

REPORT BY MR. LEAVITT

In welcoming Mr. Leavitt's return, Mr. Warburg said that he had been missed very much and asked him to touch on the highlights of his visit in the various European countries.

Mr. Leavitt stated that he had travelled too far and too fast to have been able to gather detailed information on the conditions and the JDC activities in each country. He gained many impressions and would devote himself largely to giving only the highlights of his impressions to the Administration Committee. He hoped to report in greater detail at the forthcoming meeting of the Executive Committee.

Above all, Mr. Leavitt was impressed with the constantly rising cost of living in the European countries and the spiralling inflation. In Poland, for instance, the cost of living has mounted tremendously. The cost of bread, even under the ration system, has risen $4\frac{1}{2}$ times in a period of a few months. This situation applies to virtually every European country where the JDC operates. As a result, the program this year costs much more in dollars than last year. Supplies are also much more costly.

During Mr. Leavitt's and Dr. Schwartz's visit in Poland, they negotiated for a better zloty rate for the JDC program in that country. Although the rate finally agreed upon is an improvement over the previous six months, it is still considerably short of the free market rate.

One of the very serious developments is what amounts to a mass flight of Jews from Rumania to Hungary in the hope of getting out of that country to Austria and eventually to Palestine. These people leave Rumania because of the famine there and the fear of pogroms. Feeding them during their stay in Hungary is very expensive, and there is nothing which the JDC can do to prevent their flight from Rumania. They get into Hungary illegally and if it were not for the JDC, they would have to starve.

With respect to the condition of the displaced persons, Mr. Leavitt said their deterioration and demoralization is frightening, and unless the camps are liquidated very soon or some drastic change occurs, none will be worth saving as human beings. While the DPs get enough to eat, the chief problem is the inadequate housing and the crowding of the people together. As a result of this situation and because the possibility for their immigration to Palestine seems remote, there is an increasing number of applications to emigrate to other destinations than Palestine. About 50,000 people are ready to go to any country which will give them visas.

The work program in the camps is getting under way; it is operating on a larger scale proportionately in Austria than in the American Zone in Germany.

Mr. Leavitt found that Poland is the brightest spot of any country as far as the situation of the Jews is concerned. There is little evidence of anti-Semitism there today, and the Jews feel much more secure. The government is actively fighting the anti-Semitic elements, and the Kielce pogrom, which was expected to set off a new wave of anti-Semitic excesses, has had the opposite effect. The techniques it employed reminded the masses of the Polish people of the Nazi methods, and they have been revolted by it. The Jews in that country have, for the most part, made up their minds that they want to stay in Poland, and they are building their lives as if they mean to remain. They have built up welfare institutions for child care, homes for the aged, health programs, which are of first rate quality. They have developed producers' cooperatives at a remarkable rate, for the manufacture of clothing, shoes, textiles, furniture, etc.. The

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