

ORT Bulletin

ORGANIZATION FOR REHABILITATION THROUGH TRAINING

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Fall, 1973

Forecast - Peak Level of Services

[NOTE: The article below and the rest of this issue, with the exception of the report to the right, were prepared before the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War. The next issue will cover the effects of the war on ORT activities in Israel and elsewhere, and the cost to ORT.]

There is good news and not so very good news in the first indications of trends at work in the ORT programs whose school year began this September first.

- More youth will be served by ORT during the 1973-74 year than ever before. Enrollment in all programs will probably peak at over 70,000, a record figure.

- Registration in the Israel ORT schools is expected to reach well over 48,000 as compared with 45,000 last year.

Soviet Arrivals

- The number of Soviet Jews enrolled in a broad variety of ORT programs, tailored to their special requirements, will rise substantially in Israel, Rome and New York. If the anticipated additional immigration is not blocked, there will be 35,000 to 40,000 more arrivals in Israel who will be coming through the *ulpan* pipeline, plus hundreds coming to New York, thanks to the liberalized visa rulings of the U.S. government.

- The ORT schools in Teheran will receive more youth from distant places to fill the enlarged dormitories.

- The ORT School for Girls in Bombay will reach maximum registration as its recently acquired building goes into full operation.

(Continued on Page 2)

In the Midst of War

Communication with the central headquarters of ORT Israel in Tel Aviv was established almost immediately after the outbreak of the Middle East War on October 6th. While the full picture must necessarily wait, a flow of information has been established which indicates the role of the ORT schools in the nation at war.

The ORT schools in Israel are open. A communication network keeps the central office apprised of developments and in turn directs each of the 84 schools around the country on how to handle situations.

The ORT schools are, in effect, home front mobilization centers. A variety of duties and responsibilities are shouldered by them.

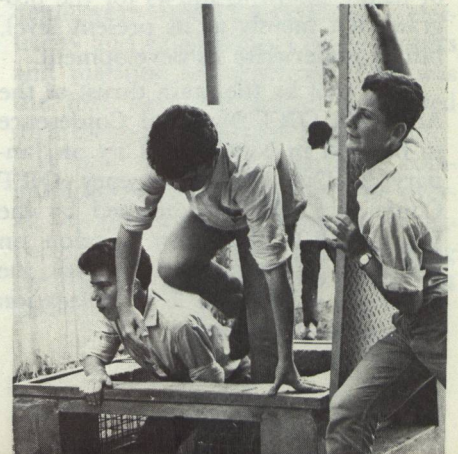
"Many of our principals, teachers, instructors and administrative staff were called up," notes a report by Deputy Director Michael Avitzour, "but we try, with considerable success thus far, to operate the schools with the help of those who remain behind and with the assistance of senior students."

All the schools have civil defense responsibilities involving air alerts, shelters and warden tasks. Max A. Braude, ORT Director General, cables from Tel Aviv that the shelters constructed in the schools after the '67 War are grossly inadequate. Students "are therefore digging trenches." He notes the need for "stretchers, first aid equipment, megaphones and shovels."

Mobilization has denuded services, industrial plants and farms of manpower. ORT students are assigned by their schools to such tasks as mail delivery, hospitals and telephone trunk switchboards.

Most important, since they have a measure of skills, "students are assigned to factories. For example, students of the Syngalwoski ORT School in Tel Aviv, have been assigned to the aircraft industries repair plants at Iod, joining the students of our ORT Aeronautics School," reads a report from Avitzour. Other students assist on *moshavim* and *kibbutzim*. The schools are hives of busy activity geared to home front requirements.

These photos were taken at the ORT schools during the Six Day War of '67, showing ORT students engaged in civil defense activities such as digging trenches and constructing shelters. The students shown are now young men in uniform, but their successors in the ORT schools now are performing the same tasks.



Conferences Will Focus on Emergency

The dollar devaluation earlier this year precipitated a budgetary crisis for ORT. Deficits were not new to ORT, but at no time had they been permitted to restrain the growth and constant upgrading of ORT standards of education.

The magnitude of the latest dollar devaluation undercut that trend and for the first time raised the specter of retrenchment of ORT services. Nevertheless, the economies that have been instituted were designed to preserve at all costs the heart and quality of the program.

Steps Taken

Every possible source for funds to reduce the budget gap have been explored. The Joint Distribution Committee has responded with a grant of \$150,000 over and above its basic support to ORT for 1973 of \$2,950,000, out of UJA funds. An Emergency ORT Fund has been established by the American ORT Federation and a similar measure has been undertaken by Women's American ORT.

All of these have been helpful in minimizing potential damage. Yet the crisis simply will not go away. Furthermore, with instability and fluctuations, sometimes of the wild variety, of international currency, the outlook for the next year offers little that is reassuring.

On the basis of present projections it is anticipated that the ORT deficit of over \$800,000 this year will flare up to a deficit of over \$1,250,000 in 1974.

New York, London

While this immediate condition is the foremost priority problem, plans and strategies are vital for assurance of future financial sinews for the program, not merely at its present level, but to underwrite its development.

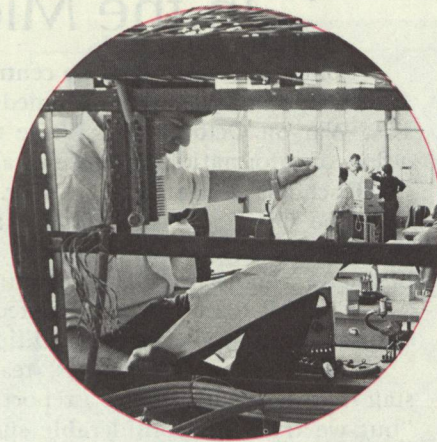
This will be the main thrust of the American ORT National Conference to be held in New York City on January 26-27th. An Emergency ORT Conference will be convened by the World ORT Union in London on February 24-28 to grapple with the issues. A substantial U.S. delegation is expected to attend.

Forecast - Peak

(Continued from Page 1)

- The new buildings at the Montreuil ORT complex in Paris will help enormously in relief of overcrowding.

- By contrast, after more than 20 years, the ORT schools in Tunis did not open this fall. The depopulation of Tunisian Jews had reached the point where too few youth were left. Those who had not completed their



Telecommunications lab in the expanded Montreuil ORT Center, Paris.

ORT studies in Tunis were transferred to the ORT center in Strasbourg, France.

- When today's freshman class, the largest to be admitted at any time in ORT history, graduates in '76, they can look forward to greater earning power than their predecessors, whether in Israel, Iran, Buenos Aires, Paris or Bombay—because the choices now being offered stress occupational job areas of high-technology training.

News From Rio

ORT Brazil was the subject of a full page article with pictures in a recent issue of *Manchete*, a leading Brazilian picture magazine.

Pointing out that the ORT system was based on the most modern teaching methods along with maximum teacher participation to stimulate motivation on the part of the students, *Manchete* praised the ORT contribution to the Brazilian economy.

The article pointed out that the Ministry of Education has recognized ORT by making a subvention to the school. Good rapport has also been established with industry, which provides jobs for ORT graduates.

The profile that emerges from these first impressions, gleaned from reports coming in from the ORT programs now in full gear, is a mixed picture.

Retrenchment

Fiscal restriction has definitely hurt. The high annual enrollment growth rate of recent years will be dampened. The student-teacher ratio will change, with approximately the same number of teachers facing larger classes.

There has been some retrenchment of marginal ORT services. Construction of new facilities has been deferred. Optimistic plans have had to be revised downward.

The basic ORT program, as a force for economic progress remains intact, however, firmly rooted in the lives of far-flung Jewish communities.

Many Served

Its more than 725 technical schools, apprentice programs, adult and refugee services, the increasing number of technical colleges, the continuing flow into the ORT schools of thousands of young people from "Second Israel" families of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, from the blighted *mahallehs* of Iran, the North African Jewish refugee slums of Paris, and from the impoverished backwardness of the remaining communities in remote places of Morocco—for all of these and more, ORT spells hope for the new school year.

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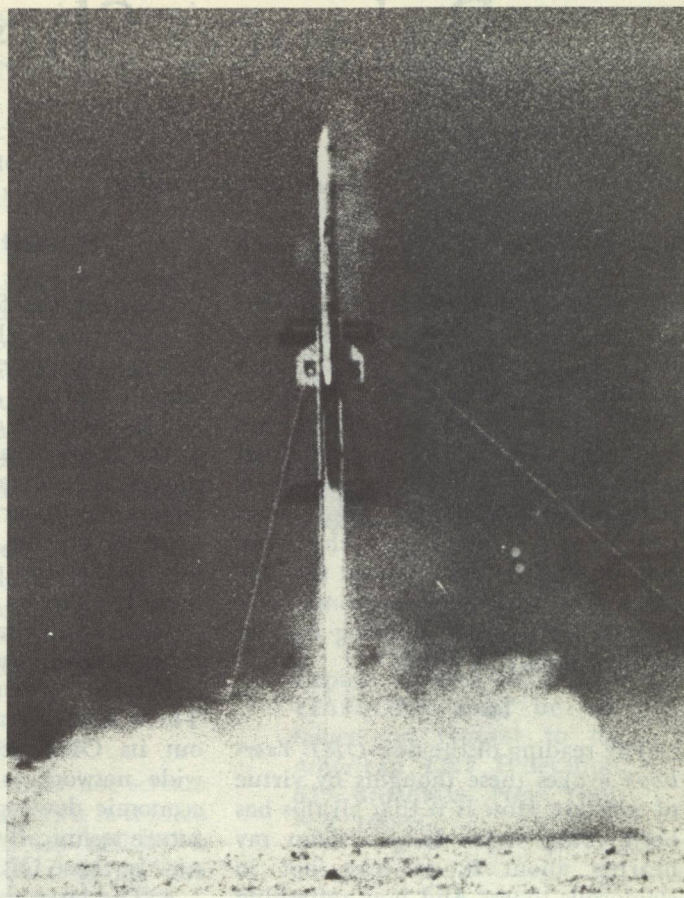
ORGANIZATION FOR REHABILITATION THROUGH TRAINING

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The American ORT Federation currently receives its funds from the Joint Distribution Committee, a member agency of the United Jewish Appeal, and the Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, and from membership dues.

Space Age Rocketry



Two students, Moshe Strauch and Yitzchak Guterman of the precision mechanics department of the Ramat Gan ORT School sent a rocket, which they made themselves, to a height of 5 km. The launching took place on Friday (September 21), from the sand dunes of Rishon-le-Zion.

The rocket—1.30 m. long and 90 mm in diameter, weighed 20 kg. The propellant was solid fuel. It was assembled in two stages, painted in oxidized red and stood out in the sun's rays as it rose high in sky.

The launching was carried out with the assistance of the armoured corps of the Israel Defense Forces, and the students were assisted in the planning and assembly of the rocket by their teacher, Oded Kirsch, and by Engineer

Avi Sternfeld of the Authority for the Development of Means of Defense.

The rocket was equipped with four auxiliary motors to provide the initial take-off and they disconnected themselves on completion of their operation. Also in the rocket were a gate valve containing propelling material, head, and parachute which disconnected at the maximum height attained by the rocket.

The rocket was designed and made as the students' graduation project. A knowledge of mechanics, propulsion, chemistry and electronics were required for its construction. The directional plan was prepared with computer assistance.

Translated from Ma'Ariv

Hebrew in Milan

The ORT school in Milan undoubtedly has the best-equipped facilities of all Jewish schools in Italy for the study of Hebrew. Using the most modern audio-visual methods, the school language laboratory is the favorite project of the Director of ORT Milan, Mr. I. Alkalay and his assistant, Mrs. Lopez, who train teachers in the use of the equipment.

The language laboratory is in a large, clean, well-lighted room with 25 booths and a central control table for the teacher. Each booth is fur-

nished with a headset, a microphone and a tape recorder and is so arranged that the teacher from the central table can listen and talk with individual students. In this way, each student can go at his own speed and still receive personal attention from the teacher.

Software

Software—that is, language course material—is available for English, Hebrew, French and other languages, along with the laboratory booths. There is also a projector with filmstrips and a large audio system. The entire atmosphere is one of comfort and efficiency.

Nathanya Expansion

Among the 290 engineer-technician graduates at ORT Nathanya who finished their studies in the 1972-73 academic year were 12 specialists in electricity and 42 specialists in electronics and machine construction. This was the first time the school graduated such technicians at this high level.

A new section in maritime communications is planned and the overall enrollment at Nathanya is expected to top the 2,000 mark, making the construction of 10 new classrooms necessary.

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Balance Sheet

- Work Done
- Programs Impact
- Projections

by Adam Schreiber

IN HIS ALTOGETHER delightful book on "The Joys of Yiddish," Leo Rosten records, as an example of that unique blend of irony plus exaggeration that manages to twist wit into folk-wisdom, the ancient observation: Where there are three Jews there are four synagogues. On a communal scene, where it sometimes sounds as if there are more organizations than people, each competing for the attention of all, it is only natural that the air is filled with the cacophonous noise of each organization blowing its own horn as loudly as it can.

To a "t"

The reading of the new *ORT Yearbook* evokes these thoughts by virtue of contrast. How is it that all this has been going on so long without my hearing about it, at least not in clamorous tones? And how refreshing to find that the words fit the tune to

a "t," without the usual outsized rhetoric.

Consider the following:

- Starting with figures: about 70,000 people were enrolled in ORT schools that are situated in 91 cities and towns of 25 countries around the world. This is a human calculus, a statistical summary that profiles the largest non-governmental educational network on the international scene that is teaching people skills to earn their livelihoods, free them from dependence on charity, enabling them to walk tall in assurance of possessing a personal treasure of social value. There is hardly a spot in Israel without its ORT school. This country-wide network is keyed into Israel's economic development plans. Israel's future technically skilled manpower is now in those ORT schools.

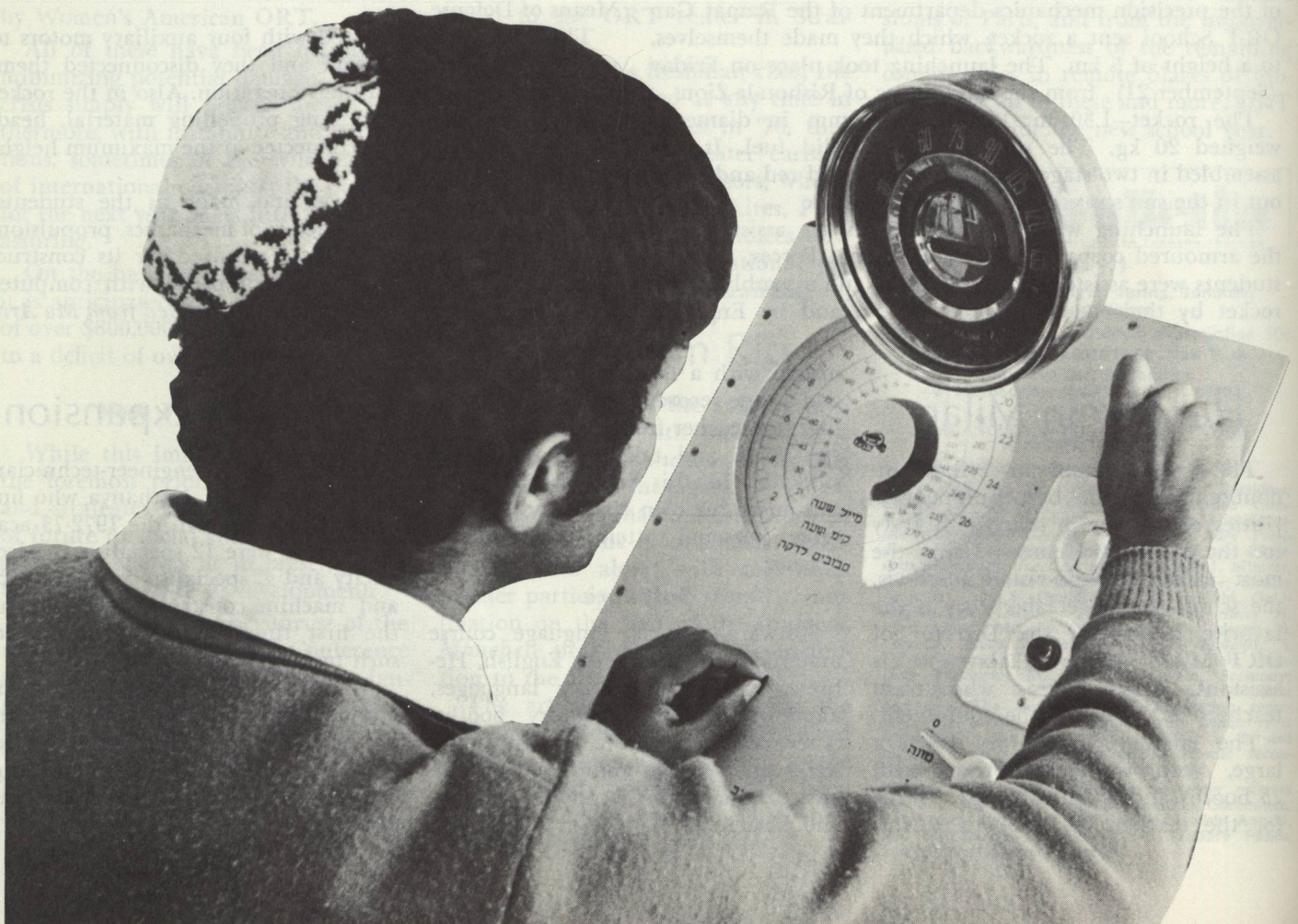
- The large number and ingenious variations of ORT projects in such

places as Zaire, Ivory Coast, Kenya, in fact throughout subsaharan Africa, and the funding of these manifold operations both by the governments involved, as well as by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the foreign aid agencies of Sweden, Switzerland and others seems to me to certify ORT as a quite remarkable practitioner of manpower development in the new nations of the world, something Jews have every reason to crow about.

Trauma

- The considerable role of ORT in relieving the trauma of exodus and the confusion of arrival in Israel of Soviet Jews, as recounted in this *Yearbook*, provides a clue, in one sense, as to where ORT has been all these years.

The secret lies in an adaptive quality that makes ORT useful in all the



places and all the too numerous occasions of Jewish *tzores*. That includes, as this *Yearbook* recalls, in the Warsaw Ghetto, in the DP Camps for those who survived the holocaust, no less than among the Bnai Israel community of Bombay or miserable hell-holes of Jewish habitation in Iran and North Africa.

The catalog of what ORT is doing and where and on whose behalf can be extended indefinitely. Never mind such details as the sudden upsurge of ORT services in Argentina precisely when the community faces economic bankruptcy; or that the ORT schools in France have official state authority to collect certain taxes earmarked for vocational studies; that ORT is responsible for having modernized a whole generation of Iranian youth; or even that among its vast activities ORT Israel happens to be the country's largest publishing house in technical literature.

The thought that struck me full force, as I turned these *Yearbook* pages, is that these are quality schools offering quality education. After all, ORT is a voluntary agency, not a government. It does not have the

muscle of compulsory school attendance laws.

These youth, by the tens of thousands, lost ones and life's losers, bottom-of-the-barrel backward or bright middle class, literate and illiterate, they all come of their own volition.

Motivation

There is no motivation problem. It's their school—and more than that—ORT is their hook on communal and personal identification, as well as their pathway to a future they want.

Teachers and students share the same aspirations, fully cognizant of the larger significance of their mutual efforts. These are schools without tears. The air is filled with openness and acceptance, remarkably contemporary in the best of current educational practices; and future-thrusted in terms of the science-based technology it teaches.

A Different Tune

If the ORT horn does not scream from the housetops, at least it is filled with deeds. And if the melody is muted, it has a sweet sound and should be sung, because it is ours.



YEARBOOK AVAILABLE

Copies of the 1973 ORT YEARBOOK may be obtained on request to the American ORT Federation, 817 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003

Left—Lesson in maritime navigation at the Rogosin ORT Maritime Technical School located in Ashod. *Below*—Senior students at the Val D' Anfa ORT School for girls in Casablanca, Morocco, taking a lesson in laboratory procedures.



Fitting

Soviet Jews

Into the

Israel

Pattern

By Lea Levavi

The colloquial Hebrew learned at an *ulpan* is not enough for an engineer, a physician or other professionals whose work requires a technical vocabulary. So the ORT Institute for Adults, at the request of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption gives supplementary courses in Hebrew technical terminology—as well as a variety of other special courses—to new immigrants.

Since the program started a year and a half ago, these courses financed primarily by the Absorption Ministry with ORT subsidizing the rest, have been given at Absorption Centres. However, courses are now opened at ORT schools around the country for immigrant professionals who are already on their own, provided they have been in the country less than three years.

Eager

Lipa Bass, director of the ORT Institute for Adults, recently described the program to me. "We used to start these courses after the immigrants had finished four months of *ulpan*. But by then they are sitting on pins, eager to find work and to leave the Absorption Centres. So now we start after they've had two months of *ulpan*. We give 60 hours of technical Hebrew and an extra 15 hours of what I would call 'how to be a good citizen'."

All the study materials have been prepared by ORT's own staff—which has, in its work with Israeli students, been called upon to prepare courses in everything from flower arranging on a professional level, to highly technical subjects. "But teaching technical terminology to immigrants is a new field," Mr. Bass said, "and our course booklet has been changed three times during the year and a half we've been working."

Reprinted from

THE JERUSALEM POST

Though courses for Absorption Center residents are usually held at the centers themselves, ORT's own schools are used wherever possible and ORT teachers are the instructors. The Danish Refugee Council, which considers the Soviet immigrants, refugees, has decided to donate two special language laboratories for these courses. Wherever geographically feasible, students from Absorption Centers will be brought to the ORT schools (in Givatayim and Afula) where these laboratories will be set up.

One big problem in these courses



Soviet immigrant student at the ORT Technical Center in Nathanya.

is the variety of professions represented. All the engineers at a particular Absorption Center usually learn in one class—but there are great differences in terminology, once you get beyond the basic geometric and algebraic terms, between a chemical and a mechanical engineer's vocabulary. And what do you do if you have one doctor at an absorption center? He needs an entirely different course than engineers. Then, of course, there are the special problems of mathematicians, physicists, economists and other groups.

"Best We Can"

"We try to do the best we can to give each immigrant what he needs," Mr. Bass said, "but I'll admit there are complaints. Now that we are opening courses to all new immigrants whose professions require it we should be able to form more homogeneous classes."

For those immigrant professionals who cannot find jobs in their fields, the ORT Institute has so far offered one retraining course in which 28 men and women learned production and quality control.

"The big problem here," Mr. Bass said, "is one of status. We had one student who was a shoe engineer in Russia. Here there is no such profession but apparently his was a high status job there. He considered production and quality control a blow to his status."

Waiters, Too

Of the 67 special courses for immigrants given so far, 58 have been in Hebrew technical terminology. A few courses have also been given for those who needed to learn technical terminology in English. The Institute has also offered several short courses (two or three days) to help immigrants make their own home repairs—and even to teach them how to be better "waiters" in the Absorption Center dining room.

People and Events

Key Post for Friedman

The new Chairman of the Overseas Services Committee of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds (DJFWF) is Harold Friedman, active on the American ORT National Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

In his new post, Friedman heads one of the DJFWF's major units, concerned with the massive needs of Jews in Israel and other countries, including ORT services in these communities.

Harold Friedman has a distinguished career of Jewish service. He is a Past-President of United Hias Service, and belongs to the governing bodies of CJF, JDC and UJA, among others. Last year, he was appointed to the newly created U.S. State Department's Advisory Committee on International Organizations.

Re-Knitting an Historic Tie

Those who can recall 50 years back will remember that the first American organization to associate with the work of ORT, then embattled in saving victims of World War I, the Russian Revolution and the "cold pogrom" policies of Eastern European States, was the Workmen's Circle.

The Workmen's Circle sent \$15,000 to ORT via underground channels right in the midst of war in 1916, and responded to an appeal by World ORT Union delegate Dr. Aron Synagalowski at its Toronto Convention in 1922 with a contribution of \$5,000. The relationship between the two organizations was far from monetary. In fact, the Workmen's Circle contributed massively in leadership to the formation of American ORT, and its top officers hold key posts in American ORT to this day.

But not since 1922, more than a half-century ago, did the Workmen's Circle participate substantially in ORT financial support, nor was it asked to do so. That was the situation in a nutshell, until last Spring, when for the first time in 51 years an ORT spokesman came before the Work-

men's Circle's National Executive Board to appeal for help, this time Shelley Appleton, Chairman of the American ORT Administrative Committee and head of American Labor ORT. Reason—the ORT budget emergency.

The appeal fell on friendly ears. The Workmen's Circle governing bodies have now endorsed help for ORT in its crisis. A Workmen's Circle Committee for ORT has been formed, with Sid Esterowitz as Chairman and Rose Plavin as Secretary. Workmen's Circle Branches are now designating their ORT Chairmen.

Cleveland Seminar

Men's ORT chapters have not only spread around the country to new communities, they have also shown considerable attractive capacity. New men have come to ORT who have community experience bred into their bones. They are eager to put that know-how to ORT work. But how is what they know to be translated into ORT organization structure and function?

Since that question is national in scope, applying to many chapters, the National Organization Committee has appointed one of its co-Chairmen, Dr. Roland Moskowitz of Cleveland, to create appropriate development strategies. Steps have been taken in several directions, including UJA Young Leadership.

The most ambitious endeavor to date is the Cleveland ORT Seminar, a full evening of exploration and dialogue on the whys and wherefores of ORT as a constructive force in Jewish life and as a pragmatic action program on the world Jewish scene. Paul Bernick, Executive Director of American ORT, donned the academic mantle for the occasion. Chapter President Alvin Gray was in charge of arrangements.

Platt OKs Long Hair

Harry H. Platt, founder and Past President of Detroit Men's ORT, currently Chairman of the National Organization Committee of American ORT, is an attorney of considerable repute and one of the most respected management-labor arbitrators in the country.

Striking a blow for individual right to choose his own appearance, Platt made headlines in *The Detroit News* recently by one of his rulings: "The A and P had been ordered to hire back seven men it laid off because they had long hair and to pay them more than \$10,000 in back pay. The arbitrator's ruling, which is final and binding, will also allow the employees to wear wigs. . . . Harry H. Platt, nationally known umpire in labor disputes ruled that the firm's work rules banning goatees, handlebar mustaches and hair extending below the collar were 'unrealistic in light of contemporary social custom'."

Dr. Epstein's 500 Letters

Dr. Harry H. Epstein, founder of Atlanta Men's ORT, who has been the spiritual leader of the Ahavath Achim Synagogue for more than 40 years, during a recent sabbatical in Israel, decided to share his impressions with congregants and members of the ORT chapter. He arranged for a mailing of his report to more than 500 Atlantans.

"I spent many hours at the ORT schools in Jerusalem, and I was worn out by the vastness of the main school in Tel Aviv," writes Epstein. "The ORT Center in Nathanya is a pleasure to behold. ORT is big and modern, and it is doing important work. . . . I felt justified in the ORT chapter we have built. . . ."

Kleinman at 80

His face and demeanor are deceptive. He walks with the vigor of age 40, his eyes sparkle as they always have, his mind is always ahead of you and he has yet to miss a meeting of the Board of Governors of the District Jewish Federation, the Jewish Labor Committee of the Detroit Jewish Appeal. He happens also to be a fine physician.

He became an ORT activist in pre-revolutionary Russia, when it suffered a barely legal existence, resumed his ORT association on his arrival in the U.S. in 1923, and has been on its governing bodies ever since. His name is Dr. Shmarya Kleinman, turned 80 a few months ago and going as strong as ever.

"Without Israel We Are All in Trouble"

by Paul Zuckerman

General Chairman
United Jewish Appeal

I am filled today with a sense of shock—stunned by the suddenness of the vicious Arab attack against Israel. This treachery was compounded by the timing of the attack, taking place as it did on Yom Kippur, the holiest of holy days in the Jewish calendar.

Even as Jews in Israel and around the world prayed for peace Friday night and Saturday, a new page was being written in Israel's bloodstained history—the Day of Atonement War.

A few months ago, Golda Meir said that while the Jewish people do not exist for Israel, Israel exists for the Jewish people, and I believe that. For without Israel, we are all in trouble. In this time of crisis, we must stand firm with the people of Israel by demonstrating our support concretely within the next hours, days and months.

Calm

Despite the fact that the people of Israel are turning all their efforts towards defense, the processing of arriving immigrants continues to proceed efficiently, in an atmosphere of calm.

Nearly 4,000 Soviet Jewish immi-

grants have streamed into Israel since September 30, the largest number to come since the beginning of the recent Soviet Jewish exodus.

I know that in every Jewish heart there is a deep love for Israel that in an emergency supersedes all the petty aggravations we live with day-to-day. And this love must be translated into an act of solidarity with the people of Israel now.

3 Musts

This is what we must do together:

One, we must collect \$100 million in cash in the next five days. This means total mobilization of our total personal resources and that of every Jewish community.

Two, everyone whose pledge is not fully paid must be contacted immediately for full payment on outstanding pledges.

Three, solicitation of top gifts for the 1974 campaign must be accelerated at unprecedented levels, with maximum cash advances on the 1974 gifts.

Burden

Our hearts are heavy. The burden of this war is enormous, and will tax every resource of that small country. Winning a war is an expensive ordeal. The humanitarian programs which we support must continue during this critical period.

Cash is urgent and it is we who must fill that need. By doing so we

will show the people of Israel that while there may be a blackout in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, there is no blackout in the hearts of the Jewish people."

And Still They Come



One of the most remarkable human dramas of the age hardly makes headlines. The almost daily arrival of Soviet Jews in the very midst of the war has few if any parallels in the tragic annals of human conflict. And still, in defiance of all logic, they come, immigrating to a country at war, 4,000 in October.

The variety of ORT programs for Soviet Jews, including specialized technical language courses for hundreds of new arrivals in order to facilitate their entry into their professions, and the retraining of teachers and engineers for faculty posts in the ORT schools, continues unabated.

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