THE PROGRAM OF THE UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE'S increasingly valuable contribution to the victory of the forces of democracy, its capacity to receive even larger numbers of Jewish immigrants than the more than 300,000 who have come since the advent of Hitler, its splendid programs of development in every phase of industrial, agricultural and social life, have been made possible in large measure by the support which American Jewry has made available through the United Palestine Appeal.

Representing the Palestine Foundation Fund, which is the Jewish Agency's fiscal instrument, and the Jewish National Fund, through which the Jewish people become the trustees of the land in Palestine, the United Palestine Appeal, which in 1943 derives its support from the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas Needs and Palestine, provides the funds which are so vital to the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home. In addition, the United Palestine Appeal grants $125,000 annually to the Mizrachi Palestine Fund for the support of Mizrachi activities over and above those drawing support from the National Funds.

The expenditures of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund are limited by the funds available and not by any lack of opportunity for land purchase, industrial, agricultural, religious and educational development, or military reinforcement of the Allied war effort. An impressive record of action has been established, in which American Jews, because of their increasing cooperation with the Yishuv through the United Palestine Appeal, may well take pride.

Well over $9,000,000 was spent by the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Jewish National Fund in the eight-month period ending August 31, 1943. The Jewish Agency budget for the year 5703, ending September 30, 1943, was $4,667,625. The sum actually expended by the Jewish Agency and the Palestine Foundation Fund (Keren Hayesod) in eight months was $4,479,278. The Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth), which established a budget for the year of $6,148,525, spent $4,896,409 in eight months.

THE expenditures of the Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish Agency, which officially represents the Jews of Palestine in a quasi-governmental capacity, cover a network of activities which reach into almost every phase of life in (Continued on page 64)
For Distinguished Service
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Dewar’s
“White Label”
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The Medal Scotch of the World

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Don Albert  Capt. Piermont

“Night of Stars” has its full measure of them. The administrative office of “Night of Stars” has had the benefit of the loyal services of Alex Rothenberg, controller; Samuel Goldstein, director of the Trades Council; Meyer F. Stein- glass, editor of the Year Book; Mrs. Estelle Liebers, director of the Women’s Division; David Lipsky, publicity director from 1939-1942 (now in the Service); and Miss Molly Feldman who serves as secretary to the Producing Committee.

The idea for “Night of Stars” literally proved to be a million dollar idea. During the ten years of its unprecedented one-night stands “Night of Stars” has raised approximately that sum for the programs of Palestine settlement and reconstruction and for aid to refugees and relief abroad.

I like to think that “Night of Stars” is a symbol of the heart of democracy for so much of the truly human elements have gone into its preparation. As the lovable George M. Cohan said in his inimitable style:

“We must believe, we must believe
The ones who bear the scars,
So fight the fight, tonight’s the night,
The mighty Night of Stars!”

Jewish women in the “Pats” (Palestine Auxiliary Territorial Service) of a training center.

The U. P. A. Program
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Palestine, ranging from the recruitment of Jewish soldiers, which is completely under the jurisdiction of the Jewish Agency, to the support of religious affairs.

For the year 5703, from January through August, the Jewish Agency spent $1,162,702 for the vital program of agricultural settlement, which includes the founding of new settlements, expansion of food production, irrigation projects, livestock, agricultural research, seeds, buildings, etc.

For internal security, a particularly important aspect of Palestine’s affairs under existing conditions, the sum of $1,155,704 was spent. Included in this sum is provision for recruitment, assistance to the armed forces and their

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A “Pat” on M.P. duty in Tel Aviv.

families, national organization, etc.; $199,524 was expended for aid to industry, housing, vocational training, employment exchanges, etc.; $153,407 for education and cultural activities; $45,863 for re-

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The Program of the U.P.A.
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religious affairs; $183,363 for administration.

From January to June, $621,784 was expended by the Jewish National Fund on debts payable at once for land already in the agency's hands; $211,358 in full or part payment for land for which transfer had been contracted; $690,467 for new land purchases. From January to August 1943, for reclamation, afforestation and development projects—$444,236 and $1,040,635 for commitments, bills and debentures.

These sums are substantially larger than last year. The decline in the purchasing power of the dollar in Palestine (39.5% since August 1939) has made the tasks of the United Palestine Appeal agencies considerably more difficult. The amounts expended by the Jewish Agency, the Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund have been substantially in excess of the voluntary income provided by the Jews in the United States and elsewhere. However, the wartime obligations imposed upon these agencies have been so irresistible that the expenditures had to be met, even if this meant enlarging the deficit and expanding loans. As of August 31, 1943, the accumulated deficit of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was $1,468,267. This was in addition to the long-term liabilities of the Palestine Foundation Fund totalling $740,154 and the long-term indebtedness of the Jewish National Fund totalling $10,420,252.

Wartime Expenditures

A TOTAL of $36,506,323 has been expended by the Jewish Agency, the Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund since the beginning of the war, as of September 1, 1943. $17,209,956 of this total was spent by the Jewish Agency and the Palestine Foundation Fund and $19,296,367 by the Jewish National Fund. In the following paragraphs are outlined in brief the tangible results of these expenditures in which American Jews participated so substantially through the United Palestine Appeal.

Among the most vital of the many contributions which Palestine has made toward the preservation of the Jewish people and Jewish life is its record of actual life-saving. Since the Hitler terror was brutally unleashed in Europe more than 300,000 Jewish men, women and children have found sanctuary and new lives in Palestine. Over 45,000 of these have been admitted since the outbreak of the war. Since January 1, 1943, over 2,500 immigrants have entered the country, most of them children. The Jewish Agency has incurred large expenditures in connection with this immigration through the bureaus for direction of immigration which it maintains in Istanbul, Cairo and Teheran. It has assisted in relief expenditures in transit and has expanded its immigration absorption facilities at Palestine ports of entry. Expansion of housing facilities, purchase of initial equipment, such as tents, clothing, mattresses and other articles have accounted for substantial portions of these greatly increased costs.

Work for Victory

As a result of the expansion of Jewish population, Palestine has been able to provide an impressive number of men for actual military service with the British Armed Forces in the Middle East. Some 33,000 Palestinian Jewish men and women are now serving with various combat units on the fighting fronts. In addition, 30,000 men are serving with the auxiliary police, the regular Police Force, and special police.

Palestine's industrial growth has elicited the admiration of leading statesmen throughout the world. 400 new factories engaged in war production have been established since the war began and 50,000 Jewish men and women are employed in industries which contribute directly or indirectly to the war effort. Industrial production in Palestine will exceed a total of $80,000,000 in 1943.

To cite but one instance of the remarkable growth in all phases of production in Palestine, the fishing industry in Palestine, stimulated by the Jewish Agency, has expanded from a yield of 57 tons in 1939 to an estimated 600 tons in 1943. Increased production in Palestine helps the war effort by providing vitally needed materiel and supplies for the milli-
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June 30, 1943, the Jewish National Fund had purchased, and holds in trust for the Jewish people, 652,293 dunams of land in Palestine (four dunams to the acre). Without this tireless effort to increase Jewish holdings of land in Palestine, that country would have been unable to find room for the hundreds of thousands who escaped from the Hitler terror to Palestine. Provision must be made on a continuing and expanding basis for the equally great, if not greater, numbers who will seek admission after the war and who must and will be granted asylum and a chance to rebuild their lives in dignity and security. Experience in Palestine and other parts of the world during the past two decades underlines the wisdom of acquiring land as the indispensable basis for any mass settlement scheme.

In the coming months and years, American Jews will have increasing opportunity to play a significant role in the settlement and upbuilding of the Jewish National Home. Their instrument of cooperation with the Yishuv, the United Palestine Appeal, must be utilized to the fullest extent so that there need be no halting in the progress toward the ultimate goal.

Land For Reconstruction
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preparing the land for the people was placed. The “Call of the Land” which it constantly sounded was at first but feebly audible. It found its first echo in the sensitive ears of those who are especially attuned to the lesson which Jewish homelessness, caused by national landlessness, has written on the tragic pages of the annals of the Diaspora. It met with the response of those who, as the events of the past several decades unfolded, gained an insight and a growing understanding of the problems of planning and practical action which underlie the question of Jewish national survival. Under its banner the creative energies of the Jewish masses in the large Jewish population centers in Eastern and Central Europe, in the British Commonwealth of Nations and in the United States were mobilized for the redemption of the soil which has as its aim the creation of a Homeland for the Jewish people. The pennies of the poor and the dollars of the well-to-do have been channeled through this instrument of national re-deemptive action. The grand total shows an investment of approximately $40,000,000 in the basic task of nation building. With these resources the Jewish National Fund gave to the world an irrefutable demonstration of Jewish capacity for pioneering work and achievement in agriculture. Year after year and decade after decade the Keren Kayemeth blazed new trails in the desert and wastelands and redeemed areas of Eretz Israel for the establishment of 167 agricultural colonies and 18 suburban settlements, which today constitute the backbone of Jewish Palestine.

When the hour of supreme crisis came and the devastating hurricane of hatred, persecution and slaughter swept over the Jewish communities of Continental Europe, the grains of national soil, gathered in Eretz Israel with so much devotion and perseverance, rose to the stature