

APR 6/48

European Executive
Council

REC. *[Signature]*
March 15, 1948
BULLETIN No. 25

#253

ARRIVAL OF PAN YORK AND PAN CRESCENT AT CYPRES
By Morris Laub

AK 4/5/48

(Mr. Morris Laub, JDC Director for Cyprus, has sent us a report, dated February 18, 1948, on the arrival of the above named ships at Cyprus. The following are extracts from his report.)

CP PSS

The authorities in Cyprus had made preparations for the arrival of the Pan York and Pan Crescent. Thousands of beds had been stored at every camp entrance and a general air of preparation for the large intake was in evidence for weeks. None, however, could really foresee the arrival of the ships at Cyprus without first coming to Palestine.

On New Year's eve everybody in camp and the entire staff went to bed after welcoming the New Year in with no doubt in their minds that the ships would not come directly to Cyprus. When we awoke on New Year's day there they were in Famagusta harbour.

The disembarkation began at 10a.m. on New Year's day and proceeded without stop for 82 hours, working on a 24 hour basis. For the disembarkation a contingent of the 6th Airborne Division was brought over from Palestine. These "Red Caps" are notorious for their toughness in Haifa. Here at all times they displayed unfailing courtesy and helpfulness and seemed to be imbued with the general desire to be of aid. This seemingly came from the top and can be ascribed to the relief of the military at the fact they did not have to board the ships under fire.

One of the stipulations made by the Captains of the ships with regard to the boarding by the Navy was that every detainee be permitted to leave together with his own baggage and that the baggage be searched in his presence. As soon as the detainees stepped ashore the JDC made sure that it had members of its staff at the various searching points in order to assist the detainees and to ease his way through the routine. Except for five persons who were held for questioning, the search and the investigation of the baggage went quickly and almost everything was returned.

While the people were awaiting disembarkation the JDC was permitted to bring oranges and newspapers on board the ships and to circulate freely among the detainees. From the Captains of the ships we quickly learned that there were about 30 tons of food and large supplies of medicines on board and we asked permission to unload these and transfer them to our store rooms. This was quickly granted and the day after disembarkation we sent a fleet of trucks down to remove the surplus supplies.

Statistics: A total of 15,230 persons arrived aboard the two ships. 2,483 were under 14 years of age, including 534 infants under two, 3,976 were between 15 and 18, 3,580 between 19 and 30, 3,764 between 31 and 50, and 926 between 51 and 80. 401 unknown. Practically every profession

and trade was represented in the group, from shoctim to physicians (there were 65 of the latter) and from fishermen to farmers.

Food: The sudden doubling of camp actually faced us with the problem of adequate food supplies. Fortunately, both the Army and the JDC was able to meet this problem quickly and successfully. The JDC had enough flour on hand and more was quickly dispatched from Palestine to meet the bread needs of the supplementary rations supplied by us. Some of the food removed from the Pan ships has, of course, come in quite handy. This, during the month we could purchase no vegetables, a great deal of the vegetables usually given to children and youth groups came from the stocks of the Pan ships.

Medical Situation: On their arrival the immigrants appeared generally healthy and fit. The relatively short journey and the good organization helped to eliminate undue hardships. Food and medicines were plentiful. However, for the first time, this group brought us infectious diseases formerly unknown in camp. These included scarlet fever, measles, chicken pox and mumps. Mumps has been so numerous that isolation and hospitalization has been impossible but the other cases of infectious diseases have all been hospitalized. For about a week after the arrival, the number of admissions into the hospitals showed no marked increase, but thereafter there was a sudden increase to about 50% so that the number of beds occupied rose to 280. The military authorities were prepared in that they had flown doctors over from Palestine. These being inadequate we transferred some of our own camp doctors to the BM Hospital in Nicosia to the satisfaction of both the military authorities and the detainees. Most of doctors who arrived aboard the Pan ships were young men with little experience but there is a group of very well known specialists in various fields of medicine who quickly found a useful field of work in the camp. It is heartening and noteworthy that this week the Immigration Committee decided to give special priority to a dozen physicians and their families for immigration to Palestine. This has been done to ease the serious medical situation in Palestine created by the disorders.

Infants: The 524 infants from the Pan ships together with the intake of the previous ships and the newborn, which in the month of January totalled 102, suddenly raised our infants population to over 1,000 and we are faced with a very severe problem, namely care and feeding of infants. With the arrival of the new boats we immediately began negotiations for a special infants quota which has been successful. (Most of the infants, being children up to the age of 2½ years, have since been moved to Palestine with their families.) In the meanwhile we did everything possible to make sure that the infants were well cared for. Dr. Walter Haik, a well-known pediatrician of Palestine and a former staff member, was recalled to duty in order to organize our infants welfare program. He quickly set into motion six infant feeding stations and mobilized all the help he could muster from among the detainees themselves. Layettees were supplied and infants food has been supplied by us all the time. It is gratifying to note that our infant mortality has remained at approximately nothing and that no serious cases of infants diseases have come to our attention.

Children and Youth: Before the arrival of the Pan ships we were successful in having the Palestine Government grant a special quota for the transfer of orphans and unaccompanied youth to Palestine. These cleared away all such categories, with the exception of some youth who came between the end of the transfer and the arrival of the Pan ships.

When the Pan ships arrived we were again faced with a serious problem for they brought with them several thousand orphans and unaccompanied youth. The situation of the children with parents was markedly different from that of the orphan children. The former were decently cared for, healthy, seemingly well fed and certainly well clothed. The orphan children seemed to represent the exact opposite. Hundreds of them came literally in rags. They seemed to be badly undernourished, unkempt and uncared for.

With the help of refugee and Palestinian personnel we quickly organized three youth centers. After some persuasion the Army and the Central Committee assigned enough tents to the children. We were in need of staff to work with the children and frantic cables to Palestine were sent quickly and within three weeks after their arrival the Youth Aliyah sent three persons to direct the work of the youth centers in addition to persons who were flown over by the various political movements. The large number of doctors enabled us to place at least one doctor and one or more nurses in each of the centers.

Because of the serious undernourishment of many of the children special food supplements have been supplied by the JDC to the youth groups. The state of the children's clothing was pitiable. An epidemic of scabies, affecting about 100 children, could not adequately be fought because of the lack of a change of clothing. The JDC persuaded both the Government and the Central Committee to allot 1,500 of the outfits that had just arrived to the orphans and these were distributed. In addition various items out of the SOS and Vaad Lemam Galed Kafarissin collections were distributed.

The coming of the Pan ships raised the whole school problem all over again. The organization of the children in the youth centers helped solve this because the children were concentrated in three main divisions. The schools were immediately organized on non-party lines to cater to all children, orphans and those with parents alike. The schools were divided into general and religious classes; thus there were 82 general classes, formed and 49 religious with 2,005 children in the general classes and 1,255 in the religious. These classes in turn are divided into preparatory and regular classes; the former being for children between the ages of 6 and 12 and the latter for children between 13 and 17 years of age. The Army has been quick to meet the needs for the schools in that they have supplied special tents, tables and benches, while other supplies, such as text-books, chalk, pencils, note-books, maps, blackboards, etc., came from the JDC. Most of the text-books used are being stenciled and mimeographed right here in the camp.

Adult Education: The field of adult education has likewise not been neglected. The Rubenberg Foundation had conducted, under JDC auspices, four adults' seminars of six weeks duration each for 250 students at a time. This proved very fruitful in that they brought some of the foremost teachers and lecturers from Palestine to the detainees and that they prepared a large group of teachers who are now teaching in the schools. When the ships came the seminars were expanded and once again the best men of Palestine have been brought here for the purpose.

The coming of the Pan ship hung over us here in Cyprus like the sword of Damocles for many many weeks. The anticipation turned out to be grimmer

than the reality. The reception and settling down of 15,000 odd persons was not an easy task, but we were able to overcome them thanks to the resourcefulness, initiative and devotion of all persons concerned — the refugees themselves, the Central Committee and above all the members of the JDC and Jewish Agency staffs. At all times before and since New Year's Day we have worked in close harmony and it was indeed a pleasure to find that even the most difficult problems can be tackled quickly and satisfactorily.

AJDC AND THE CYPRUS CAMPS

by Maurice Pearlman

(The following are extracts from an article prepared in February by Mr. Maurice Pearlman who spent a great deal of time in the Cyprus camps.)

Cyprus, to romantics, is the legendary island of Aphrodite, Goddess of Love. To current realists, Cyprus is a British Crown Colony which today has the doubtful distinction of harboring the largest concentration of Jews in guarded compounds of any country in the world. February 1948 opened with 31,000 Jews behind barbed wire..... So far some 44,000 Jews, carried in 33 Haganah vessels, made the attempt to go to Palestine and were brought to Cyprus.

Here in Cyprus, threshold to them of their Promised Land, the refugees wait until time turns them from "illegal" into "legal" immigrants. The official army term for them is I.J.I.s - illegal Jewish immigrants. Since the 29 November United Nations Partition vote, even the army have begun thinking of I.J.I.s as "intending" or "impatient" Jewish immigrants. Departures for Palestine are operated on the system of "first in, first out". But departures, limited to a 750 a month quota, can never keep pace with arrivals. And so by the time the camps are liquidated - Britain has promised 15 May as the date, but this is probably the starting and not the closing date - the bulk of the refugees will have spent more than a year in the camps.

It is no less than the truth to record that during their long grim sojourn behind barbed wire, the principal gleam of hope and light has been provided by the devoted morale and comfort-raising welfare services of the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Nowhere have I found so self-sacrificing a band of workers, so devoted to the cause of the people they have come to succor. Rarely has so close an integration of work and ideas been achieved between AJDC and Jewish Agency as in Cyprus.

Refugees administer camps

There are 12 camps on the island, organized in three groups. 7 of the camps are tented; 5 are huttel. Each has a military camp staff responsible for supplying the refugees with rations, water, tentage and beds, and fuel for cooking. The military guard is a separate army unit. But the internal administration of the camps is in the hands of the refugees themselves. And just as refugees are not allowed outside the camp, no army personnel is allowed inside, except at refugee invitation.

When they reach Cyprus, the refugees are taken from the ship to a reception centre where they are searched, given a perfunctory medical inspection, and provided with an issue of 2 blankets - 3 in winter, - knife, fork, spoon, 2 plates, a small soup or tea bowl, a comb and one hand towel. They are then transported under guard to their camp site and the gates locked behind them. From then on they are on their own.

When they leave Europe, the refugees are usually organized in groups, for administrative purposes, on the lines of Zionist Parties in Palestine. When they reach camp, each group is allotted quarters, either tent or hut space, according to its size. The arrivals, if they are numerous enough to be assigned a compound to themselves, form a camp committee. The leader of the camp committee will act as liaison with the military staff. The committee usually comprises the group representatives and is the body responsible for the internal administration of the camp -- collection and distribution of rations, sanitation, internal order, and the like.

Members of a party group usually live as a Kibbutz. A group representative draws rations for all; food is cooked in a group communal kitchen and eaten in a communal dining room. Laundering and the repair of clothes and shoes are performed for members as a group service. Unskilled services are carried out by members in turn on a regular roster. Members of a Kibbutz who receive remittances from abroad usually hand them to the communal pool to be used for the benefit of the group.

JDC Bridges Gap

Each camp committee sends one or more representatives to serve on the Central Committee of Cyprus camps which is the supreme refugee body on the island. The AJDC carries out all its activities in conjunction with the camp committees and operates through them.

How does the AJDC figure on the Cyprus refugee scene?

The refugees are the responsibility of the British authorities. But the authorities interpret their responsibility to cover only minimal basic needs, and often fall short of that. The gap between refugee need and satisfaction had to be bridged if the refugees were not to suffer.

That is where AJDC stepped in.

And its task ever since has been to limit this gap, by trying to persuade the authorities to discharge their full responsibilities, themselves providing the supplies when persuasion failed, and contributing a number of other services, vital for the refugees, but which the British authorities could not be expected to satisfy.

The Cyprus camps are paid for by the Palestine Government, eighty per cent of whose revenue is supplied by Jewish taxation.

On paper, the British provide an average of 2,200 calories of food a day for the adult refugee and for the children's calory rates varying from 1,000 for an infant under 1 year to 2,500 for teen-agers. The figure is not always attained. If it were not for the AJDC supplements, the refugees would go perpetually hungry.

AJDC food supplements ensure that whatever the refugees receive from the army, their daily diet is ample and varied, and persons, such as sick, young and pregnant, receive special allocations.

As for shelter, more than 60 per cent of the refugees sleep in tents and the rest in Nissen huts. There are an average of eight to a tent 13 feet by 19. A Nissen hut of 16 feet by 40 has 18 persons.

The British supply of clothing was adequate and reasonable for the first shiploads of immigrants diverted to Cyprus and again two weeks ago when 9,000 complete outfits were delivered. But during almost the whole of 1947, immigrants received no clothing whatever from the authorities. The refugees who arrived were brought from Haifa where they were separated from their kit, which underwent a thorough search, and was sent on separately in huge unassorted heaps. By the time a kit bag was delivered to a refugee - sometimes it never was - most of the contents were missing. This meant that the refugees had no change of clothing. And none was provided. Conditions reached such a pass when I lived in the camp that tent linings were ripped and bed canvas torn to provide trousers and shirts for the needy.

AJDC did much to help but it was not able to do so fully because of the more urgent need of the refugees in the camps of Germany and Austria. SGS bundles were distributed via AJDC and useful supplies were received from the AJDC sister organizations in Australia and South Africa. The Palestinian Committee for the Cyprus refugees, run under the aegis of the Jewish Agency, also helped handsomely with new clothing manufactured in Palestine. These distributions tideed the refugees over the worst winter months.

Incidentally all AJDC clothing is handed to the camp committees who make their distribution through the group representatives.

Operates Refugee Medical Service

But food and clothing by no means exhaust the needs of man. The AJDC provides Palestinian doctors, dentists, nurses, kindergarten specialists, and social welfare workers who understand the special problems, needs and language of the refugees; ante and post-natal care for mothers, educational services for the children - from teachers to blackboards; adult education program; objects of piety; tools and materials for vocational training centers; a certain amount of furniture and recreational supplies; in short, the manifold materials and services that make life tolerable and that are by no means regarded as luxuries by the common folk who live in freedom.

Maintenance of health is the principal need after food, clothing and shelter. Emergency surgery apart, the whole of the refugee medical service is operated by AJDC staff. When the camps were opened medical supplies were provided by the AJDC alone. The army soon contributed 25 percent and has now raised it to 50 percent. The current staff brought over from Palestine by AJDC consists of 2 general practitioners who supervise the medical inspection clinics in each compound; a specialist pediatrician; ophthalmologist; gynaecologist; a director and three doctors for the refugee wing at the Nicosia military hospital; 4 dentists; 17 graduate nurses, 11 of whom work at the hospital and six in the camps; and 9 children's nurses who work in the camp creches. These Palestinians are aided by refugee professionals - 65 doctors, 7 dentists, 8 dental mechanics and some 150 nurses. These refugee assistants receive a special allowance in the form of a weekly chit which enables them to buy five shillings-worth of supplies at the camp -

canteens. Doctors receive three chits a week. These chits incidentally look like banknotes, with Hebrew and English texts, and signed by the AJDC director in Hebrew. They are known as "Joint gelt" and are as valid tender in the camps as ordinary money.

There have been surprisingly few outbreaks of epidemic in the camps.

Education of Children

The education of children in the Cyprus camps is one of the glowing chapters in the unhappy story of these barbed wire compounds, and a remarkable tribute to the self-sacrifice, ingenuity and single-minded purpose of AJDC, Jewish Agency, and Youth Aliyah representatives.

Here was the picture. Scattered through the camps were thousands of youngsters. They had come from different classes, different social backgrounds. Each had a different story. One thing they shared in common. All were young Jews who had spent the war years in Europe, which meant that most were orphans, most had suffered.

Few had had any normal schooling. Most had had their home lives shattered at the outbreak of the war and had wandered round Europe ever since. I travelled with 800 of them on a Haganah ship last spring and came to Cyprus with them. Some were orphaned when they were still toddlers. Some spent the war years in a concentration camp. Some had used the crematorium forecourt as their playground. Some had witnessed mass shooting of Jews in their village. Some had spent long months in dim caverns, never seeing the sun from one season to the next. Some had been brought up in Christian homes and brought back by Jewish relief bodies after the war. Some lived with partisans. Some had fled to Russia from Poland, lived in Siberia and Uzbekistan before their repatriation. Some had travelled with Russian soldiers as mascots of the Red Army.

This was the young human material now in Cyprus. The vital urgency was to give these youngsters new values, root out the memory and, on occasion, the anti-social practice, of the tragic past, fit them for a life of constructive pioneering in Palestine as civilized members of a new society.

At the beginning of 1947 AJDC and Youth Aliyah, the Palestinian body responsible for youth immigration, care and training under the Jewish Agency, formulated joint proposals for educating the children on the lines of Youth Aliyah in Palestine, modified for the special conditions in Cyprus. Youth Aliyah sent across two of their best men, and they, together with the AJDC director, prepared a plan to concentrate all the children from the various camps into a single compound to be run as a Children's Village. This village was established in April 1947, and was indeed one of the strangest villages in the world.

The youngsters were organized in communal groups. Six specialist instructors were brought from Palestine to act as responsible house-masters, teaching special subjects and training the group guides. The standard Youth Aliyah curriculum was amended to suit camp conditions. AJDC gradually supplied text books, note books, pencils, blackboards, matting, for improvised classrooms, slung between rows of huts and tents, benches and tables and lux lamps for lighting. But in the preliminary weeks even these minimal supplies were lacking, and I recall visiting a class in session in the

Children's Village last May which was being given in a communal wash-house - dry through lack of water in the camps - with the children seated on the cement floor crowding to glance at the single text-book, the teacher leaning against a faucet, and using the corrugated iron wall as a blackboard.

Yet the success of the Children's Village was startling. This success, paradoxically enough, served to spotlight the absurdity of keeping these children as prisoners behind barbed wire. AJDC and Youth Aliyah took it upon themselves to approach the High Commissioner for Palestine direct, and to urge him to allow the children of Cyprus to emigrate to Palestine immediately. General Cunningham considered the request sympathetically, and was so impressed with the arguments that he persuaded the British Government to approve. That was how the Youth emigration ahead of schedule was born. In November 1947, the first boatload of youngsters left the Children's Village of Camp 65, Cyprus, for the children's villages and settlements in Palestine.

Adult Education

This scheme covers unaccompanied youth and orphans. But there still remain in the camps a number of children who are here with their parents, or, more usually, with one parent. For them AJDC runs a comprehensive teaching program, operated by ten teachers brought from Palestine and paid for jointly by AJDC and Youth Aliyah. They are assisted by local refugee teachers and group guides. AJDC supplies of text and note books and the normal scholastic requirements are now adequate. AJDC employs a number of refugee/ to cook for the youngsters, launder and repair their clothes, and perform various administrative services with the schools. Some 400 are so employed.

The general program of education for the adults is directed by Jewish Agency emissaries and representatives of the various Zionist parties who have been sent from Palestine. They are aided to a limited extent by AJDC, mostly in the supply of books, newspapers and periodicals, and recreational equipment. In the last eight months, however, AJDC, jointly with the Palestine Rutenberg Foundation and the Jewish Agency, has sponsored a series of intensive seminars in the social sciences for selected adult students between the ages of 18 and 30. Six specialist instructors from the Rutenberg Foundation have been sent over to direct the courses which last six weeks. 250 students are enrolled for each seminar course, and the sixth seminar opened this month. So that already some 1,250 refugees have graduated. All instruction is in Hebrew and there are six hours of lectures a day.

The Seminar has a branch in each of the three camp groups, and each has its reading room, either tent or Nissen hut, for the use only of students and graduates who are still waiting their turn to emigrate to Palestine. Some 5,000 volumes have been brought from Palestine, including reference books which are available on the open shelves. Advanced tutorials are given by the Palestinian instructors for graduates after seminar hours. The instructors are among the finest Palestine has to offer. They include an inspector of secondary schools and a lecturer at the Hebrew University.

JDC provides Religious Supplies

For the religious elements among the camp population AJDC has provided an impressive list of objects of piety. They range from prayer books to the myrtle and palm for use on the Feast of Tabernacles.

The provision of so heterogeneous a variety of supplies would be complicated even in an ordered and free society. The first Passover arrangements after the camps were opened highlight the way in which such problems have been tackled by AJDC.

There were at the time - March 1947 - some 12,000 refugees in the Cyprus camps. The appropriate quantity of Matzoth, unleavened bread, was ordered from the bakeries in Palestine, and space chartered in ships to reach the island in time. Wine, sufficient to give each refugee four goblets, was also ordered from the Kosher cellars of Palestine. AJDC then felt that it would give a considerable lift to the morale of these refugees, who had glimpsed Palestine and then been sharply dragged away in caged vessels seeing their Promised Land vanish through the wire grill, if they could celebrate their first Festival of Freedom in traditional style. Carp, to the European Jew, is a festival dish. In the last few years many of the Palestinian communal settlements have started hatcheries, in which carp are bred. AJDC accordingly ordered three tons of fresh carp from the Palestinian hatcheries, in addition to the unleavened bread, the wine, the special herbs tasted on the Passover night. But the problem did not end with the transmission of an order. The fish had to be caught the day before they were to be eaten, crated, iced, transported from the hatcheries to a waiting ship chartered by AJDC, delivered to Cyprus, pass customs, taken to the camps, distributed to the various compounds and in turn to the kitchens, and cooked before reaching the Passover plate. By a veritable miracle of organization and an abundant volume of goodwill on the part of all who cooperated - AJDC, British Army, Palestinian settlements, camp committees and refugee cooks - the Passover supply plan succeeded. And the Cyprus refugees celebrated one of the most memorable Passovers of their lives, ranged in amphitheatrical tiers round a platform in the open air which the refugees had themselves slaved for a month to complete for the great night. A special Haggadah service was recited, with topical allusions, for each person who participated felt himself at one with the ancient Children of Israel who in their day had embarked on their great exodus to the Promised Land.....

In addition to these major spheres of assistance which have helped to give the refugees at least a tolerable existence, AJDC has provided a miscellaneous variety of material help not easily categorized. It has given equipment to dramatic circles and athletics and sporting groups, and a wide range of welfare supplies. AJDC also subsidizes the camp canteens in their initial stages.

Canteens

Each compound has its canteen, which is run by a representative of the camp committee and profits go to the welfare of the entire camp. As soon as a new camp is opened AJDC supplies the committee with the initial capital to start the canteen. Refugees who patronize it are those who have managed to retain a little money; or who receive remittances from relatives abroad; a

few who earn a little money in the camps by doing odd cobbler and tailoring jobs for individual refugees; and the refugee workers for AJDC who receive their weekly chit in AJDC scrip. There are at present some 2,400 refugee workers in receipt of an AJDC chit.

But help in the form of material supplies by no means exhausts the manifold services provided by AJDC for the Cyprus refugees. AJDC runs a Tracing of Relatives department, operated by a Palestinian and eight refugee assistants, serving the two-way needs of relatives abroad seeking refugees in the camps and vice versa.

Three trained AJDC special workers aided by a refugee staff of seven serve the needs of individual refugees and families who are not attached to a kibbutz group, and take care of the "awkward" social cases and the variety of personal problems which individual refugees may have.

One AJDC worker has been specially assigned to deal with personal financial problems. This resolves itself largely into cashing remittances received from abroad. The refugee cannot himself go to the post office to cash it, for he is not a free man. And up to some months ago the post office refused to honour an order unless presented by the payee. AJDC now itself endorses money drafts and some thousands of cases are dealt with each week by its special department.

AJDC is the principal liaison office between the refugees and the British civil and military authorities. AJDC has in turn, and had particularly during the early months, to be firm in refusing what it considered should rightly be supplied by the British. Occasionally there will be a joint contribution. But in the main AJDC has had itself to operate the major services easing the lot of the refugee.

AJDC is non-political. It has in fact been able to operate in the various countries of Europe and the Balkans with success precisely because it is above politics. Yet it can be recorded that many British political decisions concerning the Cyprus refugees have been altered as a result of an AJDC report or memorandum. The current scheme whereby infants and children are sent to Palestine outside the normal monthly quota is one due as much to AJDC representation as to the requests of the Jewish Agency and Youth Aliyah.

Laub in Charge

On the purely administrative side, AJDC personnel are cut to the minimum. For the first six months of its operation, Morris Laub, the AJDC director, worked without an assistant either at his headquarters or in the camps. The only American member of AJDC in Cyprus, Mr. Laub speaks Hebrew and Yiddish, and has had long experience of social welfare work in America, Greece and Italy. He served with the Greek UNRRA Mission during the war. His two young sons attend school inside the camp with the refugee children, probably the only Americans in the world who receive their instruction behind barbed wire, guarded by armed troops. He now has, as his assistant, Joshua Leibner, an American nurtured Palestinian. He has the charm, simplicity and automatic influence of the Palestine pioneer, accepted as a brother by the refugees. His son, too, attends the camp school. Laub and Leibner have the overall direction of AJDC work in the island. They

now have three field representatives, one with each of the camp groups, to whom the camp field workers are immediately responsible. They are all men of calibre, English speaking Palestinians, who in addition serve as the liaison officers between the refugees and local military camp staffs.

The AJDC are doing an impressive job in Cyprus and they feel it is fruitful. AJDC are conscious all the time that everything they do to raise the moral and physical standards of these folk is not only a current humanitarian need but is also a direct contribution to the future of Palestine. For if the refugees can arrive in the Holy Land fit and well, instructed and spritually healed after their European ravages, Palestine can settle down that much more quickly to peaceful construction.

Arrivals:

March 5, 982 Bulgarians including 597 men, 334 women and 51 children.

Departures:

March 10, 195 youth to Palestine being third batch under special youth quota.

ADEN

Dr. J. L. Magnes, Chairman of the JDC Middle East Advisory Committee in Jerusalem, has applied to the High Commissioner for Palestine for extra quota immigration certificates for 953 orphans now in Aden.

676 of these orphans are being maintained by JDC in a camp at Hashid, 12 miles from Aden City. The remaining 277 orphans are being maintained by JDC in Aden City. Included among these orphans are 60 who are the children of the 33 families whose parents were killed during the attacks on Jews in Aden in December 1947.

The camp which JDC maintains at Hashid, contains 3,850 persons. In Aden City, JDC is providing relief for 2,500 persons.

EMIGRATION

The JDC Emigration Department statistical report for December is based on data submitted by 39 offices. The following December figures are, therefore, incomplete and subject to correction.

<u>Assisted Departures to Destination Countries:</u>	<u>CUMULATIVE TOTALS</u>	
	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>Jan. 1 - Dec. 31</u>
-To the UNITED STATES from Germany & Austria	101	3,888
-To the UNITED STATES (Other than above)	158	1,864
-To PALESTINE	991	8,249
-To SOUTH AMERICA and CENTRAL AMERICA	427	3,450
-To EUROPE for Repatriation and Resettlement	456	4,929
-To other overseas countries	273	1,213
-Destination not reported	-	158
TOTALS	2,406	23,751
<u>Assisted Departures to European Countries of Transit en route to End Destination Countries:</u>	1,250	12,766

SHANGHAI

(Mr. Charles Jordan, JDC Director for Shanghai, is now in New York where he addressed a JDC Staff Meeting on March 1.)

Mr. Jordan stated that Shanghai no longer presents the same problems as heretofore since only 6,300 refugees remain. People are continuing to emigrate, chiefly to the U.S. and to some extent to Australia, but many are being rejected by the U.S. consul because of health reasons and questionable records. This presents serious complications since if one member of a family is rejected, the others do not want to leave him behind. Although persons rejected for health reasons may apply again when their condition improves, in the case of those with questionable records, there is no further recourse. The matter of the over-subscribed quotas also is a great hindrance to emigration to the U.S. and only a change in our emigration laws can remedy this situation. There are at present 260 children on the German quota who cannot emigrate since one or the other parent is on an over-subscribed non-German quota. As far as emigration to Australia is concerned, the law specifies that ex-enemy aliens cannot be admitted. Germans and Austrians without passports have been considered as stateless up to the present since there was no consulate for either country. However, a complication has arisen with the reopening of an office by the Austrian consulate which is ready to issue passports to former Austrian nationals. If Austrians obtain such passports, they are then ineligible for emigration to Australia.

The administrative problem in Shanghai has become smaller since only one camp is now being run by the JDC. Consequently the administrative staff has been cut and this causes great hardships particularly for the stateless refugees since the IRO is not permitted to employ them.

The budget in Shanghai has been reduced from \$120,000 per month to \$100,000 and further reductions can be expected. Of the total refugee population of 6,300 about 3,500 receive monthly cash grants from the JDC amounting to \$14.40 per capita and about 80% of the total receive supplementary aid from the IRO, in addition to 12-in-one rations and clothing. Mr. Jordan expressed thanks for the 1,000 men's suits which had been sent out for distribution.

The group of tubercular patients is growing constantly and these individuals will eventually have to be repatriated since their chances of emigrating at a future date are very slim. Mr. Jordan reported on a 17 year old boy suffering from tubercular meningitis who had been saved by streptomycin shipped by JDC-NYC, and he urged that they be kept supplied with this very valuable drug.

There are a few hundred German and Austrian Jews in Japan who have appealed to the JDC for help in paying transportation costs to the U.S. and other countries. These people went to Japan before the war mostly as representatives of German or Austrian firms or on their own business. Although they were segregated during the war, they were not interned. It is Mr. Jordan's feeling that since they are in no danger, theirs is not an emergency problem of rescue and therefore, we cannot help them with funds. Some of the Army chaplains who have been in Japan, feel we should assist them.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1) JDC New York: In order to eliminate overlapping, Mr. Skorneck will be responsible for all work in Latin America. In addition to his other duties, Mr. Pilpel will also be responsible for the Rumanian, Bulgarian, Greek and Yugoslavian desks.
- 2) The special emergency UJA drive for \$50 million has received cash totalling over \$27 million as of March 1.
- 3) Dr. Schwartz is scheduled to return to Paris March 15 or 16.
- 4) Mr. Beckelman returned to Paris March 12.
- 5) Mr. Fisher left for Warsaw March 13.
- 6) Dr. Schmidt is now in Budapest.
- 7) Miss Evelyn Hersey and Mr. Irving Fasteau have been appointed Welfare Attaches to the American Embassies in Cairo and Paris respectively. It is understood that they will serve as liaison officers for agencies which raise their funds in the U.S. but operate overseas. It is anticipated that they will serve in the following ways: a) Survey the social welfare needs in the areas they cover. b) Interpret the local governments own standards and program of social welfare. c) Achieve more intelligent handling of the problems of stranded American citizens. d) Cooperate with the Cultural Attache on the program of exchange students. e) Act as consultant to the Ambassador on social welfare problems.
- 8) Miss Bernstein is expected to return to Paris from Greece March 16.

M.S.G.

(Nothing in this bulletin is to be reproduced.)