

# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

## AFFILIATES

### MAP AND GUIDE

by

DR. ISAAC I. SCHWARZBART

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

*Organization Department*

15 East 84th Street

New York 28, N. Y.

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**WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS**

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Benjamin Hanft, Publicity Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASENEW WJCONGRESS GUIDEBOOK OFFERS FACTS  
ON JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN 64 COUNTRIES

Facts and figures about Jewish communities in 64 countries throughout the world are presented in a newly-published guidebook prepared by the World Jewish Congress. Written by Dr. Isaac I. Schwarzbart, director of the WJCongress' Organization Department, the new reference work contains a map and up-to-date information on the history, structure and character of Jewish communities in the Western world, as well as in such far-flung areas as Indonesia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Finland, Bolivia and the Belgian Congo.

Dr. Schwarzbart's comprehensive study of the Jewish communities -- all of which are affiliated with the World Jewish Congress -- is based upon questionnaires covering various areas of Jewish life which the Organization Department gathered during the earlier part of this year. The survey reveals that 75% of the world's 11,500,000 Jews live in three countries: the United States, Soviet Russia and Israel. Two of these three major centers -- the Jewries of the U.S.A. and of the State of Israel -- Dr. Schwarzbart declares, form great constructive laboratories of Jewishness, thus ensuring a continuation of the identity of the Jewish people. The third of the three Jewish centers, Soviet Russia, is a place where Jewishness is being completely wiped out, according to Dr. Schwarzbart.

The WJCongress study also points out that another 2,100,000 Jews, or about 19% of the Jewish people, live in nine countries. The remaining six per cent of Jews are scattered in nations throughout the world.

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In addition to outlining basic facts about Jewish communities throughout the globe, Dr. Schwarzbart summarizes the history of the World Jewish Congress, describes its organizational structure and aims, and concludes with a section highlighting the tasks ahead for the international organization. Looking to the future, Dr. Schwarzbart declares: "The estrangement of Jewish children from Jewishness in any given Jewish community must become the concern of every Jewish-minded community. The fate of any jeopardized Jewish community must become the concern of every secure Jewish community. Concern, however, must be shown by deed. And deeds to remove causes for permanent concern, deeds intended to check permanent dangers, can be performed only by a permanent body. This is the essence of the World Jewish Congress' raison d'etre as a permanent association striving to organize, to help, and to build."

Copies of the new study, which is entitled "World Jewish Congress Affiliates; Map and Guide," may be obtained from the Organization Department of the World Jewish Congress, 15 East 84th Street, New York 28, New York.

# C O N T E N T S

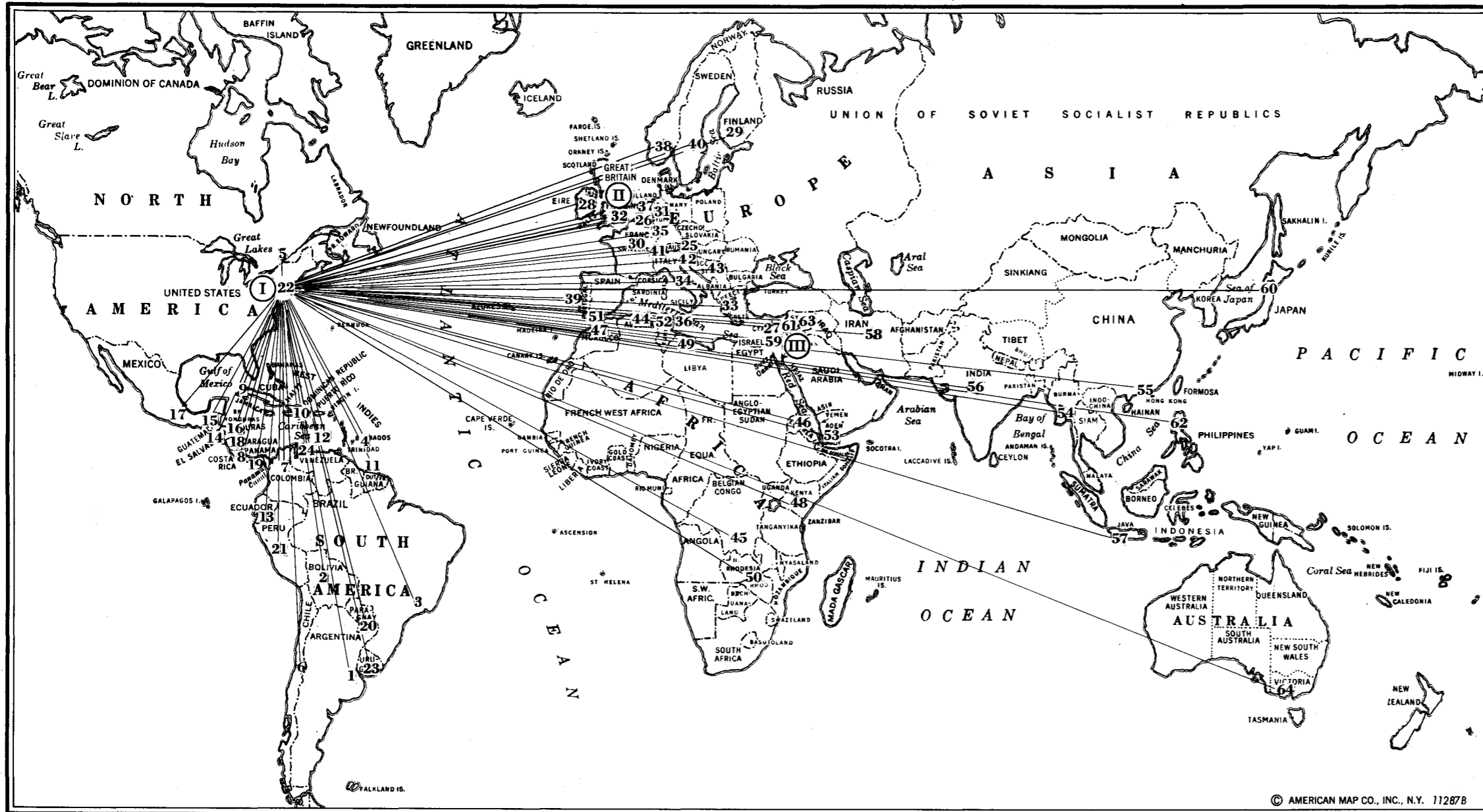
	<u>Page</u>
MAP SHOWING THE ORGANIZATIONAL NETWORK OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS AFFILIATES	
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
<u>WESTERN HEMISPHERE</u>	
Argentina . . . . .	5
Bolivia . . . . .	6
Brazil . . . . .	7
British West Indies, Canada . . . . .	8
Chile . . . . .	9
Colombia . . . . .	10
Costa Rica . . . . .	11
Cuba, Dominican Republic . . . . .	12
Dutch Guiana, Dutch West Indies . . . . .	13
Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala . . . . .	14
Honduras, Mexico . . . . .	15
Nicaragua, Panama . . . . .	16
Paraguay, Peru . . . . .	17
United States of America . . . . .	18
Uruguay . . . . .	20
Venezuela . . . . .	21
<u>EUROPE</u>	
Austria . . . . .	22
Belgium, Cyprus, Eire . . . . .	23
Finland, France . . . . .	24
Germany . . . . .	26
Great Britain and Northern Ireland . . . . .	27
Greece, Italy . . . . .	28
Luxembourg, Malta . . . . .	29
Netherlands, Norway . . . . .	30
Portugal, Sweden . . . . .	31
Switzerland, Trieste, Free Territory of . . . . .	32
Yugoslavia . . . . .	33
<u>AFRICA</u>	
Algeria, Belgian Congo . . . . .	34
Ethiopia, French Morocco . . . . .	35
Kenya, Libya . . . . .	36
Rhodesia, Tangier, International Zone of . . . . .	37
Tunisia . . . . .	38

	<u>Page</u>
<u>ASIA</u>	
Aden, Burma, Hongkong . . . . .	39
India . . . . .	40
Indonesia . . . . .	41
Iran, Israel . . . . .	42
Japan, Lebanon . . . . .	44
Philippines, Syria . . . . .	45
<u>AUSTRALIA</u>	
Australia . . . . .	46
 CONCLUDING REMARKS . . . . .	 48

MAP SHOWING THE ORGANIZATIONAL NETWORK OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS AFFILIATES \*)

(As of June 15, 1953)

Prepared by the Organization Department, World Jewish Congress, Central Office, New York



\*) The several communities or organizations mentioned as "cooperating bodies" in World Jewish Congress reports are not marked on this map. Only affiliates are listed here.

The World Jewish Congress and its Executive are headed by a president. The Executive is composed of members from 15 countries. It operates through three branches, each with a separate chairman, viz.:

- I Western Hemisphere Branch - Office in New York
- II European Branch - Office in London
- III Israel Branch - Office in Tel Aviv.

The lines on the map indicate the organizational set-up of the World Jewish Congress. The activities of the World Jewish Congress are divided among the three branches according to the agreed assignments in their respective areas.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. Argentina: Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA)
2. Bolivia: Comite Central Judio de Bolivia
3. Brazil: Confederation of Jewish Organizations of Brazil
4. British West Indies:
  - (a) Trinidad Jewish Council
  - (b) Barbados Jewish Community
5. Canada: Canadian Jewish Congress
6. Chile:
  - (a) Comite Representativo de la Colectividad Israelita de Chile
  - (b) Federacion Sionista de Chile
7. Colombia:
  - (a) Comite Central de Bogota
  - (b) Federacion de Asociaciones Hebreas de Barranquilla
  - (c) Union Federal Hebrea, Cali
8. Costa Rica: Centro Israelita Sionista
9. Cuba: Consejo Central de Sociedades Israelitas de Cuba
10. Dominican Republic: Parroquia Israelita de la Republica Dominicana
11. Dutch Guiana: Central Committee for Jewish Affairs in Surinam

12. Dutch West Indies:
  - (a) Jewish Community, Curacao
  - (b) "Club Union", Curacao
  - (c) Jewish Community, Aruba
13. Ecuador:
  - (a) Asociacion de Beneficiencia Israelita, Quito
  - (b) Centro Israelita, Guayaquil
14. El Salvador: Comunidad Israelita
15. Guatemala: Comunidad Israelita de Guatemala
16. Honduras: Centro Israelita en Honduras
17. Mexico: Comite Central Israelita de Mexico
18. Nicaragua: Union Israelita
19. Panama:
  - (a) Beneficencia Israelita, Panama City
  - (b) Centro Israelita Cultural, Colon
  - (c) Union Israelita, Colon
20. Paraguay: Sociedad "Alianza Israelita del Paraguay"
21. Peru: Asociacion de Sociedades Israelitas del Peru
22. U.S.A.: American Jewish Congress
23. Uruguay: Comite Central Israelita del Uruguay

24. Venezuela:
    - (a) Union Israelita de Caracas
    - (b) Asociacion Israelita de Venezuela, Caracas
    - (c) Sociedad Israelita de Maracaibo
- EUROPE
25. Austria:
    - (a) Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien
    - (b) Bundesverband der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinden Oesterreichs
  26. Belgium: World Jewish Congress Committee
  27. Cyprus: Jewish Community of Cyprus
  28. Eire: Jewish Representative Council of Eire
  29. Finland: Central Council of Jewish Communities in Finland
  30. France: Section Francaise du Congres Juif Mondial
  31. Germany: Federations of Jewish Communities (Landesverbaende) in Western Germany & Jewish Community Berlin
  32. Great Britain: World Jewish Congress British Section
  33. Greece: Central Board of the Jewish Communities of Greece
  34. Italy: Unione della Comunita Israelitica Italiana
  35. Luxembourg: Communaute Israelite de Luxembourg
  36. Malta: Jewish Community of Malta
  37. Netherlands: Dutch Advisory Committee of the World Jewish Congress
  38. Norway:
    - (a) Jewish Community, Oslo
    - (b) Jewish Community, Trondheim
  39. Portugal: Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa
  40. Sweden: World Jewish Congress Swedish Section
  41. Switzerland: Schweizerischer Israelitischer Gemeindebund
  42. Trieste, Free Territory of: Comunita Israelitica di Trieste
  43. Yugoslavia: Federation des Communautes Juives de Yougoslavie
- AFRICA
44. Algeria: Federation des Communautes Israelites d'Algerie
  45. Belgian Congo: Congregation Israelite du Katanga
  46. Ethiopia: Eritrea Jewish Community, Asmara
  47. French Morocco: Comite Central Marocain du Congres Juif Mondial
  48. Kenya: Board for Kenya Jewry
  49. Libya:
    - (a) Jewish Community of Tripolitania
    - (b) Jewish Community of Cyrenaica
  50. Rhodesia: Rhodesian Jewish Board of Deputies
  51. Tangier, International Zone: Comite de la Communaute Juive de Tanger
  52. Tunisia: Federation des Communautes Israelites de Tunisie
- ASIA
53. Aden: Jewish Community Council
  54. Burma: Musmhea Yeshua Synagogue
  55. Hongkong: Jewish Community ("Ohel Leah")
  56. India:
    - (a) Central Jewish Board of Bombay
    - (b) Jewish Association of Calcutta
    - (c) The South Indian Jews Association, Cochin
  57. Indonesia: Jewish Community
  58. Iran: World Jewish Congress Committee, Teheran
  59. Israel: World Jewish Congress Israel Branch
  60. Japan: Jewish Community of Japan
  61. Lebanon: Conseil Communal Israelite
  62. Philippines: Jewish Community of the Philippines
  63. Syria: Conseil Communal Israelite
- AUSTRALIA
64. Australia: Executive Council of Australian Jewry

G U I D E  
to  
MAP OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS AFFILIATES

A.

This map shows the network of World Jewish Congress affiliates as of June 15, 1953. It was prepared for the Third Plenary Assembly of the WJC, which is to open in Geneva, Switzerland, on August 4, 1953, and replaces the previous map of August 15, 1951. It indicates all the changes and additions which have occurred in the WJC organizational setup since August 15, 1951. The seat of the Organization Department is in the Central Office New York. The radii, converging in New York, illustrate this fact. Organizational day-by-day work, however, is divided among the three Executive branches in New York, London, and Tel Aviv, with the Organization Department in New York exercising general supervision.

The departments of the WJC are, from time to time, in touch with some Jewish communities other than those enumerated in the map. These communities are called "cooperating bodies." They are not listed on the map and they are, 9 in all, as follows: Turkey and Denmark in Europe; South Africa, Ethiopia, and Sudan in Africa; the Malayan Peninsula, the Bahrein Islands, and Pakistan in Asia; and New Zealand. When the occasion arises, there is friendly cooperation between the WJC and these communities.

B.

In 1949, after the passing of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, the Chairman of the Executive, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, was elected by the Executive Acting President of the WJC.

The fifteen countries which are represented on the Executive by elected members are: the United States of America, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Great Britain, France, Italy, Sweden, Algeria, Tunisia, Rhodesia, Israel, Australia.

The unity of the World Jewish Congress in fundamental problems is symbolized:

- (1) by the Assembly of the WJC, to which, when called, all affiliates have the right to elect and send their delegates,
- (2) by one president,
- (3) by the fact that the departments exercise supervisory control over



- the whole Congress area within their competence,
- (4) by the fact that meetings of the whole Executive or of authorized representatives of all three Branches of the Executive are held from time to time,
  - (5) by the fact that the Administrative Director is charged with the duty of coordinating the work of all three Branches of the Executive,

Unity is further enhanced by the constant flow of information material from the departments to all affiliates, and by the fact that the activities of each and every affiliate are made known to all other affiliates.

The day-by-day work is done through the three Executive branches, each of them with its own chairman.

- I. The Western Hemisphere Branch has its office in New York. Its chairman is Dr. Israel Goldstein. The New York office is the seat of the Administrative Director (Abraham S. Hyman); of the Department of International Affairs, headed jointly by two directors, Dr. M. L. Perlzweig, Consultant to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and Mr. A. L. Easterman [see European Branch]; the Organization Department (Dr. Isaac I. Schwarzbart); the Institute of Jewish Affairs (Dr. Nehemiah Robinson); the Department for Ways and Means (Dr. Simon Federbush); the Legal Department, headed jointly by two directors, Dr. Nehemiah Robinson and Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld [see European Branch]; the Public Relations Department (Messrs. J. Glatstein and B. Hanft). In New York, too, there is a representative of the Cultural Department who is in charge of the Western Hemisphere (Dr. W. Blattberg).
  - II. The European Branch has its headquarters in London. Its chairman is Dr. Noah Barou. The Department of International Affairs is headed jointly by two directors, Mr. A. L. Easterman and Dr. M. L. Perlzweig [see Western Hemisphere Branch]. London is the seat of the Cultural Department (Dr. Aaron Steinberg); the Legal Department, which is headed jointly by two directors, Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld and Dr. Nehemiah Robinson [see Western Hemisphere Branch]; the Information Department (Mr. Karl Baum). London has a representative of the Organization Department (Dr. S. Roth).
- The Paris members of the Executive form a section of the European Branch having charge of WJC affairs in Algeria, Tunisia and French Morocco in particular.
- III. The Israel Branch has its office in Tel Aviv. Its chairman is Dr. Arish Tartakower (Jerusalem). Some international affairs, as well as organizational and cultural activities, are carried on by this branch under the supervision of Mr. Anselm Reiss.

As a rule, the areas of activities are roughly divided as follows:

European Branch - Europe and Africa.

Israel Branch - Israel and contacts with some of the countries in the Near East.

Western Hemisphere Branch - Western Hemisphere and the areas not under Europe and Israel.

### Offices of the World Jewish Congress

#### Western Hemisphere:

Mexico. In Mexico the office committee is now headed by Dr. S. Bibring, a member of the Executive and chairman of the Central Committee in Mexico.

Brazil. The Brazilian office is directed by Dr. V. Winterstein.

Argentina. In Argentina, the WJC office, which for many years had been a unit outside the framework of the DAIA, though closely cooperating with it, recently became a subcommittee of the DAIA. Its secretary is Dr. Leon Lapaco.

Uruguay. In Uruguay, the office is closely connected with an advisory subcommittee of the Comité Central, and is directed by Dr. Nella Rost-Suesskind.

Chile. The Congress office in Chile is an integral part of the administration of the Comité Representativo and is directed by the secretary of the latter, Mr. Roberto Levy.

Peru. In Peru, Mr. Jose Lemor conducts the affairs of the WJC in an honorary capacity. He does so in close cooperation with the Congress affiliate.

#### Europe.

Great Britain. The office of the British Section is directed by the Executive Secretary of the European Executive, Dr. S. Roth.

France. Our office in France is directed by Mr. Armand Kaplan.

Switzerland. The Geneva office with its manifold activities in various fields of international affairs is under the direction of Dr. G. M. Riegner, a member of the WJC Executive. Miss Myra Becker is the secretary of this office.

Sweden. The office of the Swedish Section is at present directed by Mrs. Marianne Obernbreit.

Italy. An office of the WJC within the setup of the Unione is directed by Mr. F. Becker (under supervision of Dr. R. Cantoni, member of the WJC Executive).

Africa.

Algeria. Algiers is the seat of the North African office of the WJC, covering Algeria proper, Tunisia, and French Morocco. It is directed by Mr. Jacques Lazarus.

Asia.

Israel. The office for Israel proper is directed by Dr. Leon Bernstein.

## C.

## THE AFFILIATES

At the end of 1952, the Organization Department of the World Jewish Congress sent a questionnaire to all our affiliates covering many fields of Jewish life. Nearly all the affiliates answered this questionnaire, some of them giving the most exact details. These replies will be treated at length at a later date. The facts and data given here about the structure of the affiliates are, in a general way, based on parts of the replies from the affiliates which reached the Congress during 1953.

This guide aims to present only a general picture. It cannot elaborate on the current activities of the affiliates nor can it give an account of the activities of the various departments in relation to the affiliates or of the contacts of the latter with the Executive of the WJC. But even this mainly organizational picture will give an idea of the nature of the concerns and the conditions of work of the affiliates as far as Jewish life is concerned.

The number before the name of the affiliate in the guide corresponds to the number on the map. The listing of the officers of the present governing bodies of the affiliates is, for reasons of space, usually restricted to enumerating the chairman, the vice-president, and the secretary.

The total of additional affiliations gained in the period from May, 1946 to date is 59 affiliates in 41 countries. Since 1946 the following Jewish communities ceased to be affiliates of the World Jewish Congress: the Jewish communities of Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Bohemia and Slovakia, as well as China. However, due to further gains in affiliates during the last five-year period the final count is that the Congress still has affiliates in 64 countries. The two affiliates in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania, counted separately in the previous edition of the map, are now merged into one and listed under (49) as Libya, as a result of the unification of these two countries into one political entity.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1.

ARGENTINA

(420,000 Jews)

Affiliate: DAIA - Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas

President - Prof. Dr. Ricardo Dubrowsky, member WJC Executive  
Hon. President - Dr. Moises Goldman, member WJC Executive  
Vice-Presidents - Dr. Isaac Kaplan, Dr. Nicolas Rapoport  
Secretary - Dr. Benjamin Rinsky

The DAIA is the central body representing the Jews of Argentina, both the Ashkenazim (over 82%) and the Sephardim (about 18%). The DAIA, which was founded in December, 1934, is recognized de facto by the Government.

The Executive of the DAIA is elected at a general assembly of delegates of its constituent bodies, numbering at present 82 in the capital. It also has 60 branches and representations in the interior of the Republic.

By a decision of the Assembly of the DAIA of December 1952, the group called "Progressives" was excluded from representation by the DAIA.

The Jewish population of Argentina, the majority of which is native born, constitutes over 60% of the entire Jewry of Latin America. The overwhelming majority of Argentine Jewry was recently organized into a Vaad Hakehilloth with Dr. Moises Goldman as president. The Sephardic community has its own organization. The Sephardim of Argentina constitute the largest Sephardic segment in Latin America, numbering 55,000. The majority of Argentine Jews live in Buenos Aires, the capital. Ranking next to it are the Jewish communities of Rosario, Cordoba, Eva Peron, Bahia Blanca, and Gran Buenos Aires. Small groups of Jews are to be found in more than 800 towns and villages. There are a number of farm colonies established and inhabited by Jews. At the end of 1952 the JCA colonies numbered about 8,300 souls. Recently the president of the DAIA, Prof. Dr. Ricardo Dubrowsky, became a member of the Board of Directors of the JCA. There are also other rural settlements. It is estimated that about 3,300 Jewish families live by agricultural work.

Argentine Jewry contains numerous Zionist associations, representing all the parties and factions of the Zionist movement; many cultural institutions, theaters, and publishing houses, among them the well-known publishing house of the Federation of Polish Jews; women's organizations (WIZO, Pioneer Women), youth and sport clubs, as well as numerous economic, social, and welfare organizations. Among the latter are the "Hospital Israelita 'Ezrah'," founded

in 1900; the "Liga Israelita Argentina contra la Tuberculosis," founded in 1916; and the "Sociedad de Protection a los Imigrantes Israelitas," founded in 1922.

There is a network of Jewish schools and kindergartens in Buenos Aires and there are Jewish schools in almost all communities of the interior except the very small ones. The language of instruction is mostly Yiddish, partly Hebrew, partly Spanish. The schools are well attended, and religious education in particular has forged ahead in the last years. In Buenos Aires alone 52 elementary schools, 3 high schools, and over 20 kindergartens, as well as one teachers' seminary are in operation. There is also a "Vaad Hachinuch Harashi" (Supreme Board of Jewish Education).

The DAIA has thus formulated its aims in its monthly Information Bulletin:

1. To cultivate the sense of human solidarity and to advocate the eradication of racial and religious prejudices, as well as the prejudice against foreigners.
2. To stimulate Jewish unity in Argentina and in general, and to implant the Argentine spirit in Argentine Jewry, as well as the need for the identification of the destiny of the Jewish community with that of Argentina.
3. To maintain social and cultural ties with Israel and with Jewish communities the world over.
4. To further the knowledge of Jewish spiritual and cultural values.
5. To watch over the moral conduct of individuals and institutions which may affect the prestige of the community, and to advocate and foster its most dignified development.
6. To intervene in all cases affecting the legitimate interests of the community.

The Jewish press is represented by 2 daily papers, both in Yiddish, and by 10 periodicals in Spanish, 8 in Yiddish, 1 in German, and 1 in Hungarian.

2.

BOLIVIA

(ca.4,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Comite Central Judio de Bolivia

President - Arturo Weil  
Vice-President - Abraham Valevici  
Secretary - Dr. B. Krakauer.

The community is composed 90% of Ashkenazim and 10% of Sephardim. The latter are not organized separately. The capital La Paz has a Jewish population of about 2,850, while there are roughly 950 Jews in Cochabamba, 140 in Oruro, 60 in Sucre, 50 in Potosi, 50 in Tarija, 40 in Santa Cruz,

and several families each in a few other places.

The Comite Central is the representative body of Bolivian Jewry. It is recognized de facto by the Government. It has a subcommittee in Cochabamba and representatives in the other cities. There are Zionist parties, women's, youth, and welfare organizations in Bolivia. Religious education is increasing. Jewish schools are maintained in La Paz and Cochabamba, being sponsored by the Comunidad Israelita and the Vaad Hachinuch. The Bolivian Jewish community also has homes for the aged, the sick, and for orphans.

The Jewish press is represented by one weekly and one monthly, both in German.

3.

BRAZIL

(120,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Confederacao das Entidades Representativas  
da Coletividade Israelita do Brasil  
(Confederation of Jewish Organizations  
of Brazil)

President - Prof. Dr. Fritz Feigl (Rio de Janeiro), Member  
WJC Executive

Vice-Presidents - Dr. Moises Kaufman (Sao Paulo)  
Jose Adler (Rio de Janeiro)

Dr. M. Steinbrueck (Porto Allegre)

Secretary - Dr. Salomon Steinberg

The Confederation is the representative body of Brazilian Jews and is recognized by the Government of the country. It was established in September 1951. The Executive of the Confederation is elected by a national conference of delegates of the Federations in Rio de Janeiro (Jewish population, ca. 40,000), Sao Paulo (ca. 38,000), Porto Allegre (12,000), Recife (ca. 2,000), Salvador (ca. 1,000), Bello Horizonte (ca. 1,000), Curitiba (ca. 800). Over 80% of the Brazilian Jews are Ashkenazim; the rest are Sephardim. They live mostly in Rio, Sao Paulo, Belem-Para, and Manuas Amazonas. Belem-Para has a Sephardic majority of 90% (600). The Sephardim are of Spanish-Moroccan, Arabic, and Portuguese origins.

The aim of the Confederation is to protect the rights of the Jewish population under the laws of the country. There are all types of Zionist parties, women's, youth, and welfare organizations in Brazil. Jewish schools exist in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Porto Allegre, Curitiba, Bello Horizonte, Recife, and Salvador. The Jewish press is represented by 8 newspapers and periodicals, of which 3 appear in Portuguese, 4 in Yiddish, and one in both languages.

4.

BRITISH WEST INDIES

(a) Trinidad: (ca. 120 Jews)

Affiliate: Trinidad Jewish Council

Secretary - Dr. B. Pulver

The majority of this small community are Ashkenazim. In 1947 there were about 600 Jews in Trinidad, but since then the Jewish population has been decreasing. The majority live in Port-of-Spain, the capital, and only a dozen in San Fernando. There is a Zionist organization and a branch of WIZO in Trinidad. There is a Jewish Sunday school which is sponsored by the local Jewish community.

(b) Barbados: (ca. 120 Jews)

Affiliate: Jewish Community

President - Oscar Pillersdorf

Secretary - Ernest Sanders

The governing body of the Jewish Community is elected annually at a meeting of the community. All the Jews are Ashkenazim and live in Bridgetown. The synagogue is housed in a room of a private house and services are held on Saturdays and holidays. The Committee governing the community describes its aims as being to promote Jewish solidarity and to help build Israel. The only body besides the Community Center is the Women Zionist Organization (WIZO, for short).

5.

CANADA

(215,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Canadian Jewish Congress, Montreal

President - Samuel Bronfman

Vice-President - Michael Garber

Executive Director - Saul Hayes

The Canadian Jewish Congress is recognized by the federal, provincial, and municipal governments as the central Jewish representative body in Canada. It is a legally incorporated body with a charter issued by the Federal Government setting out its aims, objects, and powers as follows: To carry on activities of a national, patriotic, cultural, and humanitarian nature in the best interests of the country and of the Jewish people; to act in all matters affecting the status, rights, and welfare of Canadian Jewry; to investigate the causes of anti-Semitism and devise means of abating its influence through-

out the world generally and in Canada in particular; to promote understanding and goodwill between non-Jewish and Jewish citizens; to study and to improve the social, economic, and cultural conditions of the Jews in Canada and throughout the world; to cooperate with other agencies in receiving and extending assistance and helping to rehabilitate Jewish immigrants and refugees; and to assist Jewish communities in Canada to establish central community organizations for the purpose of carrying out the philanthropic, educational, and cultural needs of the community.

The distribution of the Jewish population by provinces shows that there are 85,467 Jews in Ontario, 82,701 in Quebec, and 19,282 in Manitoba, while the balance of about 30,000 Jews is living in the other 8 provinces or territories. The largest Jewish communities are those of Montreal, Que., with 80,829 souls; Toronto, Ont., with 66,773; and Winnipeg, Man., with 18,514. The communities of Vancouver, Ottawa, Hamilton, Windsor, Calgary, Edmonton, and Halifax have a Jewish population of over 1000 each, while in the remaining 40 communities the number of Jews ranges from less than 1000 to 100.

The CJCongress holds Biennial Plenary Sessions to which delegates are elected by all communities upon nomination by the congregations, Zionist organizations, landsmannschaften, Jewish fraternal orders, Jewish labor organizations, and members of the community at large.

The delegates at the Biennial Plenary Session elect a  Dominion Council and national officers, and the Dominion Council in turn elects from its membership a National Executive Committee and other committees charged with particular functions.

Besides the National Office in Montreal, the Canadian Jewish Congress maintains 2 Divisional Offices, that of the Central Division in Toronto, and that of the Western Division in Winnipeg, while offices are maintained to serve British Columbia in Vancouver and the Maritime Provinces in Halifax.

Among the various Zionist parties in Canada are: the General Zionists, the Labor Zionists, Mizrachi, Hashomer Hatzair, and Revisionists.

There are 92 Jewish schools in Canada, of which 16 are in Montreal, 15 in Toronto, 5 in Winnipeg, and 56 in 48 other Jewish communities. They are sponsored by local Jewish communities, Labor Zionist Order and Arbeiter Ring, and synagogues as constituents of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The Jewish press in Canada is represented by 2 daily newspapers in Yiddish and 8 weeklies, of which 3 are published in Yiddish, and 5 in English.

## 6.

### CHILE

(ca.30,000 Jews)

Affiliate: (a) Comité Representativo de la Colectividad Israelita de Chile

President - Isidoro Dimant, Member of the WJC Executive  
Vice-Presidents - Leon Rosenthal, Morris Israel  
Secretary General - Roberto Levy



(b) Federacion Sionista de Chile

President - Roberto Aron  
Vice-President - Salomon Gleiser  
Secretary - Felipe Fliman

The great majority of the Jewish population lives in Santiago de Chile (25,000). The rest live in Valparaiso (1,200), Temuco (500), Concepcion (400), Valdivia (150), Osorno (50), Puerto Montt (100), and in miscellaneous localities (2,600). Ninety per cent of the Jews in Chile are Ashkenazim, stemming, as in the case of most Latin American communities, from various European countries. The Sephardim derive from Bitolj, Salonika, Smyrna (Izmir), and Gibraltar. Both groups cooperate closely.

The Comite Representativo is the central body of all Jewish organizations of the main cities in Chile. The Zionist political parties are organized into the Federacion Sionista. The latter takes part in the Comite Representativo and both bodies are linked together by a joint commission.

The Comite Representativo is the spokesman of the Jewish community before the duly constituted authorities of the country and the public at large. It thus defines its main tasks: to protect the interests of the Jewish community, to fight racial prejudice, to further projects of general welfare, agricultural settlements, youth, sport, charity, social, and cultural activities, and to foster solidarity with the non-Jewish population. The Executive of the Comite Representativo is elected by a general assembly of 71 delegates, representing 31 affiliated organizations. The Executive is composed of 15 members. The Comite Representativo is recognized de facto by the Government.

There are Zionist organizations, religious organizations, and youth institutions in Chile. There is a Jewish polyclinic which gives free or low-cost medical aid to the needy - 97% of them non-Jews. There are Jewish schools in Santiago (4) and in the provincial communities of Valparaiso, Temuco, and Concepcion. The schools are sponsored by the Chilean Jewish community through the Vaad Hachinuch. The overwhelming majority of Jewish children attend state and communal schools.

The Jewish press is represented by several periodicals and bulletins, mostly in Spanish. The Comite Representativo has its own regular radio program and information bulletin, both in Spanish.

7.

COLOMBIA

(ca. 9,000 Jews)

Affiliates:

(a) Bogota: Comite Central de Bogota  
(Now in a stage of reorganization)  
It is composed of:

Centro Israelita (establ.in 1928)  
President - Fabio Saraga

Asociacion Israelita Montefiore (establ.in 1938)  
President - Jose Baum

Comunidad Hebrea Sefaradi (establ.around 1912)  
President - Abood Shaio

(b) Barranquilla: Federacion de Asociaciones Hebreas de Barranquilla,  
composed of:

Centro Israelita Filantropico  
President - Israel Pancer

Centro Israelita Filantropico - Bnei Briss  
President - Walter Nathan

(c) Cali: Union Federal Hebrea  
President - Eduardo Moreno

(d) The two minor Jewish communities of Medellin and Cartagena  
are also affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

The Jewish population of Colombia is composed of Ashkenazim - East European and German-speaking - and of Sephardim. The majority of the Jews live in the three principal cities, Bogota, Barranquilla, and Cali; the rest in Medellin and Cartagena. As stated above, the two last-named are also affiliated with the WJC. The President of the Centro Israelita in Medellin is Samuel Karacushansky. The Jews of Colombia are organized only in local bodies and not on a country-wide basis. The persistent efforts of the World Jewish Congress to help in establishing a central representative Committee on a national basis are being continued.

There is a Hebrew school in Bogota, a Hebrew-Yiddish school in Barranquilla, and one Yiddish school each in Cali and Medellin. There are also some women's and mutual aid organizations in Colombia.

8.

COSTA RICA

(ca.1,200 Jews)

Affiliate: Centro Israelita Sionista

President - Salomon Szyfter  
Vice-President - Idel Steinberg  
Secretary - N. H. Zelkowitz

The majority of the Jews live in the capital city of San Jose and only a few families in Cartago and Alajuelo. Only a few of the nearly 270 Jewish families in Costa Rica are of Sephardic origin. The Sephardic minority is

organized separately.

The Centro Israelita Sionista is recognized by the Government as the representative body of the Jewish population. There are a Zionist and a Mizrahi organization, a WIZO, and a charitable women's organization to aid needy Jews in Costa Rica. There is no Jewish school and no Jewish press.

9.

CUBA

(ca. 10,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Consejo Central de Sociedades Israelitas de Cuba

The Consejo is now in a stage of re-organization. For this purpose a Coordinating Committee was founded recently. It is composed of the following:

Union Sionista de Cuba  
President - Nahum Rosenzweig;

Centro Israelita de Cuba  
President - Usher Schuchinsky;

Patronate  
President - Herman Heisler;

Comunidad Religiosa Kehilla  
President - Chil Holtz.

The Consejo is recognized de jure by the Government.

Eighty per cent of the Jewish population live in Havana. Of the provincial towns, there are 30 Jewish families in Matanzas, 20 in Santa Clara, 20 in Camagua, and 30 in Oriente. There are about 4,000 - 5,000 Sephardim in Cuba, stemming mainly from Turkey. The Sephardim cooperate with the Ashkenazim and are active in Zionist work. There are Zionist, welfare, women's organizations, and Zionist youth groups of all shades. There are two Jewish schools in Havana, fairly well attended, with Spanish, Yiddish, Hebrew, and English as languages of instruction. The Jewish press is represented by the Vida Habanera (Havaner Lebn) which appears twice weekly in Yiddish and is edited by Sender Kaplan, now Honorary Consul of Israel, and I. Dubelman, and the Israelit, a Spanish monthly.

10.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(ca. 300 Jews)

Affiliate: Parroquia Israelita de la Republica Dominicana

President - Isidor Lederberger  
Secretary - Siegfried Sander

All Jews are Ashkenazim, mostly from Eastern Europe and some from Germany. They live in Ciudad Trujillo, Sosua, and Santiago. Shortly before and during the war there were about 1200 Jews in the Dominican Republic, but most of them emigrated after the war. The Parroquia is the central Jewish organization of the community and is recognized de jure by the Government. There are two synagogues, one in Ciudad Trujillo and one in Sosua. The Jewish community is without a rabbi.

- 11. -

DUTCH GUIANA  
(SURINAM)  
(504 Jews)

Affiliate: Central Committee for Jewish Affairs in Surinam

Secretary - C. Emanuels

The Central Committee is composed of two congregations: the Sephardic congregation (President - E.J. Robles) and the Ashkenazic congregation (President - Benedictus Geleerd). The Presidents of these two congregations are also the Presidents of the Central Committee. Its aim is to look after the interests of the community. There are a Zionist organization, a youth club, and several welfare organizations in Paramaribo, one synagogue for both congregations, and one Jewish school with Dutch as the language of instruction. The only Jewish monthly, the Dutch-language Teroenga, has a circulation of 180.

12.

DUTCH WEST INDIES  
(765 Jews)

- Affiliates: (a) Jewish Community, Curacao (665 souls)  
Head: Rabbi Is. Jessurun Cardozo
- (b) "Club Union," Curacao  
President - Shlomo Milstein  
Vice-President - I. Feierman  
Secretary - S. Djament
- (c) Jewish Community, Aruba (ca. 100 souls)  
President - Adolph Groder

There are Sephardim and Ashkenazim in Curacao, organized in separate groups. The Congregation of the Sephardim is the oldest Jewish congregation in the Western Hemisphere, having been founded in the 17th century. Curacao also has a very old Jewish cemetery, which was consecrated in 1659.

There is a Jewish Relief Committee and a Hebrew school. The monthly Mikve Israel has been published since 1940 under the editorship of Rabbi Is. Jessurun Cardozo.

Aruba, the second small island of the Dutch West Indies, also has a Jewish population composed of Sephardim and Ashkenazim. They have one welfare organization and one youth club with 21 members. There is no Jewish school and, of course, no Jewish press in Aruba.

13.

ECUADOR  
(1,600 Jews)

- Affiliates: (a) Asociacion de Beneficencia Israelita, Quito  
President - Dow Rappaport  
Secretary - Dr. Georg Schwerin
- (b) Centro Israelita, Guayaquil  
President - Dr. Gustav Gumpel  
Secretary - A. Fischler

The Jewish population of Ecuador is composed mostly of Ashkenazim. The little Sephardic segment has no separate organization. Ashkenazim and Sephardim live in full harmony. There are about 1,200 Jews in Quito, 300 in Guayaquil, and about 100 in several places in the interior of the country.

The two principal Jewish communities are organized separately and both are affiliated with the WJC. The Jewish community of Quito is recognized de facto by the Government. There is no central representative body. There are various organizations in Quito: WIZO, Zionist Organization, B'nai B'rith, a philanthropic organization called Chessed Ve'emes. There are no special community buildings or synagogues. There is no rabbi, but there is a Jewish teacher (formerly there were two); the number of Jewish youth attending Jewish courses has dropped from 80 to 50. The Jewish population is diminishing mainly as a result of emigration.

A bi-weekly newspaper "Informaciones," printed in German, appears in Quito.

14.

EL SALVADOR  
(240 Jews)

Affiliate: Comunidad Israelita

President - Eugenio Liebes  
Vice-President - Frederico Falkenstein  
Secretary - Werner Meissner

Eighty per cent of the Salvadoran Jews are of Ashkenazic origin. There is harmonious cooperation between them and the handful of Sephardim. Almost the entire Jewish population lives in San Salvador, the capital.

There is a Zionist organization and a WIZO. The Comunidad Israelita is recognized by law. There is a rabbi who teaches the children in Hebrew and in Spanish.

15.

GUATEMALA  
(850 Jews)

Affiliate: Comunidad Israelita de Guatemala

President - Enrique Engel

The Comunidad Israelita embraces and represents the Sociedad Israelita de Beneficencia de Guatemala (President, Enrique Engel), the Sociedad Maguen David (President, Jose Habie), and the Sociedad Centro Hebrea (President, Gerardo Man). Ninety per cent of the Jews live in Guatemala City, the remainder in Quetzaltenango.

There is a Zionist organization, a WIZO branch, a Maccabi club, and a philanthropic society, called Centro Social Israelita. Each of the component organizations as well as the Comunidad Israelita is recognized by the Government. There is one synagogue and no rabbi; divine services are held by all groups jointly in the synagogue, with the Jewish teacher officiating as cantor. Private classes are conducted by the teacher. There are about 50 youths receiving Jewish instruction.

16.

HONDURAS  
(ca. 80 Jews)

Affiliate: Centro Israelita

Chairman - Hermann Weizenblut  
Secretary - Casimir Faerber

Jews started to come to Honduras in 1930. Many have since left the country. Almost all of them live in Tegucigalpa, the capital. A few families live in San Pedro Sula. There is an Honorary Consul of Israel. Religious services are held on holy days in a private home. There is no Jewish teacher for the approximately 20 children.

17.

MEXICO  
(29,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Comite Central Israelita de Mexico

President - Dr. S. Bibring  
Vice-Presidents - Mino Kovo, Gregorio Shapiro,  
Dr. Paul Drucker  
Secretary - Jacob Frumin

Sixty per cent of the Jews of Mexico are Ashkenazim, and the rest Sephardim. The overwhelming majority of the Jewish population lives in Mexico City, the capital. The Sephardim have their separate organization but cooperate closely with the Ashkenazim in the Central Committee. There are about 2,500 Jews living in the provincial cities of Guadalajara, Monterrey, Tijuana, and Vera Cruz.

Jewish life in Mexico is well organized and colorful. There exist all Zionist parties, also the Jewish Socialist Bund, as well as various women's organizations (WIZO, Pioneer Women, and others). Various Jewish youth organizations are active. There are six Jewish schools with about 2000 boys and girls attending. There are 7 Jewish papers, 6 of them in Yiddish and one in Spanish. One appears three times a week, and one twice weekly.

The Comite Central is appointed by various organizations which send their delegates to the Comite Central according to an agreed key. The Comite Central is recognized de facto by the Mexican Government as the representative body of the Jewish community. The WJC Committee in Mexico is an enlarged subcommittee of the Central Committee.

18.

NICARAGUA  
(220 Jews)

Affiliate: Union Israelita

President - Jose Retelny

This small Jewish community is composed of Jews stemming from various segments of different European countries who work harmoniously together. Almost all of them live in Managua, the capital. The Union Israelita is recognized by the Government as the official representative body of the Jewish community. There is a Zionist organization, a WIZO branch, and a charity society. There is no Jewish school and no religious instruction. Preparations are being made for the establishment of a Jewish library. A very small part of the Jewish population reads Jewish newspapers published abroad.

19.

PANAMA  
(ca. 1000 Jews)

- Affiliates:
- (a) Beneficencia Israelita, Panama City  
President - Carlos Rennert  
Vice-President - Chuma Weinberg  
Secretary - Munio Stern
  - (b) Centro Israelita Cultural, Colon  
President - Harry Kris  
Vice-President - H. Katz  
Secretary - Isaac Miller
  - (c) Union Israelita, Colon  
President - Alberto Malca  
Vice-President - Israel Aboutboul  
Secretary - Mauricio Attia

There are about 1000 Jews living in Panama, some of Dutch and others of Polish origin. About 60% stem from the Near East - from Israel, Syria, Egypt, Greece, and Turkey. The majority of the Jewish population lives in Panama City, some in Colon, while tiny groups are to be found in Ciudad de Chitre, Santiago de Veragua, and David. There is a WIZO organization and a Comite Representativo de la Sociedad Israelita composed of delegates from various associations. The latter is recognized by the Government. There is a temple of the Sociedad Israelita de Beneficencia. The Sephardim have a temporary place of worship. There is no Jewish teacher, but there is a Jewish library which belongs to the Sociedad Israelita de Beneficencia.

PARAGUAY  
(ca. 1000 Jews)

Affiliate: Sociedad "Allianza Israelita del Paraguay"

President - Aron Karlik  
Vice-President - Dr. Martin Meyer  
Secretary - Dr. Isaac Fridman

The Jewish population of Paraguay is 90% Ashkenazic, the rest Sephardic. Seventy per cent of the Ashkenazim are of Polish, Russian, and Rumanian origin, and the rest of German origin.

The Sephardim are organized in the congregation Templo Israelita Latino, but are united with the Ashkenazim in the Allianza Israelita del Paraguay, the affiliate of the World Jewish Congress. The majority of the Paraguayan Jews live in Asuncion. About 15 families live in Villarica.

Zionist activities are of a non-partisan character. There is, however, a Zionist women's organization - the WIZO - as well as a youth club with Halutzit tendencies, and an athletic youth club. There is a Mutual Help Association, which assists transmigrants. There are 3 synagogues but no rabbi. There is practically no religious instruction. There is, however, a school which teaches Jewish subjects in Hebrew and in Yiddish, but owing to a lack of permanent teachers, it operates intermittently. About seventy youths attend the school, which is sponsored by the Allianza Israelita. There is no local Jewish press but the Jewish papers from Argentina are widely read.

PERU  
(4,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Asociacion de Sociedades Israelitas del Peru

President - Jose Levy

The Jewish population of Peru is composed mostly of Ashkenazim, among them about 100 families from Germany. The Sephardic segment comprises about 150 families. The three groups - the Ashkenazim from Germany, organized in the Sociedad de Beneficencia Israelita (1870) (President, Kurt Berger); the Ashkenazim of other origin, organized in the Sociedad Union Israelita del Peru (President, Samuel Portnoy); and the Sephardim, organized in the Sociedad de Beneficencia Israelita Sepharadi (President, Jose Levy) - are united and cooperating within the framework of the Asociacion de Sociedades Israelitas del Peru, the affiliate of the WJC. Ninety per cent of the Jews reside in Lima, the rest live in the small cities of Arequipa and Iquitos, where mixed marriages have been prevalent for 20 years.

The Asociacion represents the Jews in Peru and is elected by delegates of the three abovementioned constituent bodies. It is recognized by the Government by registration as an association with juridical status. There is no network of organized Jewish parties; there are, however, followers of the Poale Zion, General Zionists and Revisionists, with very active youth clubs of each of them. There is an organization of WIZO, of the Pioneer Women, and two other women's



organizations. Moreover, there exist a number of associations with charity activities.

Each of the three communities has a rabbi, while the German-speaking congregation is served by an assistant rabbi. Religious education is very limited. There is a school called "Leon Pinel" which offers instruction in general as well as Jewish subjects, and where Spanish, Hebrew, and English are taught but not Yiddish. There are 350 schoolchildren and two teachers. Jewish education has improved since 1947. There are 4 libraries, but with very few books of Jewish content and very few readers. There are 3 Jewish publications, all of them printed in Spanish and all of them Zionist in trend.

22.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
(4,750,000 Jews)

Affiliate: American Jewish Congress, New York City

President - Dr. Israel Goldstein  
Chairman, Executive Committee - Shad Polier  
Chairman, Administrative Committee - Dr. Morton M. Berman  
Executive Director - Dr. David W. Petegorsky  
Associate Director - Isaac Toubin

The American Jewish Congress is a voluntary association of Jews in the United States committed to preserve and extend the democratic way of life; promote the unity and creative survival of the Jewish people; eliminate all forms of racial and religious discrimination; oppose communism, fascism, and all forms of totalitarianism; help secure the civil, religious, and economic rights of Jews everywhere; assist Israel to develop in freedom, security, and peace; encourage Jewish education and culture toward a meaningful and creative Jewish life; and achieve the democratic organization of the American Jewish community.

The American Jewish Congress consists of individual members organized in some 400 chapters throughout the country; of national affiliated organizations; and of hundreds of local organizations which make up the constituencies of the American Jewish Congress in many communities throughout the United States. The chapters are territorially organized in divisions that are established in New York City, New York State, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, California, and Florida.

Noteworthy among the national affiliated organizations are B'rith Abraham, B'nai Zion, Farband - Labor Zionist Fraternal Order, Labor Zionist Organization, Mizrachi, Mizrachi Women, Hapoel Hamizrachi, Pioneer Women, and Young Israel.

The Convention of the American Jewish Congress is held biennially and elects its policy-making bodies: an Executive Committee, and a national Administrative Committee. The Executive Committee of 45 persons meets monthly, while the national Administrative Committee of 150 members meets quarterly together with representatives of affiliated organizations. Between sessions of these committees the national officers elected at the Convention are the governing body.

The functional structure of the American Jewish Congress shows that the Executive Director and the Associate Director direct the activities of the

following departments:

- (a) The Commission on Law and Social Action, whose activities include attempts to eliminate discrimination in employment, education, housing, and the like by means of legal actions to enforce laws barring discrimination, initiation of test cases, preparation and passage of anti-discrimination legislation, and research into the nature and extent of discrimination. It also has acted in relation to such matters as preparation of recommendations for civil rights laws, opposition to censorship of movies on theological grounds, liberalization of religious restrictions in child adoption with consent of parent, elimination of religious instruction and race segregation in the public schools, repeal of Sunday observance laws and protection of rights of Sabbath observers, liberalization of immigration laws, etc.
- (b) Commission on Community Interrelations, which has been engaged, since 1944, in a long-term program of research in the field of inter-group conflict. In addition to fact-finding, attempts are made to change group attitudes and to test techniques and results. Emphasis has shifted to research on problems of Jewish "belongingness" and problems of democratic community organization and participation.
- (c) Office of Jewish Information: The major activity in this area has been the publication of Congress Weekly. The public relations needs of Congress are served by the publication of pamphlets and other materials on relevant problems as well as "Congress Record," a house organ.
- (d) Commission on Jewish Living, which is concerned with "strengthening" of Jewish life in America through the home, adult Jewish education, and examination of the character of Jewish tradition and its application to current living.
- (e) Organization Department.
- (f) Community Service and Membership Activities. - Congress considers its membership activities of importance in its functional program. National programs are translated into local activities through the participation of the Congress membership. Through its membership, Congress participates in the activities, programs, and policy formation of local communities.

#### American Jewish Congress Women's Division

President - Judge Justine Wise Polier  
Director - Mrs. Naomi Levine

The Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress pursues aims and objectives identical with those of its parent organization. The Women's Division operates through chapters, of which there are 137 throughout the country. The chapters are organized in 18 divisions located in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, South Shore, Westchester, Peekskill, Newark, North Hudson, South Hudson, Hartford, New England, Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Allentown, and Florida.

The biennial convention of the Women's Division elects an Executive Committee and a National Board. The Executive Committee transacts the business of the Women's Division between meetings of the National Board. In the intervals between conventions the responsibility for administering the Women's Division rests with the National Board, which is responsible for all matters relating

to policy and program.

The Jews of the United States are concentrated in the largest cities. Forty per cent of them live in New York City, where they constitute about one-fourth of the local population of almost 8 million. Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Newark, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco have large Jewish communities.

American Jewry, whose number amounts to 45% of the total Jewish population in the world, has developed a rich and colorful network of parties, cultural institutions, and welfare organizations. The religious congregations of the Orthodox (500), Conservative (400), and Reformed (300) type provide for religious instruction in Hebrew schools and Talmud Torahs with an enrollment of over 300,000 students. The number of schools and institutions of higher learning is large. Among the hundreds of Jewish newspapers and publications of all types and trends those in Yiddish exercise great influence.

23.

URUGUAY  
(36,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Comite Central Israelita del Uruguay

President - Samuel Kobrin  
Vice-Presidents - Nissim Rouso, Dr. Victor Grosz  
Secretary General - Dr. Juan Feuereisen

The Ashkenazim constitute about 82% of the Jewish population and stem from Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Hungary, and Germany. The remaining Jews are Sephardim deriving from various countries. All communities are united in one representation, the Comite Central, which is an affiliate of the WJC. The Comite Central is elected by the delegates of the four principal Jewish communities. Each of these communities appoints four members to the Comite Central. There is, however, also a Zionist Central Committee, composed of representatives of all Zionist groups and institutions. The Comite Central is recognized de facto by the Uruguayan Government. The overwhelming majority of the Jewish population lives in Montevideo, the capital. About 1000 Jews live in small cities and villages, such as Ciudad de Minas, Ciudad de Paysandu, Ciudad de Rivera, Mercedes, Piriapolis, Rocha, Flores, and Salto.

There are about 50 social and charity institutions, such as homes for the aged, orphanages, children's hostels, day centers for children, and so on. There are numerous women's organizations: the Consejo Feminino de Uruguay (affiliated with the Comite Central), WIZO, Pioneer Women, and Mizrahi Women. In addition to the many youth organizations, there are two of a centralizing character, namely, the Maccabi and the Club Israelita, the latter a social club for youth of all groups. The Ashkenazic Kehillah of German origin and the Ashkenazic Kehillah of non-German origin each has a rabbi. So has the Hungarian Jewish community, as well as the Orthodox Jews organized in the VAAD HAIR.

Religious education has increased of late. There are 8 Jewish schools for children up to 12 years of age, sponsored mainly by groups of varying political trends. In addition, there is a religious school of the German-speaking Jews and a kindergarten of the Sephardim. Even in the suburbs there has recently been established a small school named after the famous Jewish

historian Dubnow. There is a VAAD HACHINUCH (Board of Jewish Education). About 1,200 children attend the Jewish schools. There are 8 teachers. Yiddish, and partly also Hebrew, is the language of instruction and, of course, also Spanish. There are a number of small libraries, not too well frequented by the public. The provincial Jewish communities remain without Jewish books. There is no Jewish secondary school; but there are German, Italian, English, and French high schools in Uruguay. There is a tendency to replace the party schools by a general integrated school.

The Jewish press plays a very important role in Uruguay. There is hardly a Jewish family that does not read a Jewish paper. There are two dailies, both in Yiddish, and 3 weeklies, one in Yiddish, one in German, and one in Spanish. The activities of the WJC are well covered by the Jewish press in Uruguay. There is one fortnightly and one monthly, both in Spanish.

24.

VENEZUELA  
(Over 4,000 Jews)

- Affiliates: (a) Union Israelita de Caracas  
President - Jaime Zigelboim  
Vice-Presidents - Isaac Akerman, Moises Caplivsky,  
Kalman Lubowsky  
Secretary - Dr. Max Knoll Scherf
- (b) Asociacion Israelita de Venezuela, Caracas  
President - Leon Taurel
- (c) Sociedad Israelita de Maracaibo  
President - Salomon Wigosky  
Vice-President - Meyer Abbo

Sixty per cent of the Jews of Venezuela are Ashkenazim and the rest Sephardim, each group with its own organizations. The majority live in Caracas, the capital, and the rest in Maracaibo (500), Maracay (200), and in Valencia (300). The Union Israelita represents all the Ashkenazim. A representative body of all the Jews of Venezuela is now in process of formation, following the efforts of the WJC in this direction. Recently a decision to this effect was taken by the leading members of the Venezuelan Jewry. There is a Zionist, a Mizrahi, and a WIZO organization in Caracas, as well as some welfare societies. The Jewish School, sponsored by the Union Israelita, is attended by 220 girls and 200 boys, and religious education, as well as Jewish life in general, is on the increase. A Spanish-language Jewish weekly appears in Caracas.

E U R O P E

25.

AUSTRIA

(11,844 Jews)

Affiliates: (a) Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien  
(Jewish Community Vienna)

President - Dr. Emil Maurer  
Vice-Presidents - Dr. Emil Felsberg, August Leitner  
Director - Wilhelm Krell

(b) Bundesverband der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinden  
Oesterreichs, Wien (Federal Union of  
Jewish Communities in Austria)

The Jewish Community of Vienna is recognized by law and represents the interests of Jewry before the authorities. The members of the Board (Vorstand) are elected by the whole membership of the community.

The Federal Union of Austrian Jewish Communities coordinates the activities of the Communities of Vienna, Graz, Linz, Salzburg, and Innsbruck, and is practically directed by the Jewish Community in Vienna.

Vienna has a Jewish population of 9,509, while there are 232 Jews in Graz, 171 in Linz, 729 in Salzburg, and 160 in Innsbruck.

At the elections to the Community, slates of candidates are presented by various Jewish parties. They are, it is interesting to note, almost the same parties that were active in 1930 when Austrian Jewry numbered over 200,000 and the Jewish population of Vienna alone amounted to about 180,000. They are: the Bund Werktaetiger Juden, of the Jewish Socialists; the Jewish Confederation of the various Zionist parties and the Torah-true Jews; the Jewish Unity, of the Left-Wing; the Religious Bloc, of the Aguda; and the Verband der Juedischen Kaufmannschaft, a non-political trade association.

The Vienna Jewish Community - and the same applies to the provincial communities - organizes the Jewish religious instruction at the public elementary and high schools. Today there is only one Jewish school in Vienna.

The Jewish press, once very colorful, is even now represented by 5 monthlies, all in German: "Demokratischer Bund," "Die Stimme," "Neue Welt," "Das Juedische Echo," and "Die Tribuene," organs of the various political groups.

26.

BELGIUM

(38,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Comite du Congres Juif Mondial, Brussels

The World Jewish Congress organization in Belgium is now being re-organized with a view to forming a new WJC setup, possibly a Section of the World Jewish Congress. It is contemplated to include in it representatives of the various Zionist parties and of groups that made up the earlier Congress affiliate, the Conseil des Associations Juives de Belgique.

90% of the Jews in Belgium are non-citizens. This fact creates many organizational difficulties. Brussels with 22,000, Antwerp with 12,000, and Charleroi with 2,000 Jews are the largest Jewish communities. Religious instruction is assured by the congregations at the public schools and high schools. The Jewish press is represented by only one bi-weekly in French, the "Tribune Sioniste," but the rich Jewish press of neighboring France is widely read by the Jews of Belgium.

27.

CYPRUS

(150 Jews)

Affiliate: Jewish Community of Cyprus, Larnaca

President - Jacques Weiner  
Secretary - G. M. Berdy

The small Jewish Community of Cyprus is recognized by the Government and represents the Jews in Nicosia, Larnaca, and in the smaller settlements of Limassol, Famagusta and Margo Village. Its Executive Committee is elected by all members of the Community. The Community played an important role at the time of immigration to Israel both from Europe and from some of the Middle East Arab countries.

Help is sought for the erection of a Community Hall as a focal point for reviving Jewish consciousness and activities.

28.

EIRE

(5,400 Jews)

Affiliate: Jewish Representative Council of Eire, Dublin

President - Herman Good  
Vice-President - Morris Ellis  
Secretary - Julius Isacson

This central body is recognized de facto by the authorities. The members of the Council are elected by the delegates of the Jewish communities of Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and smaller settlements.

The constituent congregations conduct Hebrew classes, with the help of the Irish Government. There exists a Jewish Day School. The Zionist parties in the country are united with those of England in the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland. The Zion School publishes the Irish Jewish Yearbook and issues irregularly the "Nachlath Dublin."

29.

FINLAND

(1,800 Jews)

Affiliate: Central Council of Jewish Communities in Finland, Helsinki

President - I. Davidkin  
Vice-Presidents - Samuel Maslovat, Hirsch Hasan, Jacob Skurnik  
Secretary - Josef Lefko

The Central Council represents three Communities: of Helsinki, Abo, and Tampere. It coordinates the activities of the Communities, safeguards the local and general interests of Finnish Jewry in the fields of religion, culture, and national life, and acts in matters affecting the welfare and concerns of all Jewry.

Each of the three Communities is governed by a separate Board of Administration which sends its representatives to the Central Council. Each Community comprises the religious, social and charitable associations existing in its respective area.

The Zionist Central Union embraces parties of all shades, including Zionist women's and youth organizations. The Helsinki Congregation maintains a primary and secondary school, called "The Jewish School for Boys and Girls." There are 2 Jewish periodicals, in Finnish and Swedish.

30.

FRANCE

(about 300,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Section Francaise du Congres Juif Mondial, Paris

The work of the French organization of the World Jewish Congress is administered and directed by the Paris Members of the European Executive: Marc Jarblum, Israel Jefroykin, Rabbi R. Kapel, and Dr. Vidal Modiano, with Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, of Geneva, frequently participating in both the meetings and current affairs of our French organization. Armand Kaplan is secretary general of the Paris Office.

The activities of the French Section are assisted by the Conseil Consultatif Francais du Congres Juif Mondial, whose president is Edmond Fleg. The work of this French Council is divided among three Commissions: Political - Pierre Dreyfus-Schmidt, chairman; Cultural - Prof. Baruk, chairman; Organizational - Mme. Roubach, chairman.

The French Council comprises representatives of the Provincial Branches and the affiliated organizations, groups and societies, among them the Federation des Societes Juives de France.

A movement to organize French Jewry on the basis of Kehilloth is on foot. Such a Kehillah, embracing a substantial number of the more Jewish-conscious groups is already functioning in Paris. Israel Jefroykin is the initiator of this movement. It has a positive attitude toward the World Jewish Congress

The network of Congress branches embraces Regional Sections, Departmental Branches, and Local Committees in:

- 8 communities of the Western Region
- 8 communities of the South-Western Region
- 6 communities of the Eastern Region
- 4 communities of the Central and South-Eastern Region
- 3 communities of the South-Eastern Region
- 3 communities of the Northern Region
- 2 communities of the Central Region.

Regional conferences take place at regular intervals. The secretary general frequently visits the Jewish communities in all parts of France. The Organization Department of the World Jewish Congress gives particular attention to the steadily progressing organizational work of the World Jewish Congress Section in France. In its work of combatting anti-Semitism the French Section is helped by its Centre de Documentation Politique.

The French Section of the World Jewish Congress cooperates with CRIF (Conseil Representatif des Israelites de France) in domestic political matters, with the Alliance Israelite Universelle in affairs affecting Moroccan Jewry, and with the ORT and the OSE in the fields of social work and education

The largest communities in metropolitan France are those of Paris (150,000), Lyon (14,000), Strasbourg (8,000), Nice, Bordeaux, Marseille, Toulouse, and Metz. The various Zionist parties are united in the Federation Sioniste de France.

The relief and charitable societies are centralized in the Fonds Social Juif Unifie. There are 6 Jewish institutions of higher learning, and 6 Jewish Day Schools of the elementary and high school type. Because of the separation of State and Church there is no religious instruction in the public schools; in high schools, courses for Jewish religious instruction are organized on a par with the Catholics and Protestants.

Noteworthy among the widely ramified Jewish press are: 1 News Agency publication, 3 Yiddish dailies, 3 weeklies, 5 fortnightlies, 14 monthlies, 1 quarterly, and 8 irregularly appearing periodicals; they are printed either in French or in Yiddish. The World Jewish Congress Section publishes a periodical: "La Vie Juive."



31.

GERMANY  
(20,000 Jews)

Affiliates: Juedische Gemeinde zu Berlin  
Acting Officers - Heinz Galinski and Dr. Hugo Ehrlich

Verband der Juedischen Gemeinden Nordwestdeutschlands,  
Hamburg

Landesverband der Juedischen Gemeinden Nordrhein-  
Westfalen, Duesseldorf  
President - Julius Dreyfus

Israelitische Kultusvereinigung Wuerttemberg, Stuttgart  
Acting Officer - Josef Warscher

Juedische Gemeinde Frankfurt am Main  
President - Max Meyer  
Vice-Pres. - Dr. Ewald Allschoff and Leopold Goldschmidt

Landesverband der Juedischen Gemeinden von  
Rheinland-Pfalz, Koblenz  
President - Leonhard Baer  
Vice-President - Dr. Voremberg

Israelitische Landesgemeinde Suedbaden, Freiburg  
President - Nathan Rosenberger

Landesverband der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinden in  
Bayern, Muenchen  
President - Maurice Weinberger  
Secretary - Julius Kahn

Synagogengemeinde Saar, Saarbruecken  
President - Dr. Alfred Levy

Apart from the Jewish Communities of Berlin and Frankfurt, all the other Congress affiliates are bodies which are representative of the Jews in their respective Laender. Also cooperating with the World Jewish Congress is the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland, Duesseldorf, which is made up of the delegates of all Communities and communal bodies in the 4 zones, coordinates their activities, and speaks for the Jews in Germany. The secretary general of the Zentralrat is Dr. Henry van Dam.

The Jewish press consists of 2 weeklies ("Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland" and "Der Weg"), 2 fortnightlies ("Muenchener Juedische Nachrichten" and "Neue Juedische Zeitung," the latter in Yiddish), and 1 monthly ("Wirtschafts-Rundschau").

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

(Lacking official census the private estimates vary  
between 440,000 - 480,000 Jews)

Affiliate: World Jewish Congress British Section, London

President - The Marchioness of Reading  
Chairman - Jacob Halevy  
Secretary General - Dr. S. Roth

The British Section of the World Jewish Congress represents a large section of the community. It advocates and strives to implement in Great Britain the general objects of assuring the survival and fostering the unity of the Jewish people, and to that end coordinates the efforts of its affiliated organizations, works toward securing the rights, status, and interests of Jews and Jewish communities, encourages and assists the creative development of Jewish social and cultural life, and represents and acts on behalf of its affiliated organizations before governmental, inter-governmental, and other international bodies and agencies with respect to matters concerning the Jewish people as a whole.

Affiliated with the British Section through their national bodies are the Federation of Synagogues, Zionist Federation, Poale Zion, Mizrachi, Mapam, Federation of Women Zionists, Workers Circle, Federation of Zionist Youth, Young Poale Zion, Torah v-Avodah, and Bachad, as well as the Jewish Representative Councils of Manchester and Salford, Leeds, Newcastle and Hull, many individual congregations, local organizations, societies, and lodges throughout the country. The individual membership is organized in Congress Groups and Provincial Branches, of which there is one each in Birmingham, Bradford, Brighton and Hove, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, London (with Golders Green, North London and Croydon), Manchester, St. Annes, and Blackpool. Through a Council of Youth Groups the younger generation is enlisted in Congress activities.

The biennial National Conference of the British Section elects the Executive Committee (of 10 members) and the National Council (of 40 members), with the candidates nominated by the affiliated organizations. From time to time Regional Conferences are convened. Naturally, the British Section of the WJC closely cooperates with the European Branch of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. S. Roth acting simultaneously as the secretary general of the British Section and the European Executive Branch. This cooperation is particularly manifest in the fact that the publications of the European Executive Branch, such as the World Jewish Affairs News & Feature Service as well as the Press Survey of the Information Department, mirror the activities of the British Section, too. As stated in the Introduction, this "Guide" does not evaluate the activities of our affiliates. It tries, however, to give a general picture of the activities of our affiliates in the cultural field. The British Section has no schools of its own but a series of Symposiums on current Jewish affairs and concerns arranged by the British Section together with the European Executive has served to strengthen Jewish awareness and cultural life among British Jewry, and particularly among the Jewish academic youth, thereby substantially supplementing and supporting the rather insufficient net of Jewish schools of the community or some of its groups.

The largest Jewish communities in England are those of London (280,000), Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham; 13,500 of Scotland's Jews live in Glasgow. The British Section of the WJC maintains friendly relations with the Board of Deputies of British Jews. The Zionist parties are grouped together in the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Jewish press of Great Britain comprises 4 News Agencies, 8 weeklies, 4 fortnightlies, 21 monthlies, 16 irregularly-appearing periodicals, and 4 annuals. The publications of the European Executive Branch and of the British Section were mentioned above.

33.

GREECE  
(6,350 Jews)

Affiliate: Central Board of the Jewish Communities of Greece, Athens

President - Daniel Cohen  
Vice-President - David S. Amariglio  
Secretary - Isaac Emmanuel

The Central Board is recognized by the Greek Government as the central representative body of the Jews in Greece.

At Annual General Assemblies the delegates of the 24 constituent communities elect the Administrative Council and the Executive Committee.

The largest communities are those of Athens (3,065), Salonica (1,432), and Larissa (500). The communities maintain, with the help of the Government, two Jewish Day Schools, one in Athens and the other in Larissa, and a kindergarten in the capital.

There are two Jewish periodicals, both printed in Greek.

By a legislative act the O.P.A.I.E. (Organism of Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Jews of Greece) came into being in 1949 for the purpose of recovering heirless Jewish property and using it for the rehabilitation of needy Greek Jews in their native country and in Israel.

34.

ITALY  
(33,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Unione delle Comunita Israelitiche Italiane, Rome

Acting President - Prof. Dante Lattes  
Secretary - Avv. Angiolino della Seta

The Union of Italian Jewish Communities is anchored in the law and recognized by the Government as the official and over-all representation of Italian Jewry. In accordance with the law the Unione acts to safeguard the interests of Italian Jewry, to represent it before the central authorities,

to preserve the Jewish heritage, to disseminate Jewish culture, and to maintain contact with the Jews abroad.

The Executive Committee is elected at biennial congresses to which all the existing 23 Jewish Communities send their delegates.

The Unione maintains an Office for World Jewish Congress Affairs, of which Fritz Becker is in charge.

The main Jewish communities are those in Rome (12,000), Milan (4,928), and Turin (3,007). Most of the Jewish and Zionist parties are members of the Italian Zionist Federation. The Jewish youth is organized in the Italian Jewish Youth Federation, the Boy Scout Movement, the Hechalutz, and the Union of Jewish Students.

In 16 communities throughout the country 25 Jewish schools of the Sunday School, Talmud Torah, Elementary School, or High School type are sponsored by the communal administrations, with the State contributing a share to the salaries of the teachers. - The Jewish press consists of 1 weekly, 1 bi-weekly, 3 monthlies, and 7 other publications.

35.

LUXEMBOURG  
(870 Jews)

Affiliate: Communauté Israélite de Luxembourg, Luxembourg

President - Edmond Marx  
Vice-President - Maurice Levy  
Secretary - Raymond Strauss

The Jewish Community of Luxembourg, which is recognized as person of public law, is administered by a Consistory elected by the whole membership. It is contemplated to form a central Jewish organization that is to embrace, besides the community in Luxembourg, those in Esch/Differdange, Ettelbrueck, Mondorf, and other towns. The communal administrations provide for religious instruction. The Grand Rabbinate publishes a monthly bulletin.

36.

MALTA  
(56 Jews)

Affiliate: The Jewish Community of Malta, Valetta

President - Fortunato Habib  
Secretary - George D. Tayar

The representation of the community is recognized by the Government. Its five-man Working Committee is elected by the membership.

Efforts are being made to arrange for regular Jewish and religious instruction.

37.

NETHERLANDS  
(25,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Dutch Advisory Committee of the World Jewish Congress,  
Amsterdam

This 5-member Committee is composed of S. Eisenmann, Dr. S. Kleerekoper, Mrs. M. B. Nordheim van Amerongen, Dr. A. Rodrigues Pereira, and Dr. Gerard Polak.

In Holland, the organizations of the Ashkenazic, Sephardic, and Liberal congregations are united in the Central Commission for General Affairs of the Jewish Community. In the safeguarding of its rights and interests Dutch Jewry is represented by the Contact Commission of the Jewish Coordinating Commissions of the Netherlands. Religious instruction is provided through the congregations. The various Zionist parties are united in the Netherlands Zionist Union.

There are 2 Jewish weeklies in Holland: "De Joodse Wachter," and the "Nieuw Israelietisch Weekblad."

The World Jewish Congress setup in the Netherlands is now in the process of reorganization.

38.

NORWAY  
(900 Jews)

Affiliates: (a) Jewish Community, Oslo  
President - H. M. Koritzinsky

(b) Jewish Community, Trondheim  
President - Leif Hirsch  
Vice-President - Bernhard Isaksen  
Secretary - Adolf Bekker

The religious Communities in Oslo and Trondheim have the function of central organizations and are recognized as such by law. Their Governing Bodies are elected by the respective membership.

There are 500 Jews in Oslo and 130 in Trondheim, while the rest are scattered over the country. The Communities arrange for religious instruction and maintain various social and charitable institutions as well as a Women's Association and Youth Club. The Zionist Organization in the capital unifies all Israel-oriented activities.

39.

PORTUGAL  
(850 Jews)

Affiliate: Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa, Lisbon

President - Prof. Dr. Moses B. Amzalak  
Vice-President - Dr. Elias Baruel  
Secretary - Dr. Semtob D. Sequerra

This central body, which represents the Jews of Lisbon and Porto, is recognized by law. Its Board of Directors is elected every three years.

The majority of the Jews, about 800, live in Lisbon where the Board of the Community sponsors Jewish education and maintains various charitable institutions.

40.

SWEDEN  
(14,000 Jews)

Affiliate: World Jewish Congress Swedish Section, Stockholm

It is administered by an Executive Board:  
Chairman - Akim Spivak  
Vice-Chairman - Hillel Storch  
Secretary - Marianne Obernbreit

The Swedish Section whose office is in Stockholm, numbers among its affiliates all the Jewish cultural clubs, the Association of Polish Jews in Sweden, the Scandinavian Jewish Youth Federation, Maccabi, Sche'erit Hapleitim, etc. All Zionist parties have their representatives on the Board of the Swedish Section which displays a vigorous activity in the fields of combating the anti-Semitic propaganda of Mr. Aberg, organizing the refugees and integrating them into the larger community, and in spreading Jewish culture.

In Sweden, the principal Jewish communities are those in Stockholm (6,500 Goeteberg (1,400), and Malmoe (1,000); the rest of the Jewish population is spread over 9 more towns. The main Communities maintain social and charitable institutions. Religious instruction is provided by the Communities, and the Swedish educational authorities require a testimonial by the Stockholm Jewish Community to the effect that the Jewish child has acquired the necessary religious knowledge. The Zionist parties and groups are constituents of the Zionist Federation in Sweden. Among the 14,000 Jews in the country, 5,000 are refugees who have remained there after having found a haven of refuge in Sweden during and immediately after the war.

The Jewish press is represented by 3 periodicals in Sweden: "Var Rost," published by the Swedish Section, "Judisk Kronika," and "Judisk Tidskrift."

41.

SWITZERLAND  
(20,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Schweizerischer Israelitischer Gemeindebund, Zurich

President - Dr. Georges Brunschvig  
Vice-President - Alfred Goetschel  
Secretary - Jean Brunschvig

The Swiss Union of Jewish Communities is the official representation of Swiss Jewry and is recognized de facto by the Federal Government in matters affecting the rights and interests of Jews. It comprises the 28 Jewish religious communities in the country. The Conference of their delegates, which meets at least once a year, elects the seven-man Executive (Geschaeftsleitung) as well as the twenty-man Central Committee (Zentralkomitee). Its field of action embraces religious and cultural activities, the fight against anti-Semitism, and refugee work.

The largest Jewish communities are those in Zurich, Basel, Geneva, Lausanne, and Bern. The communities provide for religious instruction; with the exception of the Yeshiva in Montreux there is no Jewish Day School in the country. The Federation of Swiss Jewish Relief Societies (D.S.J.F.) centralizes the activities of all relief and charitable institutions and is a branch of the Swiss Union of Jewish Communities. The Zionist groups are linked together in a Federation.

The Jewish press consists of the weekly "Israelitisches Wochenblatt," and the 2 periodicals, the "Juedische Rundschau-Maccabi," and "Das Neue Israel."

42.

TRIESTE, Free Territory of  
(1,500 Jews)

Affiliate: Comunita Israelitica di Trieste, Trieste

President - Dr. Mario Stock  
Vice-President - Dr. Gaddo Glass  
Secretary - Gustavo Treves

The Jewish Community is recognized by law as the official representation and spokesman of the Jews. The Council of the Jewish Community which counts the synagogues, cultural clubs and social institutions among its constituents, is elected by the membership at Annual Meetings.

The Council of the Jewish Community maintains an Elementary School which is subsidized by the Government. Jews of various origins are organized and work together in the Welfare Committee, WIZO, and Youth Clubs. The Trieste Zionist Club is affiliated with the Italian Zionist Federation. For a Jewish press, Trieste depends upon that in Italy.

43.

YUGOSLAVIA  
(6,600 Jews)

Affiliate: Federation des Communautes Juives de la Republique  
Federative Populaire de Yougoslavie, Belgrade

President - Dr. Albert Vajs  
Vice-President - Dr. Lavoslav Kadelburg  
Secretary - Solomon Kalderon

The Federation, based on law and administrative acts, is recognized by the Government and its authorities as the central Jewish body. It includes all the Jewish communities in the country, of which there are 35, each of them electing its own board. The Federation is well organized. According to its constitution and by-laws, it directs the religious, social, cultural, and national affairs of the whole community, and coordinates the work of the constituent communities, which are autonomous with respect to their local matters.

The central organs of the Federation are: the Executive Board, the Main Board, and the Supervisory Board. They are elected at the National Conference of Jewish Communities held every year.

The principal communities are those of Belgrade (1,380), Zagreb (1,470), Subotica (525), Sarajevo (1,100), and Novi Sad (350). The rest are very small. All social and charitable activities are carried on through the local communities. Religious education is constantly declining, there being no Jewish schools in the country, with the exception of two Jewish kindergartens in Belgrade and Zagreb where some Hebrew is also taught. There are no parties or other Jewish groups within the communities; yet, there is everywhere a keen interest in Jewish national and cultural activities. The Federation publishes a "Bulletin," printed in Serbo-Croatian.



A F R I C A

44.

ALGERIA  
(135,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Federation des Communautés Israelites d'Algerie, Algiers

President -- Benjamin Heler  
Vice-Presidents - Maurice Belicha, Paul Barkatz, Rene Roubache  
Secretary General - Albert Lellouche

The Federation unites all the Jewish Communal Councils throughout the country, i.e., 16 religious communities in the Department of Algiers, 15 in the Department of Oran, and 9 in the Department of Constantine, as well as the Jews in smaller places. It represents and defends Algerian Jewry in general and its constituent religious associations in particular, and provides for the maintenance and development of their institutions.

The Federation convenes biennial general assemblies which elect the Administrative Council, and is represented on the Consistoire Israelite de France et d'Algerie by 7 delegates from the Department Algiers, 7 from the Department Oran, and 6 from the Department Constantine.

The World Jewish Congress maintains its North-African Bureau in Algiers, with Jacques Lazarus as director. The Algerian Commission of the WJC has local branches in Algiers, Bou-Saada, Ghardaia, Oran, Ain-Temouchent, Mascara, Mostaganem, Nemours, Tiarret, Tlemcen, Constantine, Guelma, and Orleansville.

The largest communities are those of Algiers (30,000), Oran (30,000), and Constantine (14,000). Algerian Jewry has developed a large network of charitable societies and relief committees which gravitate around the consistories of the local communities. A country-wide organization is the Algerian Zionist Inter-Federation which groups together the departmental federations and centralizes the Israel-oriented activities. Women's organizations, among them the WIZO, and youth groups, such as the Algerian Sections of the French Union of Jewish Students and of the Jewish Boy Scouts of France, as well as the various Zionist youth organizations, display much activity. In Algeria, which is part of Metropolitan France, religious instruction in the elementary stage is left to the local congregations. The ORT maintains 3 trade schools for vocational readjustment.

The only Jewish periodical is "Information Juive", printed in French.

45.

BELGIAN CONGO  
(1,425 Jews)

Affiliate: Congregation Israelite du Katanga, Elisabethville

President - B. Amato  
Vice-Presidents - J. Soriano and L. Benzakein  
Secretary - S. Hasson

The Congregation Israelite is recognized by the Government of the Colony as the spokesman for the religious affairs and collective interests of the Jewish population. It acts before the authorities on all matters affecting the religious and civic status of the Jews and speaks for the community as a whole.

The Congregation Israelite represents practically all the Jews in the Congo, who live in 8 major communities and a few smaller settlements and the overwhelming majority of whom are members of the Congregation. The Congregation Israelite is administered by a 14-man Comite whose members are elected annually.

Organized Jewish religious life exists primarily in the communities of Elisabethville (535 Jews), and Jadotville (60 Jews). The other Jewish settlements are linked through membership with the Congregation Israelite in the capital. The Zionist Association of Belgian Congo and its affiliates, such as the WIZO, Habonim, and Union of Zionist Youth, engage also in cultural activities. Social-help societies are maintained by the community in the capital. The Government schools have instituted courses in religion and in the Hebrew language which are attended by Jewish children of school age.

The Jewish publications in the Congo consist of 2 biweekly bulletins published in French by the Zionist Association and the Revisionist Party.

46.

ETHIOPIA

Affiliate: Eritrea Jewish Community, Asmara (200 Jews)

President - Shoa Menahem Joseph  
Secretary - Jacob Samuel Cohen

The Jewish Community of Asmara speaks and acts before the authorities for the Jews of Eritrea; its governing body is elected by the membership.

The above figure does not include the 125 Jews organized in the Addis Ababa Jewish Community, nor the Falashas the estimates of whose number range from 10,000 - 60,000.

Most of the Jews in Asmara are of Adenite origin. The Community Council carries on relief work and maintains a primary Jewish Day School called King George VI Jewish School. The Israeli Club is the center of all Jewish social and cultural activities.

47.

FRENCH MOROCCO  
(250,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Comite Central Marocain du Congres Juif Mondial, Casablanca

President - Z. Schulmann  
Vice-President - Is. D. Abbou  
Secretary General - Me Meyer Toledano

Represented on the Central Moroccan Committee are the Local Congress Committees in the larger communities of Casablanca, Rabat, Meknes, Fes, Marrakech, Oujda, Ouezzane, Port-Lyautey, Safi, and Sefrou. The Working Committee is elected at the Annual Assembly of the delegates of the Provincial Branches. It works in close cooperation with the WJC French Section Section in Paris and the North African Bureau of the World Jewish Congress in Algiers.

The largest community is in Casablanca, whose Jewish population is 80,000 to 90,000. The central body of Moroccan Jewry is the Conseil des Communautes Israelites du Maroc, whose seat is in Rabat, and on which the officially recognized local communal committees are represented. The Congress organization maintains a liaison with the Conseil.

In the Zionist field the various parties have their own groupings; in the domain of social help, assistance, and vocational readjustment, numerous associations and societies are active. Noteworthy in the educational sphere are the Jewish Day Schools bearing the names of Narcisse Leven, Moise Nahon, S. Reinach, and Y. Semach. Generally speaking, Jewish education is in the hands of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, which, with governmental aid, maintains 75 schools with a total enrollment of 28,152.

48.

KENYA  
(900 Jews)

Affiliate: Board for Kenya Jewry, Nairobi

President - I. Somen  
Secretary - D. Somen

The Board, which is a central body for the Jews in the Colony, has as its constituents the Hebrew Congregations of Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombassa, and of the Kitale-Eldoret District, as well as the Jewish social and charitable societies of Nairobi. Their delegates elect annually the members of the Board, including 4 officers.

Jewish life and Zionist activities are centered around the synagogues.

49.

LIBYA  
(3,800 Jews)

Affiliates: (a) Jewish Community of Tripolitania, Tripoli  
President - Moshe Nahoum  
Vice-President - Joseph Barda  
Secretary - Dino Yona

(b) Jewish Community of Cyrenaica, Benghazi  
President - Saul Legziel  
Secretary - Nessim Jona

These two Communities, which represent the Jews of their respective regions, are recognized by the Government. Their Administrative Committees are elected by the members of the Communities, and their work consists in fostering the religious life of their respective communities, spreading Jewish and Hebrew culture, and charitable activities.

Since the mass aliyah to Israel brought about the liquidation of the Jewish communities in the interior, there is only one community left in Tripolitania, namely, that of Tripoli, as well as a small settlement in Benghazi. A relief committee and the Youth Club Maccabi are active in the capital. Two Jewish Day Schools, Citta Vecchia and Roma, are maintained by the Community in Tripoli. In addition, there are an Alliance school and 5 yeshivot.

50.

RHODESIA  
(6,500 Jews)

Affiliate: Rhodesian Jewish Board of Deputies (Southern and Northern),  
Bulawayo

President - Cecil I. Jacobs  
Secretary General - M. Wagner

This central body is recognized by the Government and elected at biennial conferences by the delegates of its constituents, among which are all the religious congregations, the Rhodesian Zionist Council, the cultural circles, the benevolent societies, and the youth clubs. In its work the Board is assisted by regional committees in the Copperbelt, Midlands, Matabeleland, and Mashonaland. The Board is concerned with the whole field of Jewish civic and religious rights and internal communal organization.

The principal communities are located in Bulawayo (2,400), Salisbury (1,800), and Lusaka (170). Various Zionist parties, welfare societies, women's organizations and youth clubs round out a picture of intensive Jewish activity. Hebrew schools are sponsored by the congregations; there also exist two nursery schools in Bulawayo and Salisbury.

The Jewish press is represented by two monthlies, "Rhodesian Jewish Journal" and "Rhodesian Jewish Times."

51.

TANGIER, International Zone of  
(12,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Comite de la Communauté Israelite de Tanger, Tangier

President - Joe Hassan  
Vice-Presidents - Jaime M. Nahon and Jacques M. Pinto  
Secretary - Abraham I. Laredo

The Jewish Community of Tangier embraces 20 synagogues in the city, whose Governing Bodies form the Comite de la Communauté Israelite and whose

membership triannually elects the 15-man Comite. The Comite of which the president of the Rabbinical Tribunal is a member ex-officio, is a legal person recognized by the Government as the official Jewish representation in the Zone. The Jewish Community has 3 delegates on the Legislative Assembly of the Zone.

The functions of the Comite include the organization of religious worship, the administration of the Jewish institutions, and the dispensation of charity. The community has established a special Committee to deal with World Jewish Congress affairs.

The Committee of the Community maintains a nursery school called Salvador Hassan, a Gan Yeladim, two primary Jewish Day Schools (jointly with the Alliance), and a Rabbinical Seminary. All kinds of charitable societies and institutions extend help to the needy, the sick, and the aged. There is no organized Zionist activity nor a Jewish press in the Zone.

52.

TUNISIA  
(100,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Federation des Communautes Israelites de Tunisie, Tunis

President - Charles Saada

Secretary General - Me Rene Cohen-Hadria

The Federation embraces the communities in the interior of the country, with the exception of the Community of Tunis, the capital. It has as its objective the maintenance of contact among the Jewish communities in the interior for the purpose of defending the rights and interests of Tunisian Jewry. The Bureau of the Federation is elected at Annual General Assemblies by the delegates of the communities of the interior.

The Tunisian Commission of the World Jewish Congress is made up of leaders of all organizations and groups of the community; besides, there are local World Jewish Congress Committees in Tunis, Beja, Djerba, Ferryville, Gabes, Sousse, and Sfax.

Besides Tunis, which has a Jewish population of over 60,000, the main communities are located in Sousse (6,000), Sfax (5,250), Gabes (3,400), Nabeul (2,200), and Hara Kebira (2,200). The rest of Tunisian Jewry is scattered among more than 20 communities in the interior. There are two central organizations: the Zionist Federation and the Council of the Youth. Only the Jewish Community of Tunis, the capital, has a legal charter; the Relief Committee is recognized and subsidized by the Government. A great number of societies and institutions are active in the fields of relief, social aid, and vocational retraining.

Religious instruction and Jewish education are given in Day Schools and institutions of higher learning, of which 3 are sponsored by the Community, 2 by the JDC, 2 by private groups, and 1 by the ORT.

Owing to internal dissensions, a rival Federation was recently set up, under the leadership of Charles Haddad. The World Jewish Congress is trying to restore unity among Tunisian Jewry.

A S I A

53.

ADEN, BRITISH ARABIA  
(1,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Jewish Community Council, Aden

President - Bentob M. Messa  
Vice-Presidents - Armando Nassim and Selim M. Banin  
Secretary - B. J. Yaish

The Community Council is made up of delegates of the synagogues and Jewish institutions; its members are elected at annual meetings.

After the mass aliya to Israel, only about 1,000 Jews are left in the Aden Colony, apart from the approximately 2,500 Jews in the Western Aden Protectorate. On the morrow of the pogroms of December, 1947, the Jewish Emergency Committee was formed which has been closely cooperating with the World Jewish Congress in matters of compensation and rehabilitation. The community maintains a Boys' School and a Girls' School, but lacks qualified rabbis and trained teachers.

54.

BURMA  
(230 Jews)

Affiliate: Jewish Community of Burma, Rangoon

President - E. S. Meyer  
Vice-President - S. Joseph  
Secretary - S. Jacob

The Jewish Community, which is a central organization, is led by a 5-man Board of Trustees which forms the committee of the Musmhea Yeshua Synagogue.

The majority of this dwindling Sephardic community lives in the capital while about 35 Beni-Israels have their homes in Mandalay, Upper Burma. Charity is dispensed through a Synagogue Fund. The Israeli Club serves as a center of social and cultural activities. The children, who attend British schools, receive no religious instruction. This is the reason for the continuing trend to aliyah to Israel.

55.

HONGKONG  
(250 Jews)

Affiliate: Jewish Community of Hongkong ("Ohel Leah" Synagogue), Hongkong

President - Albert Raymond  
Secretary - J. Moses

The interests of the community are administered by a Committee of four Trustees.

The Jewish Club is the center for the social affairs, cultural work, and Israel-oriented activities. In the field of relief, the Jewish Benevolent Society and the Jewish Women's Association are to be noted. - Hongkong is still the transmigration point for Olim from the Far East, with Messrs. Citrin and Kadoorie acting as Israel Immigration Officers.

56.

INDIA  
(24,820 Jews)

(a) Bombay State (20,207 Jews)

Affiliate: Central Jewish Board of Bombay, Bombay  
President - Dr. E. Moses  
Chairman - Dr. Meyer Nissim  
Honorary Secretary - P. S. Gourgey

The Central Jewish Board is recognized by the Central and State Governments as the responsible Jewish representation in the Bombay State, and embraces all the Jewish institutions in Bombay and the Bombay State, which are represented on the Board by two delegates each. It gives expression to the views and aspirations of the Jews, provides for their political representation, promotes their general interest and welfare, and acts in the name of Bombay Jewry in all matters affecting the latter. The Executive Committee of the Board is elected by the delegates of its constituents at general assemblies.

The WJC Organization Department has taken the initiative to help its three affiliates on this vast sub-continent establish an over-all Jewish representative body under the name of All-India Jewish Council; consultations as how to achieve this main organizational objective have been started with the communal bodies in Bombay, Calcutta, and Cochin. There is so far one country-wide organization in India, the All-India Zionist Federation, which comprises the Zionist Associations in the three main communities and is now in the process of re-organization.

The Bombay community which is composed of Baghdadi Jews, Beni-Israelis, and Continental Jews, maintains charitable institutions such as the Sassoon Trusts, the Jewish Relief Association, the Bombay Jewish Association, and various Funds; women's organizations, such as the Jewish Women's League and WIZO; and youth clubs such as Habonim, Maccabi, and Y.M.H.A. In addition to the courses for religious instruction provided for by the synagogues, there are the Sir Jacob Sassoon High School and the Sir Ely Kadoorie School operated by the Community with Trust Funds. The Jewish press is represented by the periodicals "India and Israel," and "Maccabi."

(b) West Bengal and Calcutta (2,619 Jews)

Affiliate: Jewish Association of Calcutta, Calcutta  
President - J. R. Jacob  
Vice-President - E. J. Samuel  
Honorary Secretary - E. Gubbay

The Association is recognized by the Central and State Governments as the official spokesman of the Jews in West Bengal. All Jewish organizations and communal bodies are united in the Association, which promotes the general welfare and safeguards the interests of its constituents.

The Association's Governing Body of 15 members is elected for two years at a general meeting of the delegates of its 10 constituents, which consist of synagogues, social work groups, charitable societies, and clubs.

In this mainly Sephardic community the welfare work is carried on by the Jewish Women's League, Oseh Haised Board, and Baby Welcome. Worthy of mention among the women's organizations are the WIZO and the Jewish Women's League. The younger generation is organized in the Maccabi, Calcutta Jewish Youth Council, and Young People's Congregation. Aside from religious instruction given by the synagogues, there are two Jewish schools: Jewish Girls' School and Jeshurun Free School, and the Elias Meyer Free School and Talmud Torah, for boys. The budget of these Day Schools is covered by the Jewish Community and the Corporation of Calcutta with governmental subsidies. The Jewish Association's official organ is "Shema."

(c) Cochin (2,000 Jews)

Affiliate: South Indian Jews Association, Cochin  
President - S. S. Koder

The Association embraces the Jewish institutions in the Cochin and Travancore States and particularly the synagogues and societies in Ernakulam, Cochin, Chenamangalam, Parur, and Mala, and is recognized as the Jewish representation by the Central and State Governments.

The main community is located in Ernakulam (1,000 Jews), while there are 400 in Cochin and 300 in Parur. The synagogues provide religious instruction Hebrew is taught by private teachers. Worthy of note among the youth organizations are the Habonim Club in Cochin and the Shomrim in Parur. Efforts are being made for the transfer of 90% of this ancient Jewish tribe to Israel

57.

INDONESIA  
(450 Jews)

Affiliate: Jewish Community, Djakarta

President - F. Dias Santilhano

It represents the Jewish communities in Djakarta, Surabaya, and Bandung. Sephardim and Ashkenazim cooperate in religious and social matters. The Israel-oriented activities are centered in the Zionist Federation of Indonesia. The number of Jews in this community has been declining steadily for years. The Community was recently reorganized.



58.

IRAN  
(100,000 Jews)

Affiliate: World Jewish Congress Committee, Teheran

Chairman - M. Senehi  
Vice-Chairman - M. Moalem  
Secretary - Dov Adiv

The Congress Committee is made up of persons prominent in Jewish communal life.

The principal communities are situated in Teheran (20,000 Jews), Shiraz (14,000), Isfahan (9,500), Hamadan (7,000), and Meshed (4,500). Attached to the religious congregations, which are administered by Communal Councils, are welfare and charitable societies which try to alleviate the plight of the 80% needy among the Iranian Jews. The Alliance Israelite Universelle operates 17 schools in 11 communities, with a combined enrollment of over 6,000. There is a strong desire among Iranian Jews for settling in Israel.

59.

ISRAEL  
(1,500,000 Jews)

Affiliate: World Jewish Congress Israel Branch

Chairman - Prof. Dr. Arieh Tartakower  
Acting Chairman - Ing. Anselm Reiss  
Executive Director - Dr. Leon Bernstein

The position of the World Jewish Congress in Israel, unlike other countries, is based on a party key, and not on the affiliation of a central body representing the Jewish population.

When the writer of this brief survey of the scattered limbs of the Jewish people assumed office of the World Jewish Congress Organization Department in May, 1946, the Palestine affiliate of the World Jewish Congress was the Vaad Leumi, the president of which was the same man who is now president of Medinat Israel, Isaac Ben Zvi. The Vaad Leumi - the National Council - was the central body representing the overwhelming majority of the Jewish population of Palestine under the British Mandate. It was elected by a popular vote of all those groups who recognized the Vaad Leumi. Only some groups from the extreme orthodox right wing stayed away from the Vaad Leumi. It may be worthwhile to remember now that the delegates from Palestine to the first Constituent Assembly of the World Jewish Congress in 1936 were: Itzhak Gruenbaum, W. Latzky-Bartoldi, Berl Locker, Elimelech Neustadt, Dr. B. Mossinson, B. West (at present a member of the General Council of the WJC), and Rabbi Benzion Ouziel, the spiritual head of the Sephardim, and one of the two incumbent Chief Rabbis of Israel.

The Second Assembly of the World Jewish Congress of June-July 1948 (Montreux) was held only two months after the greatest constructive event in Jewish history since the overthrow of the Second Jewish Commonwealth

in the year 70 C.E. had taken place. The entire status of the Jewish population in Israel had changed radically; it was transformed into a position of statehood. Shortly afterwards, the Vaad Leumi naturally wound up its historic existence with no successor. Consequently, the affiliate of the World Jewish Congress in Palestine was automatically liquidated. Thus, a new form for the resumption of relations between the Jewish population of Israel and the WJC had to be found. The need to do so was of the greatest urgency as new tasks and a new orientation had arisen for the Jewish population in Israel in regard to the great majority of our people outside the Jewish State, and vice versa new approaches had to be found by the World Jewish Congress in relation to the Jewish population in Israel.

As this is to be only a concise, factual "Guide," the writer of these lines has to suppress the desire to elaborate on the highly interesting and fateful process which is now developing in Israel around the problem: Israel and the Golah in general and the Jews of Israel and the Jewish people in the Golah in particular. But a few remarks about it will be said in the "Concluding Remarks" at the end of this booklet.

Personalities who in 1936 had been enthusiastic delegates to the first Constituent Assembly of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva, at a time when the WJC offered hope and support for the Jewish population in Palestine, too, became less enthusiastic about the World Jewish Congress. On the other hand, leaders of Israel Jewry, who in 1936 had manifested little understanding of the great role of the WJC in uniting the active forces of our people, turned to the camp of enthusiastic supporters of the WJC as an organization which marshals the creative potentialities of the Golah in behalf of one Jewish people.

Only five years have elapsed since the Second Plenary Assembly of the WJC in Montreux and the proclamation of Medinat Israel. The revolutionary process of ideas then erupting has not yet subsided. It is still in a stage of ferment, of searching for new avenues. Seven hundred thousand Jews immigrated into the little State of Israel during five years, lending impetus to this searching for new ways in Jewish history.

But one thing is clear and indisputable. Neither the Knesset, the Israel Parliament, nor the Israel Government can designate a body entitled to be successor of the Vaad Leumi in relation to the World Jewish Congress. Both, Knesset and Government speak for the entire population of Israel, for the whole State.

Out of this new situation the idea was born that a rough combination of Jewish parties in the State of Israel might be the proper form of a link between the Jewish population of Israel and the World Jewish Congress.

Thus the Israel Branch of the World Jewish Congress, composed of representatives of various parties, came into being. It may not be the definite form. It might not yet be the ideal form, but it serves as a substitute for the Vaad Leumi.

Official representatives of the following Jewish parties are members of the Israel Executive Branch: Mapai, General Zionists, Progressive Zionists, Mizrahi, and Mapam in its present form without the Sneh Group of the Radical Left Wing.

This Guide, as I have repeatedly stressed, does not pretend to evaluate the activities of our affiliates. Neither does it intend to elaborate on the relations of the WJC Organization Department with the affiliates, and therefore also not on the very cordial relation of the WJC Organization Department with the Israel Branch. It confines itself, as far as possible, to the structural picture of the affiliated bodies. But the close ties by which it is bound up with the above-mentioned Jewish parties in Israel makes the Israel Executive Branch into a highly representative body, regardless of any differences of opinion within the parties over the problem: "World Jewish Congress." This is certainly not the sole problem over which there are spirited differences of opinion within the parties.

The Israel Executive Branch pursues activities along three main lines: vis-a-vis the Government of Israel; in relation to the Western Hemisphere and European Executive Branches; and in regard to increasing our knowledge of the situation of the remnants of the Jewries in the Middle Eastern countries. Its foremost role as a bridge between the Jewry of Israel and that of the Golah will be discussed in the "Concluding Remarks."

60.

JAPAN  
(400 Jews)

Affiliate: The Jewish Community of Japan, Tokyo

President - Anatole Ponve  
Vice-President - Abraham Black  
Secretary - David I. Feldman

The Jewish Community is registered with the Japanese Government. Its Executive Committee is elected annually at general meetings by the delegates of the Jewish communities in the Tokyo-Yokohama and Kobe-Osaka areas. The Community maintains a branch of its office in the Kobe-Osaka area.

Seventy-five per cent of the Japan Jews reside in the Tokyo/Yokohama area. The Jewish Community of Japan is establishing a Hebrew school to provide religious instruction for the young, and a Club for social and cultural activities, and is assisted by its auxiliary, the Jewish Women's Council. In their postwar revival and development the Jews of Japan have received precious help from the Jewish chaplains of the United States Army.

61.

LEBANON  
(7,000 Jews)

Affiliate: Conseil Communal Israelite, Beirut

President - Dr. Joseph Attie  
Secretary - Zaki Elia

The Jewish Community Council is recognized by the Lebanese Government as the central representation of the Jews. Its officers are elected at

biennial general assemblies by the delegates of the religious congregations.

Various welfare and charitable societies care for the poor, the sick and the aged. A complete Jewish education is given in four Day Schools: the Alliance Israelite School, the Ecole Maternelle, the Ecole Populaire, and the Talmud Torah. The Jewish youth is organized in the Maccabi and the Scouts. Quite a number of Jews from Syria have recently immigrated to Lebanon and become integrated into the Jewish community.

62.

PHILIPPINES  
(264 Jews)

Affiliate: The Jewish Community of the Philippines, Manila

President - Hyman M. Levine  
Vice-President - Karl Nathan  
Secretary - Ingrid Levor

This representative Community is recognized by the Philippine Government. Its Board of Directors is elected annually by the membership at large.

The Community, which has lost more than half its members through emigration since 1947, maintains a Chevra Kadisha, a Women's Auxiliary, and Jewish Youth Group. The Bachrach Memorial Hall is the center of social and cultural activities. Jewish and religious instruction is given in the Sunday School of the community, which publishes a monthly "Information Bulletin."

63.

SYRIA  
(about 4,500 Jews)

Affiliate: Conseil Communal Israelite, Damas

President - Elie Mizrahi

The Jewish Community Council of Damascus is a central body representing the Jews in the capital, in Aleppo, and smaller communities. Its members are elected every two years.

The Jews remaining in Syria are now mainly concentrated in Damascus (2,500) and Aleppo (2,000). Next to the religious instruction provided by the synagogues, Jewish education is in the hands of the Alliance, which maintains schools in the 2 communities.

A U S T R A L I A

64.

AUSTRALIA  
(53,750 Jews)

Affiliate: Executive Council of Australian Jewry

President - Sydney D. Einfeld  
Senior Vice-President - M. J. Ashkanasy  
Honorary Secretary - Sam Karpin

The Executive Council is recognized by the Commonwealth Government as the de facto Jewish representation and spokesman. It is committed to safeguard the rights and protect the interests of the Jewish community before the authorities, and to coordinate and strengthen - as a central body - the efforts of its constituents to develop Jewish life in all its aspects.

The constituents of the Executive Council are the six State Boards, viz.:  
New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies,  
Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies,  
West Australian Jewish Advisory Board,  
Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies,  
South Australian Jewish Board of Deputies,  
Hobart Hebrew Congregation,  
each of which comprises all the Jewish organizations, congregations, institutions, and societies in its respective State.

The Annual Conference of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, at which the six State Boards are represented by their delegates, elects a Committee of Management as well as Standing Committees with various assignments. The Executive Council, the seat of which is alternately two years in Sydney and two years in Melbourne, also calls half-yearly conferences. The distribution of the 24 members of the Executive Council, who are elected by the various Boards of Deputies, is as follows: New South Wales, 8; Victoria, 8; Western Australia, 3; Queensland, 2; South Australia, 2; Tasmania, 1.

Since the end of the war the Jewish population has increased from 35,435 to 53,750. Of this number, 26,060 live in Victoria, 22,443 in New South Wales, 2,874 in West Australia, 1,492 in Queensland, 644 in South Australia, 197 in Tasmania, and 40 more in the Federal Capital Territory.

Sydney and Melbourne are the largest Jewish communities with over 20,000 Jews each; in both of them, as well as in Brisbane and Perth, we find a great variety of charitable and relief societies. The Australian Jewish Welfare Society, with which the Overseas Relief Fund is affiliated, looks after immigration, the welfare of immigrants after arrival, and employment for the community generally. Noteworthy for their colorful and intensive activities in the social and cultural sphere are the Y.M.H.A., National Council of Jewish Women, Zionist Youth Groups, Federation of Jewish Youth Societies, National Association of Jewish University Students, Association

of Jewish Athletic Clubs, etc. The Zionist parties and groups are linked together in their respective six Zionist State Councils, of which the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand is the parent organization.

Apart from the synagogues which conduct classes or maintain Talmud Torahs, religious instruction is also provided under Government permission in State-owned public schools. In Melbourne there are 6 Jewish Day Schools, in Sydney 2. A movement is on foot to establish Jewish secondary schools.

The Australian Jewish community, which is growing in strength thanks to the vigorous leadership of the Executive Council, can point to a fine, informative Jewish press. There are 3 weeklies and 4 other periodicals in Melbourne, 2 weeklies and 1 other periodical in Sydney, and 1 periodical in Perth.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

### THE TASKS AHEAD OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

These remarks express my personal views though they may be shared by many, both in the WJC Executive and in the vast circle of WJC followers in so many countries the world over.

The World Jewish Congress has its *raison d'etre* mainly, though not exclusively, in uniting, strengthening, and activating the dispersed spiritual forces of a historic entity, which bears the proud name of the Jewish People, for a continued dignified life among the peoples and with the peoples of the earth.

The principal tasks emerging from this aim are:

Fostering good relations between the various peoples and the Jewish people and its segments.

Stimulating and developing Jewishness in all its creative contents, since there is no way of arousing a sense of responsibility for our continued existence as a people among the marching Jewish generations without Jewishness, which means knowledge and appreciation of our history, literature, language, and contribution to the morality and civilization of mankind, as well as a feeling of pride in this our contribution and the will to continue this creative process.

These, in my opinion, are the prime tasks of the World Jewish Congress to which its struggle for the welfare of our people here and now is a natural corollary.

It is from this viewpoint that the writer of these lines has surveyed the structure of our many affiliates. Without this historic link and cohesion our affiliates are like branches severed from a tree, whereas the task of the Congress is to make the Jewish tree grow and bloom perennially as a creative element of mankind.

Of the 11,500,000 Jews who survived the greatest genocide in history - the slaughter of 6,000,000 of our people - close to 75 per cent now live in three countries, namely, the United States of America (5,000,000), Soviet Russia (an estimated 2,000,000), and Israel (1,500,000). These are the three major centers of the Jewish people of today. Two of them - the Jewries of the U.S.A and of the State of Israel - form great constructive laboratories of Jewishness, thus ensuring a continuation of the identity of the Jewish people. This fact in itself is a ray of sunshine in the present dark world situation and a source of realistic optimism.

The World Jewish Congress' task vis-a-vis these two Jewries is - as I see it - a different one in each case. In Israel there are no dis-integrating forces at work; everything except the tiny segment of communism or pro-communist feeling is a constructive element, sustaining Jewishness in one form or another. There the WJC task is not to sustain Jewishness - the State does it in an integral way - but to see to it that Jewishness in Israel does not become estranged from the Jewishness in the Golah and from the Jewishness of the past. And this danger exists. To overcome it, to open the way for a spiritual interchange between the great treasures of the Jewish people outside Israel and the present very ego-centric high values of Israel - this is the unique task of the World Jewish Congress in Israel and in relation to Israel.

In the large Jewish community of the United States, both integrating and disintegrating forces are at work. And naturally so. Both of these forces are growing and increasing these days, both, paradoxically, being nourished by the great reservoir of indifference. For those who see the growth of the integrating Jewish factors, Jewish life in the U.S.A looks promising. For those who only see the disintegrating forces, Jewishness seems to be doomed to a slow death. But the problem is to see to it that the balance between the two - inescapably this struggle must go on as it is dictated by general conditions of life - is steadily growing in favor of the integrating forces. It is in my view the task of the WJC, which means of its strongest constituent, the American Jewish Congress, to become more and more the decisive activating and upbuilding force of Jewishness in this largest laboratory of Jewishness.

The third of the three Jewish centers, Soviet Russia, is a place where Jewishness is being completely wiped out. There is no spiritual interchange any more between this once great Jewish community and Israel or the United States. The leaves of Jewishness are withering. This is indeed a great loss to the Jewish people. But bad as conditions look today, there is still hope for a community or people as long as its substance is alive. Today the WJC can do nothing but cherish the hope that the second largest Jewish center in the world will one day be in a position to resume its hold historic contributions to Jewishness.

Another 2,000,000 Jews, or about 19 per cent of the Jewish people, live in nine countries, each with a Jewish population of over 100,000 to 500,000. I single them out as a separate group since by virtue of their numerical strength, they offer relatively favorable conditions or possibilities for continuing Jewishness. This is a far-flung group. It comprises the Jewries of Gt. Britain, Argentina, France, French Morocco, Canada, Brazil, Algeria, Tunisia and South Africa (the last-named is not an affiliate of the WJC). There is no common denominator for the task of the WJC in these countries. Each country presents different general conditions and, consequently, also Jewish ones. British Jewry, far behind its natural abilities and conditions as a laboratory of Jewishness today, but still with great possibilities; Argentina, a very vigorous, active, constructive laboratory of Jewishness, but with growing symptoms of decline; French Jewry, trying to fight its way to order from decay and disorder as far as Jewishness is concerned; Canada, one of the few medium-sized Jewish communities which is growing in numbers and eagerly looking



for a proper place in international Jewish affairs, with no small ambitions as far as creating Jewish institutions and youth organizations is concerned: Brazilian Jewry, at the very start of a more ambitious road toward Jewishness; the three main North African Jewish communities, awakening from a long sleep, having an aristocratic tradition of Jewishness from the far distant past; and South Africa, at present a laboratory of intensive consummation rather than of creating new Jewish values. In each of these countries the World Jewish Congress is faced with a great task, which varies with the country. Everywhere the center of gravity rests first of all with the community itself. But everywhere the effort can measure up to the thorny task of preserving Jewishness and thus the existence of our people as a people only if there is concerted, planned work in behalf of the Jewish people. This is the task of the World Jewish Congress as I visualize it.

There remain about 6 per cent of the Jewish people, scattered, as the reader of this booklet will readily see, over tens of countries enumerated in these pages.

It has been (and still is) the task of the World Jewish Congress in recent years not to overlook, not to abandon these tiny Jewish communities but rather to awaken them to a realization of their responsibilities toward the Jewish people. We have felt that bringing together these communities is a duty, especially after the tremendous losses we suffered in the Great Catastrophe which befell our people.

There are some communities like Mexico, Uruguay, and to a certain extent, Australia, which are brighter spots on the wide field of our people's fight for continued existence in a world which not infrequently is adverse, and even openly hostile, to our survival.

Here again the World Jewish Congress has to fulfill the role of an activating, supporting, organizing, and uniting factor.

I do not dwell in this guide on the vast area of the extremely responsible and important political work done by the World Jewish Congress in the service for our people.

I do, however, emphasize the role of the World Jewish Congress as the gatherer of the scattered forces of the Jewish people in the Golah.

Only if it fulfills this task will the World Jewish Congress remain a historic factor in our life.

Only if the affiliates, of which I offered here a rather dry, factual, structural picture, become one spiritual entity, only then will the World Jewish Congress be entitled to claim lasting merit of the Jewish people.

I would put it this way: The estrangement of Jewish children from Jewishness in any given Jewish community must become the concern of every Jewish-minded community. The fate of any jeopardized Jewish community must become the concern of every secure Jewish community. Concern, however must be shown by deed. And deeds to remove causes for permanent concern, deeds intended to check permanent dangers, can be performed only by a permanent body. This is the essence of the World Jewish Congress' *raison d'être* as a permanent association striving to organize, to help, and to build.