much practical work in catering for the needs of the country communities in the educational and religious fields has been done during the past two years. This work is made possible by the financial allocation made for this purpose by the United Communal Fund. The National Country Communities Committee appointed by the Executive Council governs the work as a whole. The Transvaal Country Communities Committee, which is composed of representatives of the Board, the Beth Din, the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal and Orange Free State, the South African Board of Jewish Education and the South African Jewish Ministers' Association, is responsible for the work in the Transvaal. The Cape Council of the Board also has a Country Communities Sub-Committee on which are represented Cape Beth Din, the West Province Zionist Council, the Cape Board of Jewish Education and the Union of Jewish Women. In Natal the Educa-

tion Sub-Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry deals with the work for country communities. The O.F.S. Committee of the Board also has a Country Communities Sub-Committee.

The work for the country communities is conducted in close association with the Jewish religious authorities who, of course, retain full responsibility for all the religious aspects. In regard to educational matters, there is regular liaison with the two Boards of Education.

Rabbi to the Country Communities

Rabbi Dr. J. Newman, who had served the country communities since September, 1951, resigned this post in March, 1957, on appointment as Executive Director of the Federation of Synagogues. His work during his period of office was warmly acclaimed both by the Board and the country communities which he served so well. The Federation of Synagogues at that stage proposed to the Board that it should undertake this work on a part-time basis, but after the most careful consideration the Board felt that it was in the best interests of the public that the system should continue as previously.

Rabbi A. H. Rabinowitz, of London, the new Rabbi to the Country Communities arrived in October, 1957. He has already visited some centres, and extensive tours are being arranged to take place in the near future.

Shortage of Ministers

The shortage of ministers in the rural centres is still great. There are at present over thirty communities without regular ministerial services. Several centres are served by itinerant Shochetim and teachers, but apart from receiving the minimum services of Shechita, and perhaps one, or at the most, two hours a week tuition for the children, these communities are stagnating and little can be done for them unless permanent full-time incumbents can be found.

There are, in addition, several centres which share the services of a minister. Although these centres are better served than the former, there are inherent difficulties in this type of scheme which leave much to be desired.

It is to be hoped that with the implementation of the plans for the training of ministers now envisaged in Johannesburg, this problem may be alleviated.

Ministers from Overseas

Several ministers from overseas have arrived in this country and are working in country communities. In spite of the difficulties of re-orientation, they are for the most part proving capable in their work, and much benefit is being derived from their services.

Bringing in ministers from overseas is not, however, for a variety of reasons, the ideal solution to the problem, and it is necessary that an intensive campaign to secure South African-born recruits for the ministry be initiated.

Temporary Services

As a result of the shortage of ministers, country communities frequently call upon the Country Communities Committee to assist them with temporary services for Shechita and Jewish education. It is by no means easy to find such assistance and, when found, it constitutes a great drain on the funds of the Committee owing to the cost of transport and the subsidies which often have to be provided.

Pastoral Tours

During the past two years the number of pastoral tours arranged under the auspices of the Transvaal Committee has been smaller than previously. This was due to the fact that the office of Country Communities' Rabbi was without an incumbent for some length of time. It is now intended to renew this activity vigorously, as pastoral tours are important events in the life of rural centres. An appeal is made to the rabbis and ministers in the larger towns, and to their congregations, to offer their full co-operation in this vital work.

Officers for High Festivals

In collaboration with the Beth Din the Committee assisted country communities to arrange for services during the High Festivals, and to procure officiants for that purpose. Many smaller centres which could not meet the expense involved were given financial assistance.

Correspondence Courses and Sermons

The correspondence courses for children in rural centres without adequate facilities for Jewish education proved very popular. The distribution of the courses was interrupted for a period, but it is now intended to continue them. Sets of sermons, specially prepared for children, have been widely distributed in centres without ministers.

Miscellaneous Assistance

Many miscellaneous requests for direction in Jewish matters are continually dealt with by the Country Communities' Rabbi.

Communities are loaned Sifrei Torah and other religious appurtenances, when available.

The feeling is growing that the aims of the Committee should be to get each community to be as self-supporting as possible.

Defunct Communities

The Committee has continued to deal with the problem of the assets of defunct country congregations. The Board, wherever

possible, takes such assets over. If assets belonging to defunct communities are realized, the money is made available as a loan free of interest to small congregations unable to meet their capital requirements from their own resources. If a defunct community should ever be in a position to re-establish itself its assets will again be placed at its disposal.

A number of Sifrei Torah and other religious requisites which were collected from defunct congregations were made available on loan to communities in need of them.

It is desirable that a clause should be inserted in the constitutions of rural congregations appointing the Board as the trustee of the assets if the communities should become defunct. Trustees of communities wishing to dispose of congregational property are reminded that the authority of the Beth Din must be sought before the sale takes place, since there are many religious problems inherent in the sale of synagogal property.

Thanks

The Committee wishes to record its thanks to Mr. L. Druion, the Board's Assistant Secretary, and to its clerk, Mrs. B. Zlotnick, for their work during the period when the office of Rabbi to the Country Communities was vacant.

WELFARE WORK

The work of the Welfare Department continues to increase. The Department probably constitutes the best known Jewish welfare bureau in the country and many inquiries are received from Jewish and non-Jewish agencies overseas who comment on its competence and reliability.

It is impossible to catalogue all the details of the welfare work. Suffice it to say that large numbers of the Jewish community throughout South Africa now turn to the Department for advice and guidance on the most varied range of personal problems.

An important feature of the Department is the Employment Bureau. Over two thousand applicants a year now register with the Bureau and most of them are placed. There are over 4,000 inquiries a year from employers.

A special service that has been developed recently is the provision of suitable occupations for elderly and handicapped persons. A special committee (at present under the chairmanship of Mr. Walter Hochstadter) has been established for this purpose.

The Department receives every year over four hundred requests from overseas for assistance in tracing missing relatives. More than 50 per cent of the searches are successful. Thanks must be offered to the Jewish press, which publishes every week lists of the persons sought. The Department also conducts a very extensive corres-

pondence with organizations overseas in order to trace relatives of South African Jews.

The annual number of miscellaneous cases is no less than four thousand.

The Department co-operates closely in most matters with all the local Jewish welfare societies and particularly with the Transvaal Jewish Welfare Council. The warmest thanks of the Board are offered to all these organizations.

Restitution Office

The Restitution Office was established some ten years ago, in order to assist Jews now resident in South Africa who had suffered from Nazi persecution in Europe, to submit claims for compensation to the West German Government. As the time limit for submitting applications is now at hand, the staff had to be increased to cope with the work. The number of claimants to date has been 1,800 and the total number of claims about 5,000. The cost to the Board has been considerable, but a grant in aid has been received from the United Restitution Office (which derives its funds from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims). Furthermore, with the passage of time, more and more claimants are receiving compensation and making donations to the Board towards the administrative expenses incurred.

Ex-Servicemen's Committee

Unfortunately, the Ex-Servicemen's Committee has still to function and renders different types of assistance to Jewish ex-service men. The Committee is manned entirely by members of the South African Jewish Ex-Service League.

JEWISH REFUGEES FROM HUNGARY AND EGYPT

Following upon the revolt in Hungary in 1956, the Union of South Africa decided to give asylum to a number of the refugees. A Government mission was sent to Europe to select refugees who would be suitable for admission to this country. The Jewish community noted, when the refugees arrived in this country, that there appeared to be no Jews among them, although it was known that some had been making inquiries in Vienna about the possibility of coming here. Mr. Saron, who was then in Europe, was asked to go to Vienna to make inquiries.

By that time, unfortunately, a new refugee problem had arisen—the exodus of thousands of Jews from Egypt, following the Sinai campaign.

The Board had already, in December, 1956, in a statement issued jointly with the South African Zionist Federation, appealed to the conscience of the world against the Egyptian Government's actions. The Board also addressed a letter to the Acting Minister of External Affairs drawing attention to the harsh measures applied

to Egyptian Jewry. The Government's reply was that as there were no South African citizens among the persons concerned, it could not intervene.

A few Egyptian Jews had South African relatives who were prepared to offer them shelter.

Accordingly, the President, in January, 1957, submitted to the Minister of Interior a schedule of the Egyptian Jews concerned. In February, Mr. E. J. Horwitz, Vice-President, Mr. Max Greenstein, Treasurer, and Mr. Max Melamet, Chairman of the Cape Council, interviewed the Acting Secretary of the Interior and discussed the problem with him. The opportunity was taken of raising at the same time the question of the admission of some of the Hungarian Jewish refugees.

In the course of a letter addressed to the President in July, the Private Secretary to the Minister of the Interior said, with regard to the Hungarian refugees:

"The majority of refugees from Hungary were unable to produce documentation of any kind and it was impossible to select and classify them into racial, religious, social or occupational groups, except on the basis of information volunteered by them.

The only criterion which could in the circumstances be applied was whether the refugee, judged on knowledge of occupation, appearance and general impressions, would be assimilable.

No official record has therefore been compiled of the number of Jewish refugees admitted to South Africa from Hungary, but it can definitely be stated that an appreciable number of the refugees is of Jewish origin many of whom profess the Jewish faith.

In conclusion I have to draw your attention to the difficulty experienced with the immigration of Hungarian refugees. Normally a person immigrating to the Union would have the right to return to his country of origin and the Government would be entitled to return him to that country should such a course be necessary. This was not the case with these refugees, a fact which had a bearing on the number of these persons to whom asylum could be offered."

With regard to the Egyptian refugees, it would appear that a certain proportion of the Jewish applicants from Egypt were granted permanent residence, but it has not been possible to establish the precise number.

IMMIGRATION OF MINISTERS AND TEACHERS

The Department of the Interior continues to ask the Board for reports on applications for the admission to this country of rabbis, ministers and Hebrew teachers needed by the Jewish community.

During the period under review, eleven teachers and nine rabbis and ministers were admitted to the country. Teachers are admitted

under the arrangement arrived at with the Department of Interior in 1952, that a maximum of 25 Hebrew teachers would be permitted to enter this country (allowance being made for departures from the country and resignations from the profession).

At the date of this report, there were six unallotted permits on the quota. Happily, the need for overseas personnel has greatly diminished, as the number of teachers graduating from the local training institutions, especially the Jewish Board of Education's Seminary in Johannesburg, is increasing.

JEWISH MEMBERS OF THE FORCES

The Board assists the Principal Jewish Chaplain to the Forces, Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock, and the Jewish ministers in the neighbourhood of the training camps, in attending to the needs of Jewish members of the Permanent Force and the Active Citizen Force. The Jewish chaplains in the various localities are as follows: The Rev. C. M. Bloch, H.C.F., Potchefstroom; Rabbi S. Coleman, Bloemfontein; the Rev. D. L. Landy, Pretoria.

The Board provides kosher food for those A.C.F. trainees who desire it on religious grounds and issues copies of "Selections from the Bible", the late Chief Rabbi Hertz' "Book of Jewish Thoughts", and other suitable works, to the men.

Conferences between the General Purposes Committee, the Principal Jewish Chaplain to the Forces, and serving and former Jewish Chaplains were held in February, 1956, and January, 1958. Valuable discussions took place on a wide range of topics in connection with the ministrations to the Jewish members of the Forces.

Thanks are due to the Jewish press for kindly supplying copies of their papers to the trainees; to the Rev. I. Levy, O.B.E., Senior Jewish Chaplain to H.M. Forces, and the Jewish Committee for H.M. Forces, London; and the National Jewish Welfare Board (Chaplaincy Services Department), New York, for willing co-operation.

SHECHITA

Shechita, the Jewish ritual method of slaughtering animals for food, is, of course, the concern of the Jewish ecclesiastical authorities, but the Board is charged with the duty of protecting Shechita against the ever-recurrent but baseless allegations of cruelty. The General Purposes Committee closely follows developments elsewhere affecting Shechita, keeps the ecclesiastical authorities informed, and is from time to time called upon to make use of its growing accumulation of unimpeachable scientific testimony to the humaneness of Shechita.

CECIL LYONS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Foundation, to commemorate the late Mr. Cecil Lyons, J.P., a former President of the Board, was established in 1945.

Its objects include:

- (1) To assist any member of the Jewish community who undertakes to qualify for some form of communal service, e.g. the Jewish communal administration or the Jewish ministry.
- (2) To assist any person, irrespective of his race or religion, who undertakes to devote himself to special studies dealing with inter-race, and inter-faith problems in South Africa, more particularly in so far as they relate to the Jewish community.
- (3) To encourage studies and research in the history and sociology of the South African Jewish community.

Scholarships may be awarded for further study to individuals who are already in Jewish communal service, such as rabbis, teachers or officials of communal organizations.

In connection with applications from would-be entrants to the Jewish ministry, the Committee has decided that grants will be given only to persons who have matriculated and give a firm undertaking that on qualifying, it is their intention to render service to the Jewish community in this country.

Since last Congress, the Foundation has assisted the following:

1. Training for the Jewish ministry—Mr. Samuel Himelsztejn, Mr. Ben Isaacson, Mr. Eric Kaye, Mr. Ronald Rosenbaum and Mr. Reuben P. Lurie.

2. Study for the rabbinical diploma—Rabbi Walter Blumenthal, the Rev. Sydney Katz and Rabbi Barney Bender.

3. Study Projects—Mr. Chaim Rosenberg (*History of Jewish Youth Movements in South Africa*).

WEISS MEMORIAL BURSARY

In 1945, the Board established an annual bursary, which is now of the value of £50, for the promotion of Jewish education, to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Abraham Weiss, M.M., a keen and active Deputy for a Germiston constituent body, who made the supreme sacrifice in the Battle of El Alamein in October, 1942. The bursary is awarded to a Jewish boy or girl who has matriculated in Hebrew and is continuing Hebrew studies at an approved institution. Preference is given to a Germiston applicant.

The bursary for 1955 was divided between Mr. Abner Weiss and Mr. Gideon Simonowitz. The 1956 bursary was awarded to Miss Meira Goss.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S OVERSEAS VISIT

At the beginning of November, 1956, the General Secretary, Mr. G. Saron, left on an overseas mission on behalf of the Board. He was away for nearly five months, two of which were counted as part of the long leave due to him. He carried out a very full official programme.

He attended the 25th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds of the U.S.A. (held November 15th-18th, in Toronto, Canada) to which he had been invited to deliver an address on the South African Jewish community. He also attended, as South African Director, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, held in New York, January 19th-21st. (The cost of the journey to and from the U.S.A. was defrayed by the Conference, which pays the travelling expenses of one director from each country). He then attended a meeting convened by Dr. Goldmann in New York in connection with the establishment of co-operation between the major Jewish representative bodies.

Mr. Saron was also entrusted with a number of specific tasks on behalf of the Board. He negotiated with the National Office of the Hillel Foundations in New York in regard to the seconding of a Hillel Director to this country, and interviewed candidates in England and Israel for the position of Youth Director to the Board. He also had lengthy negotiations with the United Restitution Organization respecting the grants-in-aid which it was making towards the expenses of the Board's Restitution Office.

Finally, he undertook a "roving commission" to investigate recent thinking and practices in the U.S.A. and Canada relating to Jewish community organization, united fund-raising, the financing of education and similar matters.

Upon his return to South Africa, Mr. Saron presented detailed reports on his findings which have proved of value to the Board in its further work. The Board takes this opportunity of recording its thanks to the many organizations and individuals overseas who so readily co-operated with Mr. Saron.

FUNCTIONS OF DEPUTIES

For some time it has been apparent that a critical examination needed to be undertaken of the functioning of the monthly meetings of Deputies in Johannesburg. In 1956 the Executive Council appointed a sub-committee for this purpose, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. J. Horwitz, Vice-President. The sub-committee held 14 meetings. It interpreted its terms of reference as being "to consider all matters relating to the meetings of Deputies and the functioning

of Deputies and to make recommendations thereon." The major problems involved in its inquiry fell under two categories:

- (a) The constitutional and practical aspects of the functioning of Deputies.
- (b) The defects and the possibility of improvements in the proceedings at the meetings of Deputies.

To a large extent, of course, no clear division could be made between the two branches of the topic, and, indeed, both had to be considered in relation to the wider problem of the rôle of the Board in the Jewish community, and the means of establishing closer contact between the Board and the rank and file of the community.

At an early stage in its proceedings the sub-committee circulated a questionnaire to constituent bodies in the Transvaal. The information thereby obtained confirmed views that had previously been expressed at meetings of Deputies and of the Executive Council.

Meetings of Deputies

The problem may be put in this way: Do the Deputies' meetings fulfil the purposes for which they exist under the constitution? Even if they do, is it not timely that their scope be widened in the interests both of the Board and of the community as a whole?

It is agreed that basically the Deputies' meetings *do* broadly fulfil the functions prescribed for them in the constitution (although certain changes in procedure might improve their efficiency). They are a "sounding-board" of the community's reactions to the policies of the Executive Council. They sometimes also constitute a forum for discussing important general issues affecting the community. Yet it is felt that they can and should do more.

The sub-committee found that active dissatisfaction exists in regard to the present business and functioning of Deputies' meetings. Quite apart from this, however, the question should be regarded as important from the point of view of the need for the Board to establish better contacts with the Jewish community and also the need for the community to have a forum for the discussion of issues affecting South African Jewry in general.

The main criticisms of the existing position are that Deputies have insufficient powers and cannot *really* influence the Board's policies; that the Deputies are not a true cross-section of the community; and that the procedure at meetings needs improvement.

The sub-committee suggests that without tampering with the constitution it may be possible to effect useful improvements, and makes detailed proposals to that end. It is hoped that if changes are made on the lines suggested there would be an increase in interest in the meetings and that they would also be more effective.

A Local Community Council

The sub-committee felt that a new character ought to be given to the meetings of Deputies. Reflecting on the discussions that had taken place at the Southern Transvaal Regional Conference held by the Board on 3rd and 4th November, 1956, the principal feature of which had been an address by Mr. E. J. Horwitz on "Some Problems of Johannesburg Jewry", focusing attention on the need for the co-ordination of local Jewish communal work, they reached the conclusion that the problem of the meetings of Deputies must be linked up with the need to establish an effective forum for the discussion of the overall problems of Johannesburg (or Witwatersrand) Jewry, i.e. not problems relating to the functions of individual institutions, but those appertaining to the welfare of local Jewry as a whole, such as the question of the co-ordination of existing facilities in the various spheres of Jewish life or the creation of new facilities where none exist.

Whatever steps are taken in this direction should, the sub-committee felt, take place under the auspices of the Board and be integrated into the Board's constitution. Moreover, even though it had no preconceived idea of the exact type of organization required, there seemed to be agreement that it would have to be some Council representative of all the local Jewish institutions. The member organizations of the Council would consequently almost entirely coincide with the present member organizations of the Board.

It seemed logical, therefore, to consider the problem of the Deputies' meetings and the problem of a representative local body as closely linked.

Starting from this premise, the sub-committee suggested that the *de facto* character of the existing monthly meetings of Deputies should be frankly recognized, viz.: that it is a meeting mainly representative of the Witwatersrand institutions and not a national body.

It is proposed, therefore, that henceforth the monthly meetings should have a two-fold character. They should be the regional meetings of the Board, and at the same time, a meeting of the Council of local Jewry.

In terms of the dual character, the Executive Council would continue to submit its monthly reports as heretofore and these would be discussed: but, in addition, matters relating to the overall interest of local Jewry would form an integral part of the agenda. Which category of topics receive emphasis will be determined month by month. In order not to disturb the existing continuity of Deputies' meetings it may be desirable to deal with both national and Johannesburg matters on the same agenda, but in principle there is no reason why certain meetings should not be given up exclusively to Johannesburg affairs if the circumstances warrant it.

Committee on Local Co-ordination

Finally, if the Board intends to come to grips realistically with the overall problems of local Jewry, it will not be sufficient to discuss them periodically at the meetings of Deputies (which will also be meetings of the local community council). It will be necessary to set up a smaller representative committee to study the problems in greater detail. It is therefore recommended that a committee of the Board on local co-ordination should be set up. It would function in the same manner as the existing committees of the Executive Council, reporting to the Executive Council and to the monthly meetings of Deputies.

The Executive Council, while not committed to acceptance of the details of the sub-committee's report, has expressed its approval of it in principle. A resolution will be submitted to Congress embodying the basic principles.

UNITED COMMUNAL FUND FOR S.A. JEWRY

Introduction

The United Communal Fund, first established in 1949 on the initiative of the Board of Deputies, continues to operate under its auspices. The fund is governed by a National Council upon which all its participant organizations are represented.

This report deals with the Fourth Campaign, 1955-57, and with the initial stages of the Fifth 1957-59 Stabilization Campaign.

The progress of the U.C.F. has throughout been beset by problems which have taken up a great deal of the time of the Honorary Officers, the Executive Council, and the Senior Staff. The last Congress recorded its view "that the unified system of fund raising achieved by the U.C.F. has proved of great value to all the beneficiaries and to the community as a whole" and stressed the importance of "maintaining communal unity." The Executive Council has acted in the spirit of that resolution in trying to overcome the grave difficulties which have periodically confronted the U.C.F.

The major problem throughout has arisen from the fact that the demands made upon the U.C.F. have constantly outstripped its income. Furthermore, diverse interests have had to be reconciled and the process has not been an easy one. The principle of united fund raising has had to be fought for, with stress being placed on the fact that it does not involve any regimentation of the participant organizations or interference with their internal autonomy, but only co-ordination for the purpose of fund raising. At the same time, the experience of the U.C.F. campaign has necessarily given more weight to the advisability of closer and more effective communal co-ordination, which the Board has endeavoured to stress at all times. As a result, the U.C.F. has become the channel through which many important communal problems have been ventilated.

Difficulties Encountered by Fourth Campaign

Difficulties precedent to the launching of the Fourth Campaign were discussed at length at the Congress of the Board in September, 1955. The main obstacle was that the S.A. Board of Jewish Education demanded a substantially increased allocation, which the U.C.F. did not see its way clear to grant. At the 1955 Congress itself the deadlock could not be resolved. Subsequently, as a result of lengthy negotiations, a compromise was reached in terms of which the allocation to the Board of Education was increased by £1,500 per month, that is, from £3,500 to £5,000 per month. (This amount does *not* include the allocations made by the U.C.F. at the Cape to the Cape Board of Jewish Education.) Some of the other participating bodies also asked for increased allocations and were met on a compromise basis, with a proviso that if the total achieved by the fourth campaign did not register the necessary increase over the total achieved in the third campaign, then the participating bodies would revert to the same allocations as in the third campaign.

The campaign started off at the end of 1955 in far from promising circumstances. Not only had several valuable months been lost through the protracted negotiations, but a record Israeli United Appeal campaign had just been completed, and many persons had also contributed generously to a large-scale campaign for capital funds for the S.A. Board of Jewish Education.

The Israel Emergency Appeal

No sooner had the new United Communal Fund campaign been launched than the crisis in Israel necessitated a special fund-raising effort, and the leaders of the Board of Deputies and the United Communal Fund shared in the decision to institute the Israel Emergency Appeal. It was at first hoped that the U.C.F. campaign would continue unaffected by the Israel Emergency Appeal, but this did not prove to be the case. The U.C.F. found it necessary in many centres to hold back in order to enable the Israel Emergency campaign to achieve maximum results in the shortest possible time, and only then resumed its own campaign activities. The result was a serious shortfall in the income of the U.C.F.

To meet the crisis facing the U.C.F., the Board of Deputies undertook to guarantee a bank overdraft of £35,000. The leaders of the S.A. Zionist Federation agreed to indemnify the Board for any loss that it might incur up to that amount, if this loss by the U.C.F. would be shown to be a direct result of the Emergency Campaign. The Board unfortunately found it necessary later to call upon the Federation to implement that indemnity, and desires to record its appreciation of the sympathetic understanding which the S.A. Zionist Federation displayed.

The resumed U.C.F. campaign got off to a slow "second start"; it was further hampered by various unauthorized fund-raising campaigns such as that conducted by Rabbi Kahaneman, which

took considerable sums from the community. (See also page 42) The resultant difficulties led the United Communal Fund to call a crisis meeting in March, 1956, at which the question of immediately cutting payments to participating bodies was discussed. Urgent appeals were voiced to suspend such a decision and pledges of increased efforts by all participating bodies were made.

Fortunately, the campaign steadily gathered momentum in ensuing months and received a further valuable fillip from the Kol Nidrei Night Appeal. The latter was conducted in all synagogues in Johannesburg with the co-operation of Chief Rabbi L. I. Rabinowitz and the kind assistance of the leaders of the congregations.

Cuts in the Allocations

However, the results were not sufficiently close to target figures to enable the U.C.F. to continue, for the entire duration of the campaign, to pay out the full monthly allocations to participants. (The fact that the date of the new Israeli United Appeal Campaign was also brought forward because of Israel's critical needs, did not make the position any easier.)

By December, 1956, the U.C.F. was faced with the inescapable necessity of reducing the allocations to participant bodies and as from 1st January, 1957, a cut of 30 per cent was introduced in payments to all participants. The S.A. Board of Jewish Education's allocation was reduced from £5,000 to £3,500 per month. Fortunately, the S.A. Zionist Federation came to the aid of the Board of Education, agreeing to grant it a monthly loan of £1,500—the amount of the cut—until the situation was clarified. The allocation to the Board of Deputies, which should have received £6,250 per month, was reduced to £4,375 per month. Meanwhile the campaign continued and every effort was made to raise as large a sum as possible.

Women's Campaign

As in previous campaigns, there was again a separate campaign among Jewish women conducted by the Union of Jewish Women of Southern Africa. The women were successful in raising a larger amount than in the previous campaign—raising in all £23,456.

Johannesburg	£16,531
Country	6,925
Total available to Headquarters	<u>£23,456</u>
Cape Western Province	<u>£6,772</u>

The community is very grateful to the Union of Jewish Women for its devoted labours and the excellent results produced.

Results of the Fourth Campaign

When the Fourth Campaign was wound up as at 31st July, 1957, receipts for the whole country amounted to £487,523 16s. 7d. This represented a gross decrease of about £2,200 compared with the previous campaign.

Below we give figures of the income of the main areas as at the 31st July, 1957:

Johannesburg	£202,811	9	10
Transvaal, Reef, etc.	83,671	7	6
Eastern Province	28,896	12	0
Orange Free State	18,594	8	6
South-West Africa	5,397	3	0
Women's Campaign	23,456	15	9
TOTAL AVAILABLE TO HEADQUARTERS	£362,827	16	7
Cape Province	97,096	0	0
Natal (<i>Excluding Community Chest</i>)	27,600	0	0
TOTAL FOR SOUTH AFRICA	£487,523	16	7

A number of points are to be noted:

- (a) Although there was an appreciable increase in the number of contributors throughout the country, the average standard of contribution had dropped from £41 in the third campaign to £38 in the fourth campaign.
- (b) In the Johannesburg campaign, which showed an increase of £8,004 on the third campaign, and an increase in the number of contributors from 4,363 to 5,322, the average standard of contribution dropped from £44 to £38.
- (c) The total of £487,523 16s. 7d. shown above, does not include the amount paid by the Zionist Federation.

Distribution of Funds

The monies raised in the Transvaal, Orange Free State, Eastern Province and South-West Africa come direct to the United Communal Fund Headquarters (with the exception of certain amounts which, by arrangement, are paid to some areas for local needs). Headquarters has the responsibility of paying allocations to the participating bodies, other than those which derive their funds from the U.C.F. in the Western Cape and in Natal.

The Natal contribution to Headquarters for the campaign was £12,800 and the Western Cape contribution £6,100.

Distribution by Headquarters

The following tables show the amounts which were distributed respectively by Headquarters, by the Cape Western Province, and by Natal as at 31st July, 1957.

In the case of distribution by Headquarters, particulars are also given of:

- (a) the total due to each body;
- (b) the amount actually paid as 31st July, 1957; and
- (c) the balance still due.

Participating Bodies	Total Allocation			Amount paid at 31st July, 1957			Balance still due		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
S.A. Board of Jewish Education	120,000	0	0	98,000	0	0	22,000	0	0
S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies	150,000	0	0	10,458	11	8	139,541	8	4
S.A. Yiddish Cultural Federation	16,000	0	0	16,000	0	0	Nil		
S.A. Ort-Oze	8,400	0	0	Nil			8,400	0	0
Histadruth Ivrit	8,400	0	0	1,550	0	0	6,850	0	0
Union of Jewish Women ..	6,000	0	0	4,680	0	0	1,320	0	0
S.A. Jewish Ministers' Association	1,100	0	0	700	0	0	400	0	0
Federation of Synagogues ..	8,400	0	0	4,610	0	0	3,790	0	0
B'nai Akivah Yeshiva ..	1,700	0	0	1,134	18	0	565	2	0
Country Communities ..	17,500	0	0	4,265	0	0	13,235	0	0
S.A. Council for Progressive Jewish Education	5,000	0	0	2,634	0	0	2,366	0	0
Hebrew Teachers' Pension Fund	16,000	0	0	Nil			16,000	0	0
Payments to Various Towns	18,000	0	0	6,808	15	0	11,191	5	0
Administration Expenses ..	71,203	10	1	71,203	10	1	Nil		
Provision for Bad Debts and other Contingencies ..	15,000	0	0	Nil			15,000	0	0
TOTAL .. £	462,703	10	1	222,044	14	9	240,658	15	4

In order to pay out all the participating bodies the monthly instalments due to them, U.C.F. Headquarters would have had to be in regular receipt of something like £18,000 per month. In fact, however, as the income from pledges varied considerably from month to month, most of the participating bodies received less than the allocations due to them. The decision on priorities of payment was a difficult one, but every effort was made to ensure that distribution should be fair in relation to the urgency of needs.

Cape Western Province Distribution

United Hebrew Schools	£19,000	0	0
Cape Board of Jewish Education	19,703	10	10
Teachers' Pension Fund	4,000	0	0
Council for Progressive Jewish Education ..	1,880	0	0
Country Communities Fund	3,060	0	0
S.A.J.B.D. (Cape Council)	12,100	0	0
U.C.F. National Headquarters	6,100	0	0

United Council Hebrew Congregation	350	0	0
Jewish Ecclesiastical Association	834	0	0
Yeshivah Tachkimony	700	0	0
Hillel House	2,775	0	0
Administrative Expenses	10,788	8	4
Outstanding Contributions still to be collected	15,805	0	10
TOTAL	£97,096	0	0

Natal Distribution

National U.C.F. Headquarters	£12,800	0	0
Durban Jewish Community Chest	15,080	0	0
Council for Natal Jewry	10,000	0	0
Jewish Education Council	1,600	0	0
Natal Country Communities Fund	3,200	0	0
Total Allocations	£42,680	0	0
Estimated receipts	40,940	0	0
Anticipated Deficit	£1,740	0	0

Negotiations Regarding Fifth Campaign

Early in 1957, the main organizations concerned began discussions on the future of the U.C.F. The difficulties that cropped up in these negotiations were of such a character that for a time the U.C.F. faced the possibility of dissolution. The major problem was again the heavy increase required by the S.A. Board of Jewish Education from U.C.F. Headquarters.

As was to be expected in view of the expansion of the Jewish Day School movement and more particularly, the establishment of King David High School, the budget for Hebrew Education had grown. The Board of Education made it clear that it would now require a minimum of £7,500 per month. The leaders of the U.C.F. felt that they could not, with a due sense of responsibility, assume an additional commitment to the Board of Education without having a reasonable prospect of raising the additional amounts in the new campaign. In the meantime, the Board of Education announced that it would have no alternative but to launch an independent campaign to meet its needs. In order to avert the breakdown of the U.C.F., numerous lengthy meetings took place between the leaders of the Board of Deputies, of the Zionist Federation, of the Board of Education and of the U.C.F. itself. At one stage, there was a real danger that the U.C.F. might have to break asunder and that the unity which had been achieved by so much laborious effort, might thus have to be sacrificed. Responsible communal leadership felt, however, that every nerve should be strained in order to avoid

this major setback. The Zionist Federation and the Board of Deputies eventually agreed that they would have to come to the rescue of the U.C.F. with assistance from their own funds by way of a loan.

Basis of Fifth Campaign

The following was, therefore, the basis on which the new campaign was launched:

- (1) The Fourth Campaign would terminate on 31st July, 1957.
- (2) The allocation to the S.A. Jewish Board of Education for the Fifth Campaign would be £7,500 per month, to the Board of Deputies, £5,000 and to the other participating bodies the amount of their respective allocations, prior to the introduction of the cut. In other words, the cut was restored to everybody (except the Board of Deputies) and the allocation to the Board of Education was substantially increased.
- (3) An initial pool ("kitty") would be created to enable the U.C.F. to finance its commitments. The Board of Deputies would pay in £50,000 from the income still due to it from unexpired Fourth Campaign stop-orders. The other participating bodies would jointly contribute £35,000 from the same source. The S.A. Zionist Federation would contribute £50,000 by way of loan, payable at the rate of £2,500 per month for the first year and £1,666 13s. 4d. for the second year.
- (4) It was anticipated that these contributions and also the income from the new campaign would not be sufficient initially to provide the monthly cash requirements of the U.C.F. totalling nearly £21,000. A bank overdraft up to an amount of £30,000 would therefore be taken by the U.C.F., guaranteed by the Board of Deputies, on condition that repayment of this overdraft would be a first charge on proceeds of the fifth campaign.
- (5) At one stage, it was proposed that the U.C.F. should undertake "an irrevocable commitment" to the Board of Education for the total monthly amount. The Board of Deputies made it clear that this was unreasonable. It was eventually agreed that the U.C.F. will continue to pay this amount as long as the fifth campaign does not lag behind the fourth campaign, which will make a reduction unavoidable. If the fifth campaign raises more than is required to pay the allocations, the balance will be utilized for the repayment of the loans made to the kitty.
- (6) It was also agreed (at the instance of the Zionist Federation) that a commission of competent persons be established as soon as possible for the purpose of studying the budgets of all educational institutions subsidized by the Board of Education, with a view to

ascertaining the possibilities of reducing their deficit and to render them as financially independent as possible and/or to find additional sources of revenue for these institutions. The report of this commission was to be returned within six months.

This commission has not yet been set up, mainly because of the preoccupation of many of the persons directly concerned with the conduct of the U.C.F. Campaign.

The Zionist Federation recorded that at the end of the two-year period the Federation would cease to make any further financial contribution towards the budgets of the Boards of Jewish Education and their institutions.

Thus the 1957 Stabilization Campaign (as it was named) was inaugurated on 1st August, 1957. There is little need to point out that the Board of Deputies has made substantial sacrifices in order to keep the United Communal Fund intact.

Firstly, unless the new campaign raises its full target, the Board will lose part or all of the £50,000 which it has put into the kitty as a loan. There is even the possibility that the Board may, in addition, have to sacrifice some of its remaining assets in the United Communal Fund should the campaign fall far short of its target.

Secondly, the Board of Deputies has become a guarantor for the United Communal Fund overdraft up to the amount of £30,000.

Thirdly, the Board has gone to "the back of the queue" in collecting the arrear allocations, which were owing to it from previous campaigns.

Fourthly, the Board has agreed to accept a cash allocation of only £5,000 per month, which is less than it received in any of the previous campaigns, and below its budgetary requirements.

Fifthly, a great deal of the time of the Officers, Executive Council and Staff of the Board has been taken up in trying to solve the problems of the United Communal Fund.

The Board has done all this in order to preserve communal unity and not to jettison what has been so laboriously achieved.

Progress of the 1957 Stabilization Campaign

The challenge of the present campaign cannot be taken lightly. If all the allocations are to be paid in full, the target must exceed by about £125,000 the total raised in the last campaign. (This figure relates only to the allocations by headquarters in Johannesburg and does not include those made by the Cape United Communal Fund.)

Apart from this, there is the problem of the cash position of the fund. Month by month it has to pay out close on £21,000 in allocations and administration costs. Even with the help of the loans from the Board and the Zionist Federation, substantial amounts by way of new contributions must be found if income is to balance expenditure. A detailed report of the state of the campaign will be submitted at Congress. It must be stated, however, that for the first

six months of the campaign, cash expenditure has exceeded the cash income. The crucial question remains whether this imbalance will be corrected as the campaign proceeds. We cannot stress too greatly the vital importance that an all-out effort be made by the community in order to ensure the success of this campaign.

Thanks

We wish to record our sincere thanks to Rabbi Kopul Rosen, the well-known educationalist from Britain, who spent the month of August in our midst and who by his addresses throughout the country gave a powerful stimulus to the new campaign.

We wish to record our deep appreciation to Mr. Abel Shaban for his services as National Chairman of the fourth campaign and to Mr. Harry Serebro for taking over the duties when Mr. Shaban left to reside in England; and to Mr. S. Yellin for undertaking the chairmanship of the Johannesburg Council, in the fifth campaign. We also wish to thank most sincerely the band of loyal workers throughout the country, who have devotedly assisted the U.C.F.

Administration

Mr. H. R. Schewitz, who had been acting National Organizer of the U.C.F. since the resignation of Mr. E. Tannenbaum, was appointed National Organizer as from the start of the fifth campaign. The United Communal Fund owes a deep debt of gratitude to the staff of the Board of Deputies, especially to its General Secretary, Mr. Gustav Saron, and Mr. L. Druion, the Assistant Secretary, both of whom have spared no effort to assist in the fund. Thanks are due to the staff of the U.C.F. for their loyalty and devotion to the work of the fund.

UNAUTHORIZED OVERSEAS APPEALS

For many years the Board has been charged with the duty of endeavouring to regulate overseas fund-raising appeals (except the major appeals for Israel) to the South African Jewish community. Applications from overseas for permission to hold fund-raising campaigns have been scrutinized in the light of the merits of the organizations concerned and having regard to the timing of such campaigns, so as not to interfere with the established major fund-raising appeals, the Israeli United Appeal and the United Communal Fund.

The plain fact is that in the period under review, the attempt to regulate overseas appeals has broken down on a number of occasions. Overseas personalities have frequently arrived in this country without notice, to conduct appeals. Notwithstanding the fact that the Board may officially have declared its opposition to the holding of campaigns, emissaries have carried on their work.

The Board's efforts to enforce communal discipline have been frustrated by the fact that sections of the community, and often persons prominent in public life, have for one reason or another espoused the causes in question.

Major occurrences of this kind were the fund-raising campaigns of Rabbi Kahaneman, the Ponewezzer Rav, in 1956, and of the United Zionist Revisionist Party in 1957.

In connection with the latter campaign, the Board issued a public statement expressing great perturbation that the campaign was to be launched at the very time when the new U.C.F. campaign was to begin. It pointed out that the holding of any other campaign at that time would be a flagrant violation of the rights of the U.C.F. The U.C.F. campaign would be of vital importance, in particular, to the future of Jewish education in this country, since an exceptional effort was to be made to place the Jewish educational system on a sound, stable financial basis, and if it was to succeed, it would require to have a clear field. This plea was, however, unavailing. When the campaign was later launched, the Board found it necessary again to reaffirm its viewpoint in another public statement.

MESHULLOCHIM

A related aspect of the same problem is the control of Meshullochim.

The South African Meshullochim Board of Control is a joint committee of representatives of this Board, the Johannesburg Beth Din, and the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal and O.F.S. It regulates the operations of the South African collectors (Meshullochim) for certain religious and philanthropic organizations in Israel. It is registered as a welfare organization under the National Welfare Organizations Act. At present there are eleven Meshullochim operating in South Africa, four throughout the country, three in Johannesburg only, and four in Cape Town only. Two of the Meshullochim are from overseas, the other nine being permanent residents of South Africa.

Prior to the report to the last Congress, the Executive Council of the Board re-affirmed a decision taken some time ago, that no new Meshullochim were to be authorized and that vacancies which arose from the death or departure of Meshullochim were not to be filled. However, in April, 1956, in view of the representations made to the Executive Council (especially by prominent rabbis) that this decision had given rise to strong dissatisfaction on the part of those who felt that it was a religious duty to take every opportunity of supporting the Yeshivot, it was decided that thenceforth each application for the appointment of a Meshulloch was to be considered on its merits.

Since last Congress, eight applications for the appointment of Meshullochim have been received. Five of them were from institu-

tions which were previously represented by Meshullochim in South Africa and these applications were granted. Of the other three applications, one was granted and two were refused.

It has to be admitted that the present system of controlling Meshullochim is not satisfactory. On the one hand, many communities in South Africa have declined to allow Meshullochim to operate in their areas. On the other hand, great pressure continues to be placed on the Committee to issue new permits and the Committee have not succeeded in establishing a principle for the granting or withholding of such permits.

PENSIONS FOR HEBREW TEACHERS

The Biennial Congress of the Board in 1953 decided that an allocation should be made from the United Communal Fund to serve as a nucleus for a pension fund for Hebrew teachers. The Executive Council then set up a committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C., to devise a scheme. The committee, composed of representatives of the Board of Deputies, the South African Board of Hebrew Education, the South African Zionist Federation, the United Communal Fund, the South African Council for Jewish Progressive Education and the Hebrew Teachers' Association of Southern Africa, has held many meetings during the four-and-a-half years that have elapsed, but without practical result. With actuarial assistance a pension scheme was devised that compares favourably with other similar schemes. There was, however, one grave difficulty. Many of the teachers were already of an age that debarred them from admission to any normal pension fund, but the South African Hebrew Teachers' Association refused to accept any scheme that would not cater for their veterans. The loyalty of the younger teachers to the older members of their Association is commendable, and it is far from anyone's desire that teachers who have spent long years in service to the community should be left without any provision for their old age. The situation was, however, that a satisfactory scheme had been devised for the members of the profession who were still of an age to be admitted to a pension fund, and that it was in their interests, and particularly in the interest of new entrants to the profession, that the scheme should be put into operation without delay. With every year that passes, either the cost of the scheme is increased or the benefits must be correspondingly diminished. It was hoped that if the scheme were accepted, the cases of teachers over its maximum age of entry would be dealt with *ad hoc* as they arose, by some other form of provision.

The deadlock could not be broken and the committee is unable to report any progress.

It was the original intention that there should be one uniform scheme for the Hebrew teachers throughout the whole country. The Cape Western Province, however, has instituted a separate

pension fund for the Hebrew teachers in that area, with more favourable conditions than the Johannesburg scheme can provide. The Cape is able to do so because, through private initiative extra financial resources were found in addition to the money to be contributed by the United Communal Fund. The same course could not be adopted in Johannesburg because of the very much larger number of teachers that had to be dealt with. The extra amount required is of such a magnitude that no practicable plan for raising it has yet been devised.

FINANCE

The Board's income is derived almost entirely from the United Communal Fund. Membership fees received from Constituent Bodies constitute only a small proportion of the revenue. The Finance Committee, which consists of the Treasurer, Mr. Max Greenstein, Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C., (Vice-President) and Mr. A. B. Klipin (Vice-President)—both former Treasurers of the Board—continues to maintain a close and constant supervision of the Board's finances.

The Board's expenditure is kept to the minimum compatible with the efficient discharge of the duties entrusted to the Executive Council by Congress.

After last Congress, the Board appointed a Special Finance Committee consisting of independent accountants and business men, namely, Mr. Alec Fine (Chairman), Mr. R. Frankel, Mr. Henry Ginsberg and Mr. M. M. Lewin, together with Mr. Greenstein, Mr. Ettlinger and Mr. Klipin to scrutinise the Board's functioning and expenditure.

As in the past, audited accounts will be submitted to Congress. They will be tabled for the inspection of Delegates and the Treasurer will submit a detailed financial report.

BEQUESTS

Since the last Congress, the Board has been notified of legacies from the estates of the following: Mr. George Jacobs, Mr. M. F. Rootstain, Mr. Robert Shapiro, Mrs. Charlotte Albert, Mrs. Lena Davidson, Mr. M. Daitz and Mr. Elie Susman.

Attorneys are specially requested to bear the Board in mind when advising clients on the drawing up of their wills. Attention is drawn to the form of bequest printed at the beginning of this report.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

Since last Congress a number of new bodies have been admitted to membership of the Board, but some bodies have become defunct and have been removed from the roll of membership. The total

number of constituent bodies remains the same as at the time of last Congress.

The present membership of the Board is as follows:

Cape Western Province	82
Eastern Province	34
Natal	12
Orange Free State	37
Transvaal	165
Johannesburg	97
Rest of Transvaal	68
South-West Africa	4
Rhodesia	1
	335

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BOARD ON OTHER BODIES

South African Board of Jewish Education:

Mr. A. B. Klipin.

Vocational Guidance Bureau of the South African Ort Oze:

Mr. L. Melamed, Mr. G. Osrin.

Witwatersrand Jewish Welfare Council:

Mr. Lionel Goldman, Mr. N. M. Slood, Mr. G. Osrin.

South African Meshullochim Board of Control:

Mr. J. Goldblatt, Mr. J. Nathan, Mr. S. Danziger,
Mr. R. S. Myers, J.P.

South African Sociological and Historical Society:

Trustees: Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C., Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C.,
Mr. J. M. Rich.

Council: Mr. G. Saron, Mr. J. M. Rich.

Governor-General's National War Fund:

Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C.

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc.

Directors: Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C., Mr. N. Philips.

THE BOARD'S STAFF

Since last Congress the Board has lost the services of four of its senior staff. Dr. H. Abt, Cultural Organizer, resigned in March, 1957, on his appointment as Minister of the Oxford Synagogue,

Johannesburg. Rabbi Dr. J. Newman, Rabbi to the Country Communities, resigned in February, 1957, on his appointment as Executive Director of the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal and O.F.S. Mrs. Helen Kehr, Secretary of the Communal Relations Committee, resigned in February, 1957, on taking up residence in England, and Mr. I. Pinchuck, Secretary of the Public Relations Committee, resigned in May, 1957, on taking up an appointment with a publishing house.

In October, 1957, Rabbi Dr. J. Newman was succeeded as Rabbi to the Country Communities by Rabbi A. H. Rabinowitz. Miss Kreine Alexander was appointed in February, 1957, in place of Mrs. Kehr. The post of Cultural Organizer has not yet been filled. Mrs. F. Abt has been appointed Curator of the Jewish Museum with effect from January, 1957.

In October, 1955 Mr. L. Druion, Assistant Secretary, completed 21 years service with the Board and a presentation was made to him.

In July, 1957, Mr. G. Saron also completed 21 years' service.

The following are the present senior officials of the Board:

General Secretary: Mr. G. Saron.

Secretary: Mr. J. M. Rich.

Assistant Secretary: Mr. L. Druion.

Communal Relations: Miss Kreine Alexander.

Country Communities: Rabbi A. H. Rabinowitz.

Jewish Affairs and Goodwill Department: Mrs. A. Levy.

Welfare: Mr. L. Melamed.

Restitution Office: Mrs. I. Herzberg, Mr. H. Hermann, Mr. H. Berghheim, Dr. Alice Munter.

Librarian: Miss Mira Frankel.

Curator, Jewish Museum: Mrs. F. Abt.

S.A. Jewish Historical Society: Mr. S.A. Rochlin (Archivist).

United Communal Fund: Mr. H. Schewitz (National Organizer).

The Executive Council wishes to place on record its deep sense of obligation to all the members of the staff of the Board, both in Johannesburg and in the provincial centres, for their continued loyalty and devotion.

OBITUARY

Among the leading Jewish personalities whose death the Board has unfortunately had occasion to deplore since last Congress are the following:

The Hon. F. C. Hollander (3rd December, 1955), Honorary President of the Council of Natal Jewry; former Senator.

Dr. Henry Son nabend (5th January, 1956), Mayor of Migdal

Ashkelon, Israel; a member of the Board's staff from 1935 to 1938, and then a member of the Executive Council, of which he was Vice-Chairman, 1949-50.

Dr. Charles Spiro (11th February, 1956), member of the Executive Council, 1925-31; Vice-President, 1927-31.

Mr. Gustav Avigdor Friendly (5th February, 1956), member of the Executive Council, 1926-35 and Honorary Solicitor.

Mr. Bernard Kaumheimer (25th May, 1956), Honorary Life President, South African Jewish Orphanage; Honorary Life President, Our Parents' Home; former Chairman, Fund for German Refugees in South Africa; Rand pioneer.

Mr. S. L. Sive (17th July, 1956), Honorary Life President of the United Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg; Rand pioneer.

Mr. Simon Roy (10th April, 1957), former President, Cape Town Jewish Board of Guardians and Cape Progressive Jewish Congregation.

The Rev. A. Levy (12th May, 1957), minister of the Western Road Synagogue, Port Elizabeth, for 41 years; communal and civic worker.

Dr. A. Syngalowsky (7th October, 1956), President of the Executive Committee of the World Ort Union.

Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck (2nd November, 1956), Honorary Life President, World Union for Progressive Judaism.

The Rev. Dr. Abraham Cohen (28th May, 1957), former President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Mr. Sholem Asch (10th July, 1957), leading Yiddish author.

The Board also deplored the deaths of the Hon. N. C. Havenga, former Minister of Finance; the Most Rev. Dr. G. H. Clayton, Archbishop of Cape Town and former Bishop of Johannesburg; Professor C. M. van den Heever, Afrikaans author and poet.

CONGRATULATIONS

Among the felicitous occasions of which the Board took note were the 70th birthday of Mr. N. Kirschner, former President of the South African Zionist Federation; the celebration by Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock of 25 years' service in the ministry; the 100th birthday of Mrs. Sophie Levisieur; the 80th birthday of Mrs. Toni Saphra, Honorary Life President of the Union of Jewish Women of Southern Africa; the celebration by Chief Rabbi Professor I. Abrahams of 20 years' service in the ministry in South Africa; the conferment of the Freedom of the City of Port Elizabeth on Mr. A. Schauder, J.P., Eastern Province Vice-President of the

Board, and the 70th birthday of Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt, Cape Vice-President (Additional) of the Board.

The Board has had much pleasure in offering congratulations and good wishes to a number of members of the community who have been elected mayors or deputy mayors. At the present time there are 17 Jewish mayors and four deputy mayors, a gratifying illustration of the extent to which South African Jews discharge their civic duties.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

At the Biennial Congress in September, 1955, the following Honorary Officers and other members of the Executive Council were elected:

<i>President</i>		Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C.
<i>Vice-President (Cape)</i>		Adv. D. Cohen
<i>Vice-President (Natal)</i>		Dr. B. Moshal
<i>Vice-President (Eastern Province)</i>	..	Mr. A. Schauder, J.P.
<i>Vice-President (Orange Free State)</i>	..	Mr. Henry Bradlow
<i>Vice-President (Transvaal)</i>		Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C.
<i>Vice-President (Additional)</i>		Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt
<i>Vice-President (Additional)</i>		Mr. E. J. Horwitz
<i>Vice-President (Additional)</i>		Mr. A. B. Klipin
<i>Treasurer</i>		Mr. Max Greenstein

Other Members: Mrs. Mary Adler, Mr. Edgar Bernstein, Mr. George Berold, Dr. L. Eisner, Mr. Abe Grabman, Mr. Jack Hersov, Mr. C. Isaacson, Q.C., Mr. S. Kessel, Mr. L. A. Lipshitz, Adv. A. Mendelow, Mr. A. L. Meyer, Adv. N. Philips, Mr. Maurice Porter, Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., Mr. Rudolph Raphaely, Dr. T. Schneider, Mr. Harry Serebro, Mr. Abel Shaban, Mrs. Lily Sive, Mr. N. M. Slood, Mr. Arthur Suzman, Q.C., Mr. E. Tannenbaum, Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler, Mr. N. Winik.

The Executive Council elected Mr. N. Philips as its Chairman and Dr. T. Schneider and Mr. Arthur Suzman, Q.C., were elected Vice-Chairmen.

In February, 1956, Dr. I. Bersohn, Dr. J. C. Lazarow, Col. D. H. Levinkind and Mr. Walter Seehoff were co-opted to the Executive Council.

In January, 1956, Mr. E. Tannenbaum found himself obliged to resign from the Executive Council in view of the pressure of business commitments. In October, 1956, Mr. C. Isaacson, Q.C., resigned on taking up his residence in Port Elizabeth. In July, 1957, Mr. Abel Shaban resigned, as he would be spending a considerable

portion of each year in England. Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler resigned at the end of 1957, on his departure for Israel. He was presented with an illuminated address, recording the Board's appreciation of his 20 years' service on the Executive Council and his work for the community.

In November, 1956, a presentation was made to Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C., to mark the completion of 21 years' service on the Executive Council, to which he was first elected in May, 1935.

In June, 1957, Mr. L. S. Ditz was elected Natal Vice-President in succession to Dr. B. Moshal, to whom the Executive Council offer warm thanks for his services to the Board during his term of office.

Attendances at Executive Council

Number of meetings held since Congress: 57.

	No. of Attendances
Mr. N. Philips (Chairman)	45*
Mrs. M. Adler	8*
Mr. Edgar Bernstein	45*
Mr. George Berold	22*
Dr. J. Bersohn (<i>co-opted February, 1956</i>)	27/49
Dr. L. Eisner	38*
Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C. (Vice-President)	4*
Mr. Abe Grabman	18*
Mr. Max Greenstein (Treasurer)	35*
Mr. Jack Hersov	26*
Mr. E. J. Horwitz (Vice-President)	38*
Mr. S. Kessel	27*
Mr. A. B. Klipin (Vice-President)	36*
Dr. J. C. Lazarow (<i>co-opted February, 1956</i>)	36/49
Col. D. H. Levinkind (<i>co-opted February, 1956</i>)	1/49
Mr. L. A. Lipshitz	44*
Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C. (President)	13*
Adv. A. Mendelow	19*
Mr. A. L. Meyer	20*
Mr. Maurice Porter	36*
Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P.	44*
Mr. Rudolph Raphaely	25*
Dr. T. Schneider (Vice-Chairman)	30*
Mr. Walter Seehoff (<i>co-opted February, 1956</i>)	14/49*
Mr. Harry Serebro	41*
Mrs. Lily Sive	27*
Mr. N. M. Slood	30*
Mr. Arthur Suzman, Q.C. (Vice-Chairman)	23*
Mr. N. Winik	47*

* Indicates prolonged leave of absence, while overseas, or on medical grounds, or for other reasons.

THE COMMITTEES

The members of the Executive Council serve on one or more of the standing committees, to which are added a number of co-opted members. One committee, the Ex-Servicemen's Committee, consists almost entirely of co-opted members, who are all members of the South African Jewish Ex-Servicemen's League. Owing to the volume of business, the number of meetings of committees is very large and most of the members find themselves obliged to attend two or more meetings each week. The Honorary Officers meet regularly once a week and very often are obliged to have two meetings a week to dispose of current business. In addition, they frequently hold special meetings to receive deputations from other communal bodies who wish to submit their problems to the Board. As the Honorary Officers are *ex officio* members of the standing committees, many of them find themselves at the Board's offices almost every day of the week.

The "representational" work of the Board involves the Honorary Officers and other members of the Executive Council in an arduous round of engagements—attendances at communal gatherings, annual and special meetings of Jewish organizations, etc. Most of these functions call for speeches by the Board's representatives.

The following is a list of the standing committees, showing the attendances at each:

Attendances at Committees

(The Honorary Officers are *ex officio* members of all standing committees.)

Committee for Employment of Handicapped Persons

Number of meetings held: 8.

Mr. W. Hochstadter (Chairman), 5; Mr. W. Seehoff (Vice-Chairman), 8; Mr. S. Bloch, 4; Mr. E. Cohen, 3; Mr. M. Edelstein, 1; Mr. B. Farson, 4; Mr. H. Friedland, 2; Mr. D. Gering, 1; Mr. L. Goldman, 4; Mr. L. Isaacson, 3; Mrs. I. Jacobson, 2; Mr. W. Malk, 1; Mr. H. J. Marks, 6; Mr. H. Milner, 5; Mr. R. S. Myers, J.P., 0; Mr. L. Silberman, 2; Mr. N. M. Sloot, 5; Mr. S. Weil, 1; Mr. R. Raphaely, 1.

Case Meetings

Mr. W. Hochstadter (Chairman), 8; Mr. S. Bloch, 4; Mr. B. Farson, 1; Mr. D. Gering, 1; Mr. L. Goldman, 1; Mr. H. J. Marks, 6; Mr. H. Milner, 5; Mr. R. S. Myers, 1; Mr. W. Malk, 1; Mr. W. Seehoff, 1; Mr. N. M. Sloot 1.

Secretary: Mr. L. Melamed.

Clerk to the Committee: Mrs. B. Kronenberg.

Communal Relations Committee

Number of meetings held: 46.

Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P. (Chairman), 44; Dr. H. Abt (co-opted), 14; Mr. George Berold, 24; Dr. L. Eisner, 35; Mr. Abe Grabman, 15; Mr. S. Kessel, 1; Mrs. L. Sive, 24; Mr. I. Teegeer (co-opted July, 1956), 19; Mr. N. Winik, 25.

Secretary: Miss Kreine Alexander.

Cecil Lyons Memorial Foundation Committee

Number of meetings held: 7.

Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C. (Chairman), 4; Mr. J. Goldblatt (co-opted), 5; Dr. Ellen Hellmann (co-opted), 1; Mr. A. L. Meyer, 3; Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., 3.

Secretary: Mr. L. Melamed.

Country Communities Committee (National Committee)

Number of meetings held: 17.

Mr. A. B. Klipin (Chairman), 12; Mrs. M. Adler, 3; Mr. George Berold, 3; Adv. L. R. Dison (co-opted), 8; Mr. S. Kessel, 1; Mr. I. Kuper (co-opted), 7; Mr. L. A. Lipshitz, 4; Adv. A. Mendelow, 0; Mr. A. L. Meyer, 1; Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., 8; Mr. H. Serebro, 6; Mr. N. Winik, 4.

Country Communities Committee (Joint Committee)

Number of meetings held: 22.

Mr. A. B. Klipin (Chairman), 17; Adv. L. R. Dison, 8; Mr. P. Froman, 6; Mr. L. Franklin (co-opted), 5; Mr. L. Gut, 13; Rabbi Dr. M. Kossowsky, 8; Mr. I. Kuper, 12; Rabbi A. H. Lapin, 11; Mr. J. K. Pollard, 14; Rabbi B. Rabinowitz, 8; Chief Rabbi Prof. L. I. Rabinowitz, 10; Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., 13; Mr. H. Serebro, 4; Mr. M. Silberberg, 13; Mr. N. Winik, 2.

Rabbi to the Country Communities: Rabbi A. H. Rabinowitz.

Clerk to the Committee: Mrs. B. Zlotnick.

Ex-Servicemen's Committee

Number of meetings held: 33.

Mr. A. L. Kowarsky, M.B.E., M.P.C. (Chairman), 31; Mr. George Berold, 25; Mr. H. Bernstein (co-opted), 21; Mr. R. R. Blumenthal (co-opted), 3; Mr. L. Cohen (co-opted), 20; Mr. S. M. Cowen (co-opted), 21; Mr. H. M. Goldberg (co-opted), 8; Mr. L. Goldman (co-opted), 25; Mr. Dan Gonski (co-opted), 2; Mr. J. W. Gonski (co-opted), 23; Mr. Manfred Hermer (co-opted), 8; Mr. D. Judah (co-opted), 16; Mr. L. Lazar (co-opted), 0; Mr. G. Mandelzweig (co-opted), 30; Mr. H. Peiser (co-opted), 23; Dr. L. Shlom (co-opted), 29.

Secretary: Mr. L. Melamed.

Clerk to the Committee: Miss R. Rosenberg.

General Purposes Committee

Number of meetings held: 36.

Mr. A. L. Meyer (Chairman), 24; Mr. George Berold, 14; Mr. S. Danziger (co-opted), 25; Dr. L. Eisner, 26; Mr. J. Goldblatt (co-opted), 30; Mr. I. J. Hersch (co-opted), 4; Mr. J. Hersov, 2; Mr. S. Kessel, 2; Mr. Simon Louis (co-opted), 12; Mr. R. S. Myers, J.P., 22; Adv. J. Nathan (co-opted), 21.

Secretary: Mr. J. M. Rich.

Legal Committee

Number of meetings held: 6.

Mr. A. Suzman, Q.C. (Chairman), 4; Adv. C. J. M. Nathan, 1; Adv. J. Nathan, 6; Mr. Maurice Porter, 4.

Secretary: Mr. J. M. Rich.

People's College

Number of meetings held: 17.

Mr. I. Goss (Chairman), 15; Dr. H. Abt, 17; Mr. M. Ben-Moshe, 3; Mr. R. Egert, 5; Mr. L. Goodman, 3; Mr. Z. Infeld, 5; Dr. W. Kark, 9; Mr. H. S. Liebgott, 8; Dr. M. Natas, 10; Chief Rabbi Prof. L. I. Rabinowitz, 5.

Registrar: Miss Kreine Alexander.

Public Relations Committee

Number of meetings held: 25.

Dr. T. Schneider (Chairman), 18; Mr. E. Tannenbaum (co-opted) (Vice-Chairman), 8; Mr. E. Bernstein, 13; Dr. Ellen Hellmann (co-opted), 7; Mr. L. Hotz (co-opted), 19; Mr. A. L. Meyer, 5; Adv. A. Mendelow, 2; Mr. Maurice Porter, 18; Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., 16; Mr. N. M. Slood, 10.

Secretary: Mr. G. Saron.

Welfare Committee

Number of meetings held: 4.

Mr. N. M. Slood (Chairman), 4; Mrs. L. Sive (Vice-Chairman), 2; Mr. George Berold, 3; Mr. J. Goldman (co-opted), 2; Mr. J. Hersov, 0; Mr. L. Lipshitz, 2; Mr. A. Mendelow, 0; Mr. A. L. Meyer, 0; Mr. R. S. Myers, J.P. (co-opted), 1; Mr. N. Winik, 3.

Secretary: Mr. L. Melamed.

Youth Committee

Number of meetings held: 28.

Dr. T. Schneider (Acting Chairman), 19; Mr. Abe Grabman (Vice-Chairman), 19; Mrs. M. Adler, 2; Mr. Edgar Bernstein, 22; Dr. L. Eisner, 26; Adv. A. Mendelow, 2; Mr. R. Raphael, 12.

Secretary (*ad interim*): Miss Kreine Alexander.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES

The Executive Council is in constant touch with the Provincial Committees by the exchange of minutes, reports and other documentation. Honorary Officers and the General Secretary of the Board have paid several visits to other provincial centres. There have been two Inter-Provincial Conferences since last Congress, one in Johannesburg in June, 1956, and one in Cape Town in February, 1957.

The Executive Council expresses its warm thanks to the Provincial Honorary Officers, Committees and staffs for their loyal and helpful collaboration.

N. PHILIPS, *Chairman, Executive Council.*

G. SARON, *General Secretary.*

J. M. RICH, *Secretary.*

CAPE COUNCIL

The Cape Committee is the Provincial Committee of the Board in the Cape Western Province.

The present members of the Cape Committee were elected on 9th June, 1957, and are as follows: Cape Vice-President of the Board, Adv. D. Cohen; Additional Vice-President of the Board, Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt; Chairman, Mr. Max Melamet; Vice-Chairman, Mr. S. Walt; Treasurer, Mr. E. Kluk; Committee: Mr. C. K. Friedlander, Dr. H. Freund, Mr. S. L. Gross, Mr. A. M. Jackson, M.P.C. (Hon. Life Member), Mr. L. Karabelnik, Mrs. M. Levitas, Mr. M. Melamed, Adv. D. Meyerowitz, Mr. S. L. Schach, Dr. J. H. L. Shapiro, Mrs. S. R. Sloman, Mrs. F. Weinreich.

Meetings of the Cape Council take place, as far as possible, each month. The Cape Committee itself meets every Friday, and more often if necessary. Sub-committees meet at least once a month.

Constitutional Changes

In August, 1956, the constitution of the Cape Council was amended so as to lay down a procedure for the nomination and election of members of the Cape Committee. Notices inviting nominations must now be sent to all persons entitled to nominate not less than seven weeks before the date of the election. A nomination must be in writing and accepted by the nominee. It must reach the Secretary not less than three weeks before the date of the election. Not less than two weeks before the date of the election, members of the Cape Committee, deputies and constituent bodies must be notified of the names of the nominees. A member of the Cape Committee is deemed to be nominated unless he notifies the Secretary to the contrary in writing, not less than three weeks before the election date.

Election of Cape Committee by Public Franchise

The following resolution was adopted at a Cape Council meeting held on Sunday, 12th May, 1957:

"That this Conference instructs the Cape Committee to appoint forthwith a sub-committee of from four to seven persons, who need not be members of the Cape Committee, to investigate the advisability and feasibility of amending the Constitution to provide for public balloting for the election of members of the Cape Committee; the sub-committee to be empowered to obtain the views of individuals and/or communal organizations and institutions; the sub-committee to formulate a report for submission to the Cape Council within four months of this Conference."

A sub-committee, consisting of Adv. D. Cohen, Adv. L. Gering, Mr. L. Karabelnik, Adv. S. Kessler, and Mr. H. Wolffe, has been appointed to implement this resolution and has already begun its work.

Annual Conferences

Annual conferences have been held early each year. Endeavours are made, as far as possible, to hold the conference in a different suburb each year, so as to stimulate closer interest in the work of the Board on the part of the respective communities. The attendances have been very good.

The 1956 Conference was held in Bellville. It was attended by the Minister for Israel, Mr. I. Bavly and Mrs. Bavly, Adv. I. Maisels, Q.C., and Mr. G. Saron, General Secretary of the Board.

The 1957 Conference was held in the Minor Weizmann Hall, Sea Point. Mr. G. Saron, General Secretary, was present.

Regional Conferences were held at Stellenbosch and Mossel Bay.

Communal Relations

Mr. E. Kluk is the Chairman of this Committee, and the members are: Adv. D. Cohen, Dr. M. Epstein, Dr. H. Freund, Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt, Mr. L. Karabelnik, Mr. L. Karol, Mrs. M. Levitas, Mrs. H. Liberman, Mr. A. M. Melamet, Rev. I. Richards, Mr. M. Sachar, Mr. B. Singer, Mrs. S. Smaller, Mr. H. Turok, Dr. C. Waynik.

Each year, on the 27th Nissan, the committee arranges a suitable programme to commemorate the World Jewish Day of Mourning. Cultural programmes arranged by the committee included a symposium on "The History of the Jews in South Africa", lectures in town and country by Dr. H. Abt, Cultural Organizer of the Board, and by Mr. G. Saron, General Secretary. It assisted some communal bodies in arranging programmes of their own and made available to them its library of recorded programmes. Several interesting film strips are available for use by Jewish organizations.

Community Forum

After a lapse of three years, Cape Town's People's College was revived in 1956 under the name of "Community Forum." The Cape Council's co-sponsors in this project are the Western Province Zionist Council and the Cape Board of Jewish Education. Mr. S. Walt is Chairman of the joint committee. The lectures offered by the Community Forum have been at a high level and the public has shown its appreciation by attending in large numbers.

Cape Town Jewish Museum

The opening of the Cape Town Jewish museum, which is situated in the Old Synagogue, took place in January, 1958. The nucleus of the museum consists of items of ceremonial silver received from Jewish Cultural Reconstruction (salvaged from Europe) and it is hoped that the collection will be supplemented by gifts and loans from members of the community. Already several valuable pieces have been given on loan. The museum is owned by the Cape Town Jewish Historical and Museum Society, and the Board has assisted its establishment with a grant of £250 and a loan of £250.

Co-ordination

A gratifying step in the field of co-ordination was the reunification of the United Council of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations in 1955. The good offices of the Cape Committee helped in achieving this union and there exists complete co-operation between the United Council and the Board.

The Board is still pursuing its efforts to bring about co-ordination in the field of welfare and charitable work and it is hoped that early in 1958 a meeting of all interested bodies will be called to take definite steps with this object in view.

Country Communities

The Country Communities Committee (Chairman, Mr. S. Walt; members: Chief Rabbi I. Abrahams, Mr. I. Bitnun, Adv. D. Cohen, Mr. H. Cohen, Dr. M. Epstein, Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt, Mr. S. Kluk, Mr. M. N. Marks, Adv. D. Meyerowitz, Dr. A. Moar, Mr. Ch. Robinson, Mr. S. Sive, Mrs. S. R. Sloman, Rabbi M. Smith, Mr. A. S. Sher, Mrs. B. Shwer, Rabbi J. Weinberg, Mrs. F. Weinreich) has arranged pastoral tours to all parts of the Cape. Most places have been visited several times. Warm thanks are due to the Chief Rabbi and other members of the Rabbinate who co-operated in this work.

The committee made much progress during the period under review. A notable feature was the appointment of the Rev. G. Gad in June, 1956, as Regional Minister stationed at Malmesbury, from which centre he serves Vredenburg, Saldanha Bay, Hopefield, Langebaan and Darling. The services include shechita, teaching (children and adults), synagogue services, etc. This scheme is subsidized by the

Board. The committee, in its endeavours to help country communities, particularly the more isolated ones, has provided subsidies to three communities, bearing in mind its policy that places receiving such aid should assist neighbouring centres. Visits were paid to individual centres by members of the committee in order to discuss local communal problems. Wherever possible, the committee arranged for Dr. A. Moar, Director of the Board of Jewish Education to deliver cultural lectures to communities visited by him in the course of his duties. Thanks are due to him for his co-operation.

The committee has made several serious attempts to obtain ministers for communities having no spiritual leaders, but did not always obtain the desired co-operation from the centres which it tried to assist. It also assisted country communities to obtain officiants for its services over the High Festivals.

In its steps to establish proper control over the assets of defunct and dwindling country communities, it is gratifying to know that the committee has received indications of willingness to co-operate on the part of the places concerned. At the present moment, negotiations are under way with the object of appointing another Regional Minister to serve several small communities.

Youth

The Youth Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. A. M. Melamet (members: Mr. C. K. Friedlander, Mr. S. L. Gross, Mr. M. Melamed, Adv. D. Meyerowitz, Mrs. S. R. Sloman, Mrs. F. Weinreich), endeavours to encourage and assist existing organizations dealing with youth and to stimulate the creation of other means whereby Jewish youth could be drawn closer to the community. A weekend seminar was held in one of the Muizenberg hotels for students and other youth. This committee has, however, reported that without the assistance of a full-time youth officer, it is virtually impossible for it to address itself seriously to the problems with which it is expected to deal.

University Students

With the establishment of a University Students' Liaison Committee, consisting of representatives of the Board (Adv. D. Cohen, Mr. S. Walt, Mr. C. K. Friedlander), the Western Province Zionist Council (Adv. S. Schach, Dr. D. Sagorsky, Dr. I. M. Hurwitz), and the S.A. Federation of Student Jewish and Zionist Associations (Messrs. B. Medintz, B. Myers, B. Goldberg, M. Shirken), the Board's University Students' Committee fell away. Adv. Cohen is the Chairman. A harmonious relationship exists between the three bodies. Funds for student activity are provided jointly by the Board of Deputies and S.A. Zionist Federation. In the Cape, the students' organization is in the process of obtaining premises for a student centre with office and other facilities near the university. A part-time organizer has been appointed and the Student Jewish Association has embarked on excellent programmes of activity. In addition,

the Board was able to make available very useful programme material. The liaison Committee recognizes the need for the appointment of a counsellor to minister to the needs of the university students and it is hoped that this object will be achieved in the not too distant future.

Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee (Chairman Mr. F. R. Bradlow, latterly Mr. A. M. Melamet. Members: Mrs. R. Back, Mrs. F. Clouts, Mr. I. Frank, Mr. C. K. Friedlander, Mr. S. L. Gross, Mr. E. Kluk, Mr. S. Kluk, Mr. N. van B. de Jongh, Dr. A. Meyer, Mr. S. Myers, Mr. C. Rabinowitz, Dr. J. H. L. Shapiro, Mrs. S. R. Sloman, Mrs. F. Weinreich), co-operates closely with the Public Relations Committee of the Executive Council of the Board. In regard to the relations between Jews and Afrikaners, a great deal of interest and better understanding was stimulated as a result of a series of articles on this topic which Mr. A. M. Melamet, Chairman of the Cape Council, was invited to write and which appeared in *Die Burger* and other Afrikaans newspapers. The article also appeared in *Jewish Affairs*, in which Mr. S. Pienaar, Assistant Editor of *Die Burger* gave the Afrikaner point of view. The work of combating anti-Jewish discrimination continues. Several incidents were investigated and dealt with. Although anti-Semitism has ceased to be the problem that it used to be, there are individual anti-Semites in this country who are still active and it would appear that some of them have links with anti-Semitic organizations overseas.

Welfare Committee

In August, 1955, the Cape Committee established a Welfare Sub-committee to attend to such tasks as employment, refugees, restitution claims against Germany, parcels to overseas countries, tracing of missing persons, immigration and naturalization, matters for which the Secretariat had previously been responsible to the Cape Committee direct. Mr. S. Walt is the Chairman and the members are Mr. F. R. Bradlow, Mr. L. Karabelnik, Mrs. M. Levitas, Mr. M. Melamed, Mr. C. Reitstein, Mr. E. Samson, Dr. E. Spiro, Mr. H. Wolfe.

The Employment Section continues to be active. Between the Employment Department and the Board of Guardians and Jewish Sheltered Employment Council close co-operation exists.

Between January and March, 1957, seven ships containing about 850 Jewish-Hungarian refugees arrived in Cape Town en route to Australia. The committee did a tremendous job of work arranging for the needs of these unfortunate co-religionists and for individual hospitality to be provided them. The committee received the whole-hearted co-operation of the Union of Jewish Women. Several cases of individual refugees from various countries also received the Board's attention during the biennial period.

Since June, 1955, about 50 persons were assisted in making claims for restitution against Germany. Dr. E. Spiro, a member of the committee and an expert on Restitution Laws, interviewed the applicants in an honorary capacity and assisted in framing their claims. We wish to record our deep appreciation of Dr. Spiro's kindness in undertaking to act without fee for all applicants to the Board who have restitution claims against the German Government.

Ex-Servicemen's Committee

In April, 1956, Adv. D. Cohen replaced Mr. F. R. Bradlow as Chairman of this committee, three members of which are representatives of the S.A. Jewish Ex-Service League. (Members: Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt, Mr. S. L. Gross, Mr. A. M. Melamet, Dr. J. H. L. Shapiro, Mr. O. Korodetz, Capt. Reichenberg, Mr. R. Schneider.) During the period under review, this committee has dealt with 20 applications for assistance and has made loans of nearly £3,500.

Clothing Depot

Mr. Walter Levy, Chairman of the Clothing Depot of the S.A. Jewish Appeal, which is under the control of the Board, carried out his task with efficiency and distinction. As he was unable to continue in this capacity, Mr. Wolffe took over the chair during 1957 and has maintained the high standard set previously.

Last year discussions took place between the headquarters of the S.A. Jewish Appeal, Johannesburg and the Cape in regard to a request that the local depot should be closed down, and all garments collected sent to Johannesburg for processing and despatch to Israel via Durban. After careful investigation however, the Cape Committee decided that it was more economical to carry on the depot as heretofore and to ship the clothing direct to Israel. Mr. Levy was able to effect a saving in expenditure of about £1,300 per annum. During the period under review, the depot has collected and processed over 37,611 garments of high quality for despatch to Israel. In the Clothing Drives which were organized throughout the Cape, the wholehearted co-operation of the B'nai Zion and the Union of Jewish Women was received. The Manager of the depot is Mr. D. Boner. The depot has now moved to 15 Liddle Street. The 1957 Clothing Drive in the Peninsula was the most successful one of its kind ever to be held in Cape Town.

United Communal Fund

The idea of co-ordinated fund raising through the United Communal Fund having proved itself, the fourth campaign was launched in July, 1955.

An amount of £97,000 was raised as against £83,000 in the previous campaign, but the target had been set at £130,000 (£105,000 in 1953) in view of the increased budgets for all the participating

organizations. It was necessary, therefore, to cut allocations, with the result that the Cape Council has had to operate on a reduced budget.

The fifth campaign was launched in July, 1957, with Adv. Cohen as Chairman. As the target figure has not been further increased, it is hoped it will be possible for participating bodies to receive a greater proportion of the proposed allocations than had been the case in previous campaigns.

Obituaries

We regret to record the untimely deaths during the period under review of Mr. Izak Buirski, Mr. John M. W. Weinreich and Mr. Chaim Winokur.

Mr. Buirski was an active and popular member of the Cape Committee. His loss is deeply felt by all his colleagues and in the community.

Mr. John M. Weinreich was Hon. Treasurer of the Cape Council, Chairman of the Country Communities Committee and one of the oldest members of the Cape Committee. He is sadly missed not only by the Board but also by almost all the charitable bodies and the Western Province Zionist Council, with which he had had a long and honourable association. A memorial meeting under the joint auspices of the Western Province Zionist Council and the Cape Council of the Board was held.

The most recent loss suffered by the committee is the death of Mr. Chaim Winokur. He was elected to the Cape Committee only a few years ago. His outstanding abilities were immediately recognized. He had a keen and practical mind, boundless energy, years of experience in the field of fund raising and these qualities, combined with a lively sense of humour and charming manner, made him one of the most popular and respected leaders of Cape Jewry.

"Cape Committee Reporter"

The *Cape Committee Reporter* is now compiled by the secretariat and edited by Adv. D. Cohen and Mr. A. M. Melamet. It provides deputies and other Jewish leaders with an informal record of the activities of the Board and also discusses other items of communal interest.

Office Administration

As from the 1st January, 1957, the Cape Council transferred its offices to Ninth Floor, Garmor House, Plein Street (cor. Commercial Street), Cape Town.

The senior staff of the Cape Council, under the secretary, continue to carry out the day-to-day work arising from the meetings of the Cape Council, Cape Committee and sub-committees, as well as the very essential duties of being always available to deal with inquiries

from the public for information and advice. The Council cannot let this opportunity pass without recording its deep appreciation of the efficient, selfless services of the staff.

During 1957, Mr. A. S. Sher, who had loyally discharged his duties as secretary for the past five years, left the services of the Cape Committee to resume his legal career. Our best wishes accompanied him. He has been succeeded by Mr. Israel Pinshaw, formerly chief administrative officer of the Bantu Education Department for the Transvaal Region. Mr. Pinshaw assumed duty on 1st July, 1957.

A. M. MELAMET, *Chairman.*

I. PINSHAW, *Secretary.*

EASTERN PROVINCE COMMITTEE

Vice-President, Eastern Province: Mr. A. Schauder.

Chairman: Mr. A. M. Spira.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. D. Levy.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. G. Rein.

Committee: Messrs. R. Bennun, C. Isaacson, Q.C., P. Bloom, R. Field, S. Goodman, P. Lax, J. A. Lifson, A. Marcow, S. Marcus, N. Meyer, N. Melmed, S. Palmer, D. Tobias, Mrs. B. Gluckman, Mr. L. Polakow.

Secretary: Mrs. A. Friedman.

This report records briefly the matters with which the E.P. Committee concerned itself during the period under review.

There has been an awakening of interest in Jewish activities. The community is growing. Amenities are required to meet the demands made in the fields of education, culture and youth work. There is a need for a communal centre in this area, and there is a demand for a day school.

Eastern Province Conference

This took place in Port Elizabeth on 4th to 5th February, 1956, and it was attended by Dr. T. Schneider, Vice-Chairman of the Board, and by Mr. G. Saron, General Secretary, the Executive and Committee of the Eastern Province, and by 48 delegates representing constituent bodies in the Eastern Province. Mr. A. M. Spira, Chairman of the E.P. Committee, presided. Dr. T. Schneider gave an address on the Board's work and problems today, and Mr. G. Saron spoke on the theme "South African Jewry, Today and Tomorrow."

A resolution recording the appreciation of the Conference to the Board for its efforts on behalf of the Jewish community of South Africa and pledging the support of Conference to the Board and the United Communal Fund, was unanimously adopted.

Inter-Provincial Conferences and Consultations

The Eastern Province Committee was represented by Mr. A. M. Spira and Mr. R. Bennun at the Inter-Provincial Conference held in Johannesburg on 2nd and 3rd June, 1956, and at the I.P.C. held in Cape Town during 9th to 10th February, 1957. Full reports were given to the committee and to a meeting of Deputies, on the proceedings, with especial emphasis in the field of public relations and the future of the U.C.F.

United Communal Fund

The Fourth Campaign of the United Communal Fund was launched in Port Elizabeth in March, 1956, at a meeting addressed by Mr. I. Goss and Mr. A. B. Klipin. We record our grateful appreciation to the speakers at the inaugural meeting, and also to those members of the Staff of the U.C.F. who came to Port Elizabeth to assist with the canvass of funds. We thank, too, those volunteers in Port Elizabeth whose untiring efforts enabled us to achieve such gratifying results in this area.

This campaign realized the total of £17,250, of which £3,600 was retained in Port Elizabeth and allocated to the educational institutions.

The Women's U.C.F. Campaign for 1957-58 conducted under the auspices of the Port Elizabeth Branch of the Union of Jewish Women, was launched by Rabbi Kopul Rosen in August, 1957 and has been an outstanding success; the total of £2,600 far exceeds the total of the previous campaign. Our sincere thanks are extended to the women for this wonderful effort.

The Chairman, Mr. A. M. Spira together with Mr. Rein launched the local U.C.F. campaign with great success during the latter half of 1956.

Mr. Spira conducted the campaign in Kingwilliamstown. This was also a great success.

Mr. Bennun accompanied Mr. H. Serebro to launch the U.C.F. campaign successfully in Queenstown last year.

Mr. A. M. Spira accompanied Mr. A. Mendelow to Grahamstown and Uitenhage and successfully launched the U.C.F. campaign in these centres.

Youth Committee

The Youth Committee, under the convenership of Mr. D. Levy, has on several occasions met the Registrar and Executive of the Youth Seminar in order to discuss with them the broadening of the scope of the Seminar. The Committee, together with the Eastern Province Zionist Council, subsidizes the cost of this Seminar, and receives regular reports of attendances and progress. The attendance during the past year has not been up to expectations although the programme was on a more advanced level.

The Youth Committee has also met the Youth Committee of the Eastern Province Zionist Council with a view to considering the establishment of a joint Committee to undertake the provision of suitable premises, so urgently required by the youth.

The Committee is assisting the Grahamstown community in their endeavours to obtain a minister who would serve the religious needs both of the community and the Jewish students of Rhodes University.

Rhodes University

A member of our Executive, Mr. S. G. Rein, met the Students' Council of Rhodes University and discussed with them the desirability of having regular lectures given them on various subjects by Port Elizabeth Rabbonim and other suitable personages. Rabbi Dr. J. Vainstein continues to pay occasional visits to the Jewish students of the University, to whom he lectures and with whom he discusses their various problems. He has also arranged several full day seminars for the students, with additional lecturers participating. These visits have been very successful and we hope they will continue this year.

World Jewish Memorial Day

This day is commemorated each year by a mass meeting of P.E. Jewry. On the 9th April, 1956, the meeting was held in the Emanuel Hall. The gathering was addressed by the late Rev. A. Levy and by Mr. L. Leibowitz. In 1957, Rev. D. Garb and Mr. C. Isaacson, Q.C., were the guest speakers. Ghetto poems were recited by members of the Jewish Cultural Club.

Visiting Lecturers

The Board was fortunate in being able to arrange several public lectures during the last biennial period, all of which were warmly received. Mr. G. Saron, General Secretary of the Board gave a talk in the Summerstrand Synagogue Hall in February, 1956 on "*How The Jews of South Africa came to be written.*"

In November, 1956, Mr. Joseph Leftwich gave three lectures in Port Elizabeth.

Last August Rabbi Kopul Rosen, who visited South Africa in connection with the U.C.F., gave a most stimulating address in the City Hall.

Communal Relations

The Board, together with the E.P. Zionist Council, recently convened a meeting of representatives of leading bodies in the town to discuss the establishment of a central co-ordinating committee. This has been accepted in principle and the committee will discuss a recent development in the city, which makes centrally situated premises available for purchase. They would be able to cater for all the major requirements of the Jewish community such as a communal centre, a youth centre and a central club. There is also

a movement afoot to establish a day school. All these activities are a good sign of a healthy developing community.

Miscellaneous

During the period under review the committee made one grant to an ex-Serviceman.

Most of the outstanding loans have been repaid.

The Board has assisted several members of the community in submitting claims for restitution during the past two years.

The local office of the Board has assisted several members of the community in arranging to send parcels to relatives residing in the U.S.S.R.

Condolences

The Rev. A. Levy, who for over 40 years ministered to the religious wants of the Eastern Province, passed away only a few months ago. The loss to the community has been a big one. We remember with reverence and respect all that he has done for us, and to his family we tender our deepest sympathy.

Congratulations

We congratulate Mr. A. Addleson, on his election as Mayor of East London, Mr. J. Schauder on his election as Mayor of Uitenhage, Mr. M. Paul on his re-election as Mayor of Queenstown and Mr. Alfred Markman on his election as Deputy Mayor of Port Elizabeth. We also congratulate Mr. R. Bennun who has been Chairman of the Midland Chamber of Industries for the past two years.

Acknowledgments

The Eastern Province Committee records its gratitude to the Honorary Officers and Staff in Johannesburg, who have, at all times, given us their assistance, guidance and co-operation. Mr. Saron, the General Secretary of the Board has been of great assistance to us, and we are particularly grateful to Mr. Rich and Mr. Druion for their close co-operation.

We also wish to record our sincere thanks to those members of the public who have through the years volunteered their assistance in connection with the U.C.F. Campaigns. Without them, we could not have accomplished the outstanding results that have been achieved.

Conclusion

The work that the Board in the Eastern Province has been doing, has been of great service to the community. This does not mean that there is no room for more work to be done in the fields of disseminating culture and knowledge.

The hinterland requires more frequent visits, more lecturers,

more facts about the Board's work, more participation in the Board's work. The incoming committee is charged to carry out this important mission.

A. M. SPIRA, *Chairman.*

Since the above report was drawn up, an Eastern Province Biennial Conference was held on 8th February, 1958.

The following new Committee was elected: Mr. R. Bennum, Mr. S. Goodman, Mr. D. Levy, Mr. C. Isaacson, Q.C., Mr. P. Lax, Mr. A. Marcow, Mr. S. Marcus, Mr. N. Melmed, Mr. S. Rein, Mr. A. M. Spira, Mr. I. Weinronk.

The 1958 U.C.F. campaign was also successfully launched at the Conference.

COUNCIL OF NATAL JEWRY

The Council of Natal Jewry co-ordinates the workings of institutions in Natal. It is an autonomous body and acts as the Natal Committee of the Board. Close co-operation has been maintained between the Board and the Council.

At the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Council of Natal Jewry, the following Honorary Officers and Executive Committee were elected:

Hon. President: Mr. S. Moshal.

Hon. Vice-President: Dr. B. Moshal.

Board of Past Presidents: Mr. M. Freed, Mr. I. Geshen, Mr. H. L. Magid, Mr. J. J. Friedman, Q.C., Mr. A. Levine.

President: Mr. L. S. Ditz.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. I. J. Greenberg, Mr. Josh. Goldberg.

Treasurer: Mr. J. Greene.

Executive Committee: Mr. B. Shotland, Mr. Hayman Levy, Dr. N. Smith, Mr. N. Hertz, Mr. I. Geshen, Mr. S. Ernst, Mrs. Liefman (Pietermaritzburg), Mr. G. Benjamin (Pietermaritzburg), Mr. B. Lindsay, Mr. M. Rothschild, Mr. Ian Cohen, Mr. C. Malatskey, Mrs. C. R. Fridjhon, Mr. M. S. Gilder, Mr. K. Nathan, Mr. Leon Lewis, Mr. J. Rubin, Mr. A. Stillier, Mr. M. Shatz (Vryheid), Mrs. F. Gilder, Mrs. N. Smith, Mrs. G. Abel, Mr. S. L. Abrahams, Mr. H. Masters, Mr. C. Adley, Mr. R. Abrahams, Mrs. S. Bilchik, Mrs. M. Moshal, Mrs. A. Goldberg, Mrs. M. Rothschild, Mr. A. Miller, Mr. B. Geshen, Mr. M. Cohen, Mrs. I. B. Shagam, Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock, Rabbi M. Miller, Rev. H. J. Oleska (Pietermaritzburg), Rev. L. Friedman (Vryheid), Mr. P. Frame, J.P., Mr. A. Goldberg, Mr. C. Sternberg, Mr. F. Rogoff, Mr. H. Zulman, Mr. M. W. Woolfson, Mr. O. Ballin, Mr. A. Levy, Mr. D. Panovka (Invitee).

The Executive Committee is composed of the Executive Officers, 10 elected members and the Chairmen of the Council's 20 affiliated societies. The Rabbonim in Durban and the spiritual leaders of all affiliated congregations, together with the Regional Director of Jewish Education in Natal are *ex officio* members of the Council.

The Executive Committee meets once a month and the full Council at least three times in a year.

Affiliation to the Council is not obligatory but as presently constituted it represents every facet of Jewish life and communal effort in the Province. The Council is, therefore, in the unique position of being able to co-ordinate the activities of the entire Jewish community of Natal. Although the Council does not interfere in the internal affairs of any of its constituent bodies, the problems of such bodies are continually referred to the Council or its Honorary Officers for consideration. This set-up has resulted in the Natal Jewish community being a well-knit, well-organized and well-disciplined community.

Provincial Conferences

Apart from Durban there are only two established Jewish communities at Pietermaritzburg and Vryheid. Until recently, annual conferences were held at either of these centres but unfortunately owing to technical and other difficulties no conferences have taken place since the holding of the last Congress. It is intended in the future to remedy this omission.

United Communal Fund

The U.C.F. is considered to be of vital importance to the communal life in Natal. Prior to the establishment of the U.C.F. the Council had established the Durban Jewish Community Chest. This organization was established primarily to raise funds for education and local charitable institutions. With the passage of time and particularly because of the heavy demands for subsidies for Jewish education, the budget of the Community Chest has risen considerably over the years.

In order to avoid a multiplicity of campaigns the Council of Natal Jewry decided, on the establishment of the U.C.F., to add the target of the Community Chest to that of the U.C.F. As a result there is one drive every two years for the U.C.F. and the Durban Jewish Community Chest. The target for this particular drive is the total of the amount which Natal is required to contribute to the U.C.F. Headquarters, the amount required to run the Council's offices and the Country Communities and the amount required for the Community Chest.

For the first time in the history of Natal the target in the 1955-57 combined U.C.F. and Community Chest drive was not reached and both bodies had their participations reduced *pro rata*.

The 1957-59 campaign has been well organized but it is apparent that the target will again not be reached.

This factor is not due to any weakness in organization or leadership but appears to be due primarily to the fact that the community is feeling the strain of the continual demands made upon it over the years. A recent survey has shown that the annual contributions of Natal to local and overseas organizations must rank as being one of the highest *per capita* contributions in the world.

Country Communities

The Council provides assistance to Pietermaritzburg and Vryheid in the educational, cultural and spiritual sphere. These two communities also receive financial assistance from the Council. Because of the difficulties of distance there is very little opportunity of personal discussion between the heads of these two communities and the Council.

For this reason minutes of all meetings are regularly sent to these centres so that they are fully informed of developments in the local and South African spheres.

There are the beginnings of two small communities in Ladysmith and Margate and the Council has already extended help and advice to these communities. Hebrew tuition is provided to these centres.

Council of Natal Jewry Educational Trust

The Council of Natal Jewry administers an Educational Trust Fund which was established about five years ago. A number of small contributions have been made to this fund and in 1957 the first bursary was awarded.

Henry Denton S.A. Universities Trust

This trust was established in 1952 by the late Mr. Henry Denton. The trust has capital assets of approximately £30,000 and the income therefrom is available for bursaries to Jewish boys born in Natal or those who have resided in Natal for a minimum period of 10 years. The bursaries are valued at £300 per annum and are tenable for a period of three years. Four bursars have already qualified, one as a teacher, two as engineers and the fourth as a doctor. At present bursaries have been granted to a medical student, an architectural student and a law student.

Youth

The Council maintains close contact with all existing youth groups and affords them all such encouragement and guidance as is possible. About a year ago the Natal Youth Council was established and took over all the work formerly performed by the standing Youth Sub-committee which has now been dissolved. The Council hopes

that Natal will derive some benefit from appointments that may be made by the Board to co-ordinate work in the field of university and other youth work.

Public Relations

The Public Relations Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry is most active. In recent years the committee has devoted a considerable amount of time to the consideration of all problems which might result in the promotion of goodwill between all sections of the community.

Jewish Educational Council

This institution plays a unique part in the communal life of this community. Nine series of lectures of the People's College have been held under its auspices and it is pleasing to record that these lectures are gaining in popularity.

Although the Jewish Educational Council is an autonomous body, it acts as the Communal Relations and Country Communities Committee of the Council and as the Regional Committee of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education.

Welfare Work

The Council of Natal Jewry co-operates with the Durban Jewish Welfare Association. The Welfare Association has earned the respect and thanks of the community for the efficient and sympathetic manner it handles an ever-increasing amount of welfare work. The Council itself continues to assist placing persons in suitable employment, assisting needy people in finding suitable accommodation, giving advice and clerical assistance in matters such as naturalization, immigration, tracing of missing relatives, and despatching parcels to countries behind the Iron Curtain.

Restitution and Compensation Claims

The Council continues to lend assistance in the work of preparation of restitution and compensation claims against the Federal Government of Germany. The number of claims under consideration in recent months has shown an appreciable increase over the number dealt with in the past.

Durban Jewish Community Chest

This organization is an autonomous body but acts in close co-operation with the Council. All clerical work of the Durban Jewish Community Chest is done in the Council's offices.

Communal Offices

For the past five years the Council of Natal Jewry has leased a whole floor of a building. Offices are sub-let to the Zionist Council

for Natal, Durban Women's Zionist League, the Union of Jewish Women, Durban Jewish Welfare Association and the S.A. Jewish Appeal (Clothing Dept.). There can be no doubt that this situation has made closer co-operation possible and provides greater convenience to the community.

Special Funds for Courses in Israel

The Council has recently, together with the Zionist Council for Natal, taken the initiative in establishing a special fund to assist young members of the Jewish community to proceed to Israel to take certain study courses. These young candidates invariably return to Durban and do valuable work in the various youth groups. The funds are contributed by the various local institutions.

Unauthorized Appeals

For some years the Council has not allowed any appeals for funds to be conducted in Natal without its prior authority. From time to time there have been efforts to conduct drives in Natal without such authority and it is pleasing to record that such unauthorized drives are not generally supported by the community.

Meshullochim Committee

This committee is concerned with the allotment of funds to organizations in Israel. The funds are received from the Durban Jewish Community Chest and Natal remains closed territory to Meshullochim.

Soldiers' Assistance Committee

This committee is still in existence but has had no occasion to make any loans and/or grants over the past 12 months. Loans previously made are being repaid.

Immigration Sub-committee

In recent years this committee has been called upon to assist a small number of immigrants arriving in South Africa through Durban or those passing through Durban en route to other lands.

Jewish Day School

Lengthy discussions on the establishment of a Jewish day school in Durban have taken place during the past two years at Council meetings and the decision of the Durban United Hebrew Schools to establish a day school has now been accepted. The school will open a standard II in January, 1958, and each year add a further standard until standard V is established in 1961.

L. S. DITZ, *President.*

D. SPECTOR, *Secretary.*

THE ORANGE FREE STATE COMMITTEE

On the 5th August, 1956 at a Biennial Conference of the affiliated societies of the Orange Free State to the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies held at the Communal Centre, Bloemfontein, the following were elected to the executive of the Orange Free State committee of the Board: Chairman, Mr. Henry Bradlow (O.F.S. Vice-President of the Board); Vice-Chairman, Dr. M. Block; Treasurer, S. C. Ostrofsky; Committee, R. M. Berger, J.P.; D. Davidson, Dr. W. Gordon; Dr. E. Hesselberg, B. Landau, B. Levinsky, Adv. S. Miller, Q.C., V. A. Rosendorff, S. Wasserman, N. Woolf, Rabbi S. Coleman (*ex-officio*).

In October, 1956, Mr. Eric Rosendorff, a member of the Bloemfontein City Council, was co-opted. Mrs. R. B. Goldblatt is Secretary of the committee.

The Executive has met regularly at least once every month and more often when necessary.

Public Relations

The relationship between Jews and non-Jews in the capital and in the Province as a whole continues to be very satisfactory. Real cordiality exists between the Jewish community and Government and municipal representatives in the Province. Courtesy calls were paid by members of the Executive to the Mayor of Bloemfontein on his election to office.

The annual Delville Wood Service held each year under the auspices of a different denomination was in 1956 entrusted to the Jewish community of Bloemfontein. The United Hebrew Institutions together with the O.F.S. Committee of the Board, the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's League and the B.E.S.L. arranged the service jointly. It was held in the Communal Centre. Rabbi S. Coleman was assisted at the service by Rev. N. Menachemson of Kroonstad and Rev. D. B. Kuperberg of Bloemfontein.

Communal Relations

The committee endeavoured to keep in close contact with the communities of the Province. Since last Congress Regional Conferences have been held in Bethlehem and Odendaalsrus.

Country Communities

The committee regrets to have to report that it was called upon to devote very much time in an effort to adjust differences that arose between some of the recently arrived ministers from Israel and their congregations. It is necessary that there should be a re-examination of the whole problem of providing religious ministrations for country communities.

Jewish Memorial Day

Memorial services were held in Bloemfontein, Kroonstad, and in many other Free State centres on the World Day of Mourning for the Jews who had perished in the European tragedy. In 1957 Mr. Edgar Bernstein was the principal speaker at the service held in Bloemfontein.

United Communal Fund

During the period under review two campaigns were held in Bloemfontein and in several Free State towns. The 1955 campaign reached the target set by the Board; the campaign held in 1957, due to the special call for Hebrew Education, exceeded the target. The community is alert to the problem of Jewish education, and a tribute is paid especially to the Union of Jewish Women and the Women's Zionist League for their assistance in the drive.

General

During the past two years the committee had the pleasure of greeting prominent Jewish personalities. Mr. I. Bavly, the Minister Plenipotentiary of Israel, visited Bloemfontein on the occasion of an Israeli Art Exhibition, and the executive jointly with the O.F.S. Zionist Council, entertained him to a luncheon. The committee also welcomed Mr. J. Leftwich, who lectured to the community. Mr. G. Saron on his return from a trip overseas, addressed the community on his experiences and studies and spoke on the problems facing Jewry as a whole and of the impact of present-day Jewish thought on the Jewish scene in South Africa.

A symposium on "The Jew in South Africa", was held in the Communal Centre by Mr. S. Miller, Q.C., Mr. M. Pencharz and Mr. G. Saron.

The committee records its deep appreciation to Rabbi S. Coleman, part-time Chaplain to the A.C.F., for his interest in the Jewish trainees in the camp at Tempe. He pays regular visits to the camp whilst the lads are in training. The Jewish Ex-Servicemen's League arranges for hospitality to be extended to the boys at various Jewish homes, especially on Friday nights.

The Chairman wishes to thank specially those members of the Executive who accompanied him on his visits to the Regional Conference and country communities whenever called upon.

The Executive records its thanks to all affiliated societies for their co-operation, to the members of the Johannesburg Executive and staff who joined in the visits to the Regional Conferences, to the Secretary, and to all who assisted in strengthening Jewish life in the Province.

H. BRADLOW, *Chairman.*

