

Switzerland, Israel and ORT-a Triple Partnership

The following is excerpted from an article in the official French Government magazine, Technical Cooperation, published by the Society for the Diffusion of French Thought.

As part of the Swiss Confederation's technical aid program, and at the request of the Ministry of Labor, the General Confederation of Labor and of the Manufacturers' Association of Israel, the World ORT Union offered a refresher course in Switzerland under the auspices of the International Labor Office for the benefit of 17 foremen employed in Israeli industry.

The participants in the studies come from the potash plant on the Dead Sea, the postal workshop in Haifa, the water department of Tel Aviv, the control tower of the Lydda airfield, textile factories, metal-work plants, metal plants, electrical-equipment factories and from a variety of kibbutzim.

The curriculum consists of two parts:

a) Classes and seminars at the ORT Central Institute at Anieres, in the suburbs of Geneva, for the training of instructors and technical cadres and inspectors of factories;

b) Practice periods in industry.

The study and training curriculum was prepared by an advisory committee to the Central Office of the World ORT Union under the chairmanship of Mr. Louis Huguenin, Director of the Advanced Technical School of Geneva, and consists of representatives of industry, of the International Labor Office and of the educational department of ORT.

Swiss Satisfaction

During the inaugural meeting for the course Mr. Bruno Stockli, in the name of the Berne authorities, expressed the satisfaction of the Federal Government at being in a position to contribute to the cost of this instruction as part of the bilateral technical-cooperation program of the Confederation.

Mr. Kahanay, permanent representa-

tive of Israel at the United Nations, thanked the Swiss Government. "The best kind of technical assistance is that which enables us to receive and to give," he declared. He recalled the efforts of his country on behalf of the states of Asia and Africa now in process of development.

Mr. Vladimir Halperin, in the name of the World ORT Union, expressed satisfaction with the contacts made industrially between the countries concerned and the future cooperation which they imply.

Complex Curriculum

The academic courses which are to last some 130 hours, will touch upon a variety of subjects: organization and planning, preparation and supervision of the work, remuneration and computation of work-time, structure and organization of an enterprise, accident prevention, factory legislation, sanitation of workshops, physics as ap-



Israeli agricultural mechanics examine a power driven plow on the grounds of the Central ORT Institute in Switzerland

plied to industry, labor psychology and the like.

Thereafter the participants will be distributed in Swiss plants according to their specializations. In order, however, to obviate over-specialization, they will, in rotation, go through a training period in two or three factories of different types, so as to familiarize themselves with various aspects of their vocations.

It will be seen that the work is serious and constructive as well as instructive. The seventeen Israelis, whose ages run from 20 to 55 years (though this last is unique, the average being

32 years) will go back to their country with a stock of knowledge that will show the success of an undertaking such as this.

But what matters most is the willingness of the Swiss authorities to carry on such an undertaking. We need no other proof of this than the present plan of the Berne government to set up at the Anieres Center "two or three simultaneous courses for applicants from countries with insufficiently developed economies by way of giving them an adequate training as vocational teachers."