

\$100,000,000 RAISED BY JEWISH APPEAL

\$28,000,000 Contributed This Year to 'Largest Rescue Drive' Ever Formed

The record sum of \$100,000,000 has been raised by the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas Needs and Palestine since 1939, the three national chairmen reported at a meeting of the Executive Committee yesterday at the Biltmore Hotel. The chairmen are Rabbi James G. Heller of Cincinnati, William Rosenwald of Greenwich, Conn., and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise of New York.

What was termed the "largest rescue drive ever organized by the Jews of the United States" brought in contributions of \$28,000,000, a new high, this year, it was reported. This went toward the programs of war relief and rehabilitation in European lands, reconstruction and settlement in Palestine, and refugee assistance in the United States.

The executive committee reported, however, that an additional \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 was needed by the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal to "fulfill immediate emergency obligations." These, with the National Refugee Service, constitute the agencies for which the United Jewish Appeal makes a unified collection.

Appeal to Communities

An appeal has been sent out directly to hundreds of communities throughout the country for these supplementary contributions, it was announced at the meeting. Principal factors requiring substantially increased expenditures for overseas aid and Palestine settlement cited by the executive committee were the liberation of territories in Europe in which Jews in dire distress could be reached, the unparalleled responsibility for relief, rehabilitation and resettlement and the greatly increased flow of immigration into Palestine, and the upbuilding program in the Holy Land.

Tribute was paid to contributors whose prompt action, the executive committee said, "helped save many thousands of men, women and children who might otherwise have perished in Nazi death camps and execution centers."

The executive committee emphasized, however, that as a result of the liberation of large areas in Europe, larger sums will be needed in the future to bring about the speedy rehabilitation and restoration of approximately 1,500,000 Jews who have survived the Nazi campaign of extermination. Because many will be unable or unwilling to return to their former homes, the committee added, large-scale emigration assistance will be essential and settlement in Palestine will be a major responsibility in the coming months.

"Homeless and Starving"

"Uprooted, dispossessed, homeless and literally starving," the committee stated, "hundreds of thousands of Jews in liberated areas today can turn only to America for immediate and vitally needed relief. Though liberated by the Allied armies from the specter of concentration camps and gas chambers, Jews must receive help immediately if they are to be kept alive to receive governmental help months hence.

"The availability of \$4,000,000 more at this time will mean the difference between adequate and inadequate provision for overseas relief, as well as for upbuilding in Palestine, which not only assure tender care for the remnants who have survived the Hitler holocaust, but will lay the secure foundations on which hundreds of thousands more will come."

As indicative of sharply rising needs, the committee cited the fact that total appropriations of the Joint Distribution Committee for 1944 would exceed \$20,000,000, as against a budget estimated at \$17,000,000, and a total of about \$27,000,000 for Palestine agencies which receive their American support from the Appeal, as compared with estimated budgets amounting to \$19,500,000.

A financial statement was presented by I. Edwin Goldwasser of New York and Charles J. Rosenbloom of Pittsburgh, national co-treasurers. Campaigns were conducted by the Appeal in more than 4,600 communities under the direction of Isidor Coons and Henry Montor, executive vice chairmen.