

\$1,000,000,000 FUND TO REBUILD JEWRY

Six Million Souls Will Need Help to Resume Normal Life When War Is Ended.

LOANS WITHOUT INTEREST

Committee of American Jews Lays Plans for the Greatest Humanitarian Task in History.

The American people, Jews and non-Jews alike, will soon be asked to lend or contribute the larger part of a fund of approximately \$1,000,000,000 to carry out plans for the reconstruction of the Jewry of the entire world. Announcement to this effect, together with the general plan of procedure, was made public last night, following a meeting held yesterday in the office of Felix M. Warburg of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee of the American Funds for Jewish War Sufferers.

While the appeal will go out to the entire world, the people of war-ravaged Europe, it is believed, will not be in position to further the plan financially to any large extent, so that the burden will fall upon the United States, Canada, and perhaps England.

The money for the project, the largest purely humanitarian undertaking in history, will not be sought alone through contributions, but will embrace loans, and will be accepted from non-Jewish as well as Jewish sources. The exact date and the duration of the campaign for the billion-dollar reconstruction fund was not announced, but preliminary work has already begun.

The plan is the result of months of study by the Joint Distribution Committee of reports from every country in which Jews have been made to suffer through the war, and includes the sending of commissions of American Jews, experts in philanthropy, social service, education, and business, to Russia, Rumania, Poland, Palestine, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria, and other lands as soon as the international situation permits. The work has already been initiated in several countries where recent allied successes have made a beginning possible.

6,000,000 Jews Need Help.

From reports from representatives abroad it is estimated that of the 9,000,000 to 12,000,000 souls making up the Jewish population of the world, exclusive of the 3,000,000 Jews in the United States, a quarter of the number are destitute, starving, and homeless, and fully half will need assistance to become self-supporting again.

Loans without interest will be made available to Jews in various parts of the world so that business enterprises may be reconstructed. The only security will be the stability of the industries after they have been put upon a sound business foundation. The only mortgages, it was said, will be "mortgages of honor" on the word of the Jewish people.

The work has already been inaugurated through the organization of three commissions. Miss H. Goldman, daughter of Dr. Julius Goldman of New York, is now on her way to Saloniki, and she will visit Serbia, Bulgaria, and Rumania as soon as possible to establish a branch of the committee in each country. Dr. Solomon Lowenstein, Superintendent of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum of New York, is on his way to this country, following an inspection trip to Palestine on behalf of the committee. Dr. Boris D. Bogen, Secretary of the Field Bureau of the National Conference of Jewish Charities, has applied for passports for Vladivostok, and will go there under the auspices of the committee.

Realizing the immensity of the task of reconstruction and the labor, funds, and scientific knowledge required, the Joint Distribution Committee has inaugurated a study of the huge problem, with a view to being prepared as rapidly as conditions allow to enter upon a program of permanent rehabilitation, suited to the especial needs, environment, and circumstances of the Jews in different parts of the world.

The commissions to be sent from America will perform their labors and render American assistance through representative Jews of the nations and localities to which they go, following out the present policy of the Joint Distribution Committee in disbursing the more than \$20,000,000 raised by American Jewry for war relief since 1914.

Outline of Reconstruction Plan.

It is planned to give reconstruction work the benefit of American system, energy, and resourcefulness, reinforced by American millions. The scope of the undertaking in its broad outlines embraces the following:

1. Immediate and temporary assistance necessary to pave the way for permanent reconstruction, viz.: the supplying of food, clothing, shelter and medical attention.
2. Scientific study upon the ground of the various forms reconstruction shall take, according to the needs of the several populations.
3. Employment of labor, through the planning and carrying out of projects by which workers may be most advantageously and economically made self-supporting and the public welfare furthest advanced.
4. Repatriation of refugees and the re-establishment of the family and home.
5. Supplying of raw materials needed for the industrial life of the community.
6. Vocational and technical schools for the training of the young.
7. Gemiluth Chasodim—the extension of free loans—loans without interest—to the deserving, for the purpose of engaging in useful business and occupations.
8. Provision for the spiritual and moral welfare, through assistance to the Rabbinical, Yeshivah (Jewish Theological University), Talmud Torahs (Religious Schools) and other religious and higher educational factors essential to the Jewish faith.
9. The return to the United States of American citizens, exiled through the war in enemy and neutral countries, reuniting them to their families.

"Members of the Joint Distribution Committee, desiring to anticipate the tremendous need and the magnificent opportunity for service presented by the reconstruction problems of Jewry, have for many months been considering the practical steps to be taken, once it should be possible to enter upon the task, the immensity of which staggers the imagination," said Mr. Warburg in the statement accompanying the announcement of the plans by the Joint Distribution Committee.

"To that end," he continued, "numerous conferences have been held, budgets for the beginning of the work are now in preparation, and tentative plans have been laid for the methods to be pursued and the policies to be followed.

Loans Versus Contributions.

"America has learned through the Liberty Loan the value of loans and how these can be made to accomplish what cannot be accomplished by contributions. There is no doubt that a large part of the money required to carry out the program for Jewish reconstruction will be obtained through loans which will repay not only the original principal advanced, but dividends of gratitude of the Jewish people and the boon to the individual conscience which comes from noble deeds. The opportunity will be given to enable as large a number as possible to become self-supporting, and in this way the principal will be amply secured, for, once this purpose is accomplished, it will be possible to arrange for repayment of the sums advanced.

"European Jewry, the Jewry in Russia, Poland, Palestine, has ever been a people that has struggled hard to obtain

a meagre livelihood—a poor people. Added to the hardships and toil of ordinary existence they have been compelled to suffer the deprivations, want, and misery of four years of war, in many instances being forced to evacuate their homes and be deprived of all their possessions. Hundreds of thousands have died, and of the millions remaining a very large percentage, probably 50 per cent., will have to be assisted in the reconstruction of their lives and fortunes. Upon American Jewry falls both the burden and the privilege of leading the way in this work, that has for its sole object the preservation of the Jewish people, and this work the Joint Distribution Committee, representing every section of American Jewry, has taken upon itself to perform.

"The Joint Distribution Committee plans to call to its aid every element of Jewry both here and abroad to assist, and opportunity will be provided for all to have a part in this great effort.

Experience, Brains, Money.

"There is available in American Jewry every factor necessary to the successful carrying out of this project. Experience, brains, the will to do, and the wherewithal are not lacking. The Joint Distribution Committee will seek to enroll in the undertaking not only the thousands who have contributed in the past to the war relief funds, but in fact every Jewish man and woman and child in America."

The Joint Distribution Committee, under whose direction the work of rehabilitation will be conducted, is made up of the representatives of the American, Central, and People's Jewish War Relief Committees, and early in the war the committee was responsible for the sending of a commission to Poland for the purpose of gathering reliable information and statistics as to the situation to be alleviated by American funds. It has since established and now maintains a permanent branch of the committee in Holland, which receives reports directly from the occupied territories where the moneys for relief are disbursed on the recommendation of Dr. Albert Van Raalte, who has just returned to Holland from a second inspection trip of the occupied territories.

The nearly \$21,000,000, collected for relief by the three constituent committees and disbursed by the Joint Distribution Committee, represents a per capita contribution of nearly \$7 from the 3,000,000 Jews in America, the largest per capita contribution that has been made to any single war relief by any people. This does not take into account the contribution of American Jews to the Red Cross and to other relief agencies. In its larger amounts the \$20,000,000 so far collected has been disbursed as follows: Russia, \$7,500,000; Poland \$6,000,000, and Palestine, \$2,000,000.

The Committee Members.

The members of the Joint Distribution Committee include, besides Mr. Warburg, Chairman, Arthur Lehman of Lehman Brothers, and Paul Baerwald of Lazard Freres, Treasurers; Albert Lucas, Secretary, the following members: Jacob H. Schiff, Louis Marshall, Julius Rosenwald, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Jacob Wertheim, Colonel Harry Cutler, Oscar S. Straus, Nathan Straus, Henry Morgenthau, Abram I. Elkus, Dr. Judah L. Magnes, Harriet B. Lowenstein, Jacob Billikopf, Stanley Bero, Dr. Cyrus Adler, Baruch Zuckerman, Harry B. Simmon, A. C. Wurmser, Peter Wurmik, Colonel Harris Weinstock, A. Leo Weil, Colonel Isaac M. Ullman, Marion M. Travis, Louis Topkis, Rabbi Aaron Teitelbaum, Mayer Sulzberger of Philadelphia, Cyrus K. Sulzberger, Nat Stone, Abram Simon, Max Senior, Moses Schoenberg, Joseph H. Schoenfeld, Leon Sanders, Morris Rothenberg, Otto A. Rosalsky, Samuel E. Rauh, Samuel Philipson, Joseph Michaels, Rabbi M. S. Margolies, Judge Julian W. Mack, Meyer London, Jacob D. Lit, E. W. Lewin-Epstein, Julius Levy, Captain Herbert H. Lehman, Rabbi Nathan Krass, Rabbi Louis J. Kopald, Louis E. Kirstein, Leon Kamalky, Alexander Kahn, J. G. Joseph, Louis Isaacs, the Rev. Emil G. Hirsch, Isidore Hirschfeld, Mrs. Janet Simmons Harris, Rabbi Moses Gries, Meyer Gillis, Felix Fuld, Dr. Harry Friedenwald, Professor Israel Friedlander, J. Walter Freiberg, Dr. Lee K. Frankel, Mortimer Fleischbecker, Harry Fischel, Boris Fingerhood, Morris Engelman, Samuel Dorf, Dr. Edward N. Calisch, Fulton Brylawski, David A. Brown, David M. Bressler, Dr. Boris D. Bogen, Rabbi Meyer Berlin, and Sholom Asch.