

WORLD ORT UNION

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CENTRAL BOARD MEETING

London      July 1977

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

From

ORT WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

1974      -      1977

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## ARGENTINA

### Women's Committee

The Women's Committee of ORT Argentina has not undergone any significant modification in recent years as far as its working methods are concerned. The only change that should be mentioned is that the number of its members has increased considerably during the past year to an actual total of 30. This was the result of an intensive campaign carried out by the President, Mrs. Sarita Werthein which included efforts in the field of public relations. The campaign was difficult because, whilst many women are interested in and appreciate ORT's work, there are only a few with the will and the possibility to work on its behalf. Fortunately an excellent group is now active which it is hoped will grow during the current year. In addition, several mothers of ORT students whom Mrs. Werthein interviewed have joined the Women's Committee and it gives them great satisfaction to be able to work for ORT.

So outlets for activity for ORT have broadened considerably and with improved cooperation, efforts bring in better results and lead to new activities. A very fine concert was given by the Bariloche Ensemble which received a good press, an exhibition of Argentinian painting was held as well as meetings in the homes of some of the members of the Women's Committee, when new people are invited to get to know the work of ORT and to participate in it.

The activities outlined above are in addition to the traditional programme run by the Women's Committee which includes the collection of scholarships and the annual end of year gala.

Scholarship collection is the specific task of Mrs. Sarita Werthein and it involves considerable public relations efforts in following up positive sources. It should be mentioned that each year many donors pass on the names of contacts within their group of friends who in turn join in ORT's work. Planned for the current year is an intensive campaign to attract members, whose contributions would be generous enough to cover the cost of one scholarship each.

The Annual Gala coincides with the termination of the school year - a two-fold reason for holding it and many students accompanied by their families attend. It is always held in a large summer residence near the city and guests enjoy a whole day in the sun and fresh air, with an excellent buffet lunch, presents, a tombola where they can win generous prizes donated by the Women's Committee.

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The Women's Committee of O.R.I. Argentina has not undergone any significant modification in recent years as far as its working methods are concerned. The only change that should be mentioned is that the number of its members has increased considerably during the past year to an actual total of 30. This was the result of an intensive campaign carried out by the President, Mrs. Sarita Wertheim which included efforts in the field of public relations. The campaign was difficult because, whilst many women are interested in and appreciate O.R.I.'s work, there are only a few with the will and the possibility to work on its behalf. Fortunately an excellent group is now active which it is hoped will grow during the current year. In addition, several mothers of O.R.I. students whom Mrs. Wertheim interviewed have joined the Women's Committee and it gives them great satisfaction to be able to work for O.R.I.

So outlets for activity for O.R.I. have broadened considerably and with improved cooperation, efforts bring in better results and lead to new activities. A very fine concert was given by the Argentinean female which received a good press, an exhibition of Argentinean painting was held as well as meetings in the homes of some of the members of the Women's Committee, when new people are invited to get to know the work of O.R.I. and to participate in it.

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This year, with new working prospects opening up, a study has already been made of new projects which will complement the present programme.

Concerning problems which the Committee faces in its task, the only major one is the difficult situation in which the country has been for several years, which, of course, affects the Jewish Community and which means that any activity can only be carried out if the Committee's efforts are doubled.

At the same time, this situation is responsible for last year's good results, since in the totally negative atmosphere prevailing in the country, any activity undertaken meets with success as much from the financial angle as from the support shown by ORT's friends.

It is hoped that this year the situation of the country will improve and that then the ORT Argentine Women's Committee can state with all certainty that they will go from strength to strength.

Groups are starting up in the water works of work. Through lady team professional and business wings are being brought into the organization especially through annual luncheons and it is hoped to form the first professional and business women's group. For the first time a professional women's luncheon is being organized as luncheon next October. The need for increased work in the country will necessitate new thought possibly in the field of encouraging alignment without involvement i.e. "Friends of ORT".

In the field of expansion the problem of finding the right kind of work predominates. The majority of women approached are either deeply committed to other organizations or, if they have slipped the net are not willing to ally themselves with any communal cause. The difficulty of finding the committed ORT worker expands each time she works. The best area for the future development of ORT in this country lies with the young married woman, who in today's climate seems to prefer to work on a mixed group basis, i.e. husband and wife working together; but while internal difficulties regarding working cooperation remain, this field does not seem to be open to us. A major problem is lack of proper liaison between the two sections of ORT in this country. This I feel can only hinder our progress as very often there are two groups going after similar goals to the detriment of both.

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## BRITISH WOMEN'S ORT

Submitted by Mrs. H. Freidman

The following changes have taken place in British Women's ORT since the last Central Board Meeting held in 1974. New professional direction - Mrs. Hilda Freidman replaced Mrs. Bernice Greenbaum who left in October 1974. Mrs. H.H. Wingate has now become Founder President and the Presidency has been taken over by Lady Chain who is playing a much more active role within the organization especially with regard to a different level of membership, i.e. interesting the professional woman. For the past two years B.W.O. has been run by Joint Chairmen - Mrs. Renee Soskin and Mrs. Rya Bud but regrettably in May after many years Mrs. Soskin is not standing again for re-election; hopefully she will retain all her contact with us and be available for public speaking.

The face of the organisation has changed much and is geared more both to increased membership and more general fund raising. The provinces are being opened up for the first time and B.W.O. groups are being formed, albeit with difficulty, and new active groups are starting up in the outer suburbs of London. Through Lady Chain professional and business women are being brought into the organisation especially through annual luncheons and it is hoped to form the first Professional and Business Women's group. For the first time a Professional Women's Luncheon is being organised in Manchester next October. The need for increased membership in this country will necessitate new thought possibly in the field of encouraging alignment without involvement i.e. "Friends of B.W.O."

In the field of expansion the problem of finding the right kind of woman predominates. The majority of women approached are either deeply committed to other organisations or, if they have slipped the net are not willing to ally themselves with any communal cause. The difficulty of finding the committed ORT worker expends much time and energy. The best area for the future development of ORT in this country lies with the young married woman, who in today's climate seems to prefer to work on a mixed group basis, i.e. husband and wife working together; but while internal difficulties regarding working cooperation remain, this field does not seem to be open to us. A major problem is lack of proper liaison between the two sections of ORT in this country. This I feel can only hinder our progress as very often there are two groups going after similar goals to the detriment of both.

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The following changes have taken place in British Women's OKI since the last Central Board Meeting held in 1974. New professional direction - Mrs. Hilda Freidman replaced Mrs. Bernice Greenbaum who left in October 1974. Mrs. H.H. Wingate has now become Honorary President and the Presidency has been taken over by Lady Chain who is playing a much more active role within the organization especially with regard to a different level of membership, i.e. interesting the professional woman. For the past two years B.W.O. has been run by Joint Chairmen - Mrs. Renee Soskin and Mrs. Rya but out regretfully in May after many years Mrs. Soskin is not standing again for re-election; hopefully she will retain all her contact with us and be available for public speaking.

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### WOMEN'S CANADIAN ORT

In spite of these problems B.W.O. has made much progress since the last Central Board Meeting. Membership is on a much stronger basis and endeavours are being made to have a much more informed membership - a membership that puts ORT first and not something to be worked for if nothing else is at hand. This is achieved through talk and lectures on the schools by visiting speakers and by the Women's Organiser who has visited so far the French schools and some of the Israel network. This direct link is most important. Attempts are also being made to have more direct contact with other women's ORT organisations within the network, especially in Europe where a joint convention in one of the operating countries could be useful.

Fund raising functions are being encouraged on a much wider level and encouragement is being given to individuals to hold fund raising events for us. A most successful new venture in Women's ORT fund raising was the dinner held recently at the House of Lords sponsored by Lord Wigoder and admission was by scholarship donors only.

'L'Chayim' is being used to great advantage and the showing is also being encouraged in non ORT organisations and has been shown effectively in the 6th forms of non-Jewish and Jewish schools. A showing has been arranged on a commercial basis for one week at a cinema in a predominantly Jewish area and an ORT desk will be set up in the foyer. Speakers on ORT have visited schools and youth organisations where much interest in our work is shown, especially in these days of untrained youth and unemployment. An interesting article called "The Skills that Society needs" was written by Lady Chain on the work done by ORT especially in France, and was recently published in the Times Educational Supplement.

There is still much to be done to further work of B.W.O. in Britain and greater involvement is needed from the lay leadership but hopefully we need not be too despondant for the future.

Inter-organisational discussions especially with other professional directors, I feel would be of great value and I look forward to this opportunity in July. I hope that it will be the first of regular exchanges of opinions so that progress and problems can be discussed. I feel sure that we all have much to learn from each other.

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## WOMEN'S CANADIAN ORT

Submitted by Mrs.D.Shoichet

### Since Jerusalem, 1974

One of the major changes that has occurred in Canada stems from the current revolution among women. Our images of ourselves, our needs and expectations, our very roles in society are being challenged at every level of consciousness. These changes make it difficult to attract the young women to a fund raising organisation, because they see these roles as demeaning. More and more of our Jewish women are returning to University and/or business. As yet, with few exceptions, and I am one of them, they have not been able to juggle the responsibilities to self and community.

Of course this is a nation-wide problem which touches every organisation. For these reasons, our membership campaigns have become more sophisticated, and intensified.

### Leadership

Taking an overall view of our Canadian organisation, I feel confident in saying that our leadership is moving towards a greater level of professionalism and sophistication. I demand this from myself and expect it from the Executive Committee Members. Leadership training, therefore, has developed a new importance in Women's Canadian ORT with several different programs emphasizing leadership responsibilities and techniques.

### Fund Raising

Probably the most important change since Jerusalem, 1974, has been in the increase in our commitment. In 1974 - 1976 we accepted a \$500,000 amount which we not only met but exceeded, and for 1976 - 1978 we have accepted a \$600,000 commitment.

Fund raising is no easy task, especially in this troubled economic community. The shadow of the Party Quebecois and separation falls across the entire nation. We are not certain yet how this will affect fund raising in Montreal, but there is grave concern. It seems that we must broaden the base of our appeal, for there are simply too many demands of the Jewish Gift Dollar. With these factors in mind, we are stressing the following fund raising schemes:

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- Celebrity Auctions
- Antique Shows
- Bazaars
- Tennis Tournaments

2. Nation wide cooking contest "Queen of Jewish Cuisine"  
 (in coordination with the International Meeting of  
 Professional Chefs in Jerusalem 1978)

3. Patrons and Scholarship Donors

Funds continue to be raised in the traditional ways as well:  
 teas, fashion shows, children's shows, raffles, gambling  
 nights, dinner dances and the like.

We shall continue to meet our commitment to World ORT Union,  
 which, if measured on a per capita basis, compares very  
 favourably with any other nation.

One thing that has remained unchanged since Jerusalem 1974 is my  
 conviction that Canada needs the expertise of a professional  
 Public Relations consultant. Using expert techniques all year  
 round we could make ORT a household word in Canada, as well  
 known as "Campbell Soup", and thereby double our fund raising  
 in any two year period. My biggest problem is with a small,  
 vocal, hard core group within my own Executive Committee, who  
 refuse to acknowledge the worth of such services.

This problem notwithstanding, Women's Canadian ORT is growing  
 in prestige, and is being accepted as a dynamic movement, not  
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## FRANCE

During the past three years, the Women's Committees of ORT France have intensified and developed their activities considerably. This is due to several factors:

1. General expansion of ORT's work in France ;
2. Continuous rise in its student body ;
3. The arrival, in successive waves of immigrants from North Africa, particularly from Morocco ;
4. Unemployment which has also affected many parents and forced them to apply to the Women's Committees for social assistance for their children who are studying with ORT.

The Women's Committees operate in all cities where ORT has a school unit. Their financial and social help - free or reduced price meals, scholarships, holiday camps, vacations in Israel for the most deserving students, gatherings for the celebration of Jewish Holydays, etc., is of great value.

It should be emphasised that the organisation of activities during the vacation periods is of particular importance since it stops students losing the benefits gained from the Jewish Education they have acquired during the school year.

Women's Committee fund raising events have become the highlight in the life of some Jewish communities.

### 1974

In 1974 the tasks of the Women's committees increased in number. Rising prices led to increased costs in the free meal service. Maintenance, transport and equipment grants multiplied. The cases of total care of students, carried out through monthly payments to the Committee during the school year, augmented.

Meetings of the social assistance commissions, visits to schools were a principle factor in work efficiency.

The traditional luncheon which marks the end of the school year took place on 11th June. Mr. Ephraim Tari, Information Secretary at the Israeli Embassy participated and spoke on "Peace in the Middle East, Mirage or Reality", a subject which naturally aroused great interest amongst those present. Mr. Jacques Soustelle spoke at a dinner debate on the theme "Israel and the Middle East" and his presentation was much appreciated by the participants.

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The Marseilles Women's Committee encouraged and financially supported many extra-curricular activities, such as sports, excursions, holidays for ten students in Israel where they stayed on a kibbutz, etc.

At Strasbourg, the end of year meal was organised by the Women's Committee and took the form of a garden party, gathering together final year students, their teachers, local ORT administration and the Women's Committee.

In Metz and Colmar, local Committees continue their efforts, under the guidance of their two new Presidents, Mrs. Rheims and Mrs. Pierre Dreyfus, respectively.

In Toulouse, the Women's Committee organised a very successful dinner debate in which Mr. Daniel Mayer participated.

#### 1975

1975 was International Women's Year when the ORT France Women's Committee were all the more convinced of the necessity to increase their work at the heart of the organisation.

Among the 1975 events, the Fourth National Conference for ORT France Women's Committees should be emphasised. Uniting more than 100 delegates it met, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. L. Roubach, National President and was attended by Baroness Lucy de Gunzburg. Mrs. L. Chekler, President-elect spoke on the social assistance work carried out for students in the three Paris schools. Mrs. J.J. Roubach, Secretary General also spoke.

After a presentation by Mr. Robert Blum, then President of ORT France, delegates heard Mr. F. Schrager, who spoke on American Jews and by Mr. Georges Melamed, then Director-General of ORT France on "Present day ORT 1975".

Regional Committee Presidents presented their activity reports in turn: Dr. J. Valensi, for Marseilles, Mrs. J. Kahn for Strasbourg, Colmar and Selestat (the Presidents of the two latter committees were unable to be present), Mrs. Brunschwig for Mulhouse, Mrs. Aguilera for Lyons, Mrs. Grynfolgel for Toulouse and Mrs. Rheims for Metz.

The second significant fund raising event was the General Assembly which took place on 23rd September at the beginning of the new school year.

In spite of the unfavourable economic situation, the results of the annual sale in Paris were excellent. This sale attracts thousands of people every year and it has become a very important event in the Paris Jewish Community Calendar.

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Mr. E. Schieber, Deputy Director General of ORT France gave a talk on Sociological Changes in the Community, which was attentively followed by the large audience.

The General Assembly reelected Mrs. L. Chekler, President Elect and elected a second President Elect in the person of Mrs. J.J. Roubach.

As in the previous year, the Social Assistance Committee had to meet many requests for grants and scholarships for particularly needy students. A group of young people benefited from the annual trip to Israel. Students participating in this trip were chosen by the Management of their schools for their good behaviour and for having shown in their way of life a real and profound love of Judaism.

The Lyons Women's Committee took off to a fresh start under its new president Mrs. Aguilera with membership recruitment, fund raising events figuring on the committee's programme.

In Marseilles the Women's Committee organised several fund raising events with one of the most important being the dinner debate attended by Mr. Daniel Mayer.

Other events, such as bridge parties, etc., contributed towards increasing income.

The Strasburg Committee made great efforts to increase activities in spite of economic difficulties in the region. The Annual Cocktail party organised at Hannukah was a great success in the life of the community.

The Colmar organised a dinner debate, Metz its annual Fair. In Selestat a collection was made among members (taking into account the small Jewish population in the area).

In Toulouse, the Committee organised a dinner debate when Mr. Nataniel Garine, former Ambassador of Israel participated.

### 1976

In 1976 the members of the Women's Committee became increasingly aware of their social responsibility and of the role they had to play, and this found expression in a growing participation in the many activities organised by each group.

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Visits to Paris region schools, where attendance has grown, contributed to the growing interest on the part of the Community in ORT's work and the Women's Committee social assistance.

The Paris Women's Committee marked the end of the school year with a reunion at the Villiers-le-Bel school. Guest of Honour on this occasion was Mrs. E. Lapid, wife of the Consul General of Israel.

Mr. A. Primor, Counsellor at the Israeli Embassy honoured the Women's Committee of Paris by speaking during a meeting held in the French-America Association building. Close attention was given to his brilliant speech on "The Diplomatic Situation in the Middle East Conflict".

In Marseilles, the Committee organised a cinema evening with the film "Fidler on the Roof", a tombola, bridge parties and teas.

The Annual Strasburg Cocktail Party was very well attended.

The Toulouse Women's Committee organised a cinema session in November.

In 1977 the Women's Committee are aware of the fact that in the coming year they will have to confront new problems and heavy responsibilities. The expansion of the schools, the creation of new courses and the immediate projects planned by ORT France compel the Committees to make increased efforts. It is hoped that the programme worked out by them for 1977, which will be detailed during the 5th National Conference to be held on June 2nd at Villiers-le-Bel Centre, will contribute towards giving the ORT students the possibility to follow their studies without material anxiety and to envisage their entry into working life with confidence.

4.

Visits to Paris region schools, where attendance has grown, contributed to the growing interest on the part of the Community in ORT's work and the Women's Committee social assistance.

The Paris Women's Committee marked the end of the school year with a reunion at the Villiers-Je-Bel school. Guest of Honour on this occasion was Mrs. E. Lapid, wife of the Consul General of Israel.

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## IRAN

### Women's Committee

Ever since the National Fund (Sanduk Meli) became active in Iran, they stopped fund raising activities run by all other committees including those operated by women. ORT Iran feels that the more active the Women's Committee becomes, the closer it gets to the aims of ORT. The National Fund was contacted several times, therefore, until permission was given over the past two or three years, for the following activities to take place.

1. Monthly lunch meetings have been held regularly except in exceptional circumstances.
2. The National Fund has agreed to pay the Women's Committee Rls. 20,000 per month in lieu of membership in addition to the allocation they are obliged to pay ORT.
3. The past two years agreement has been obtained to hold a well organised annual gala. The Women's Committee and the Central Committee collaborated on these two occasions both of which were extremely successful.

Supporters for the Women's Committee are increasing and there are several younger members who lend a helping hand at festivals and religious celebrations, especially Purim. Prizes are distributed to outstanding students and gifts contributed for the more needy. Help is also given in the purchase of raw materials, both for building and general needs.

A recent meeting of the Women's Committee decided that, with the consent of the National Fund, activities should be increased and that membership fees should gradually be collected, even if their amount was kept at a low level. This project is scheduled to be put into effect after the Iranian New Year Holidays.

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## WOMEN'S ISRAEL ORT

### JERUSALEM

The organisation has been active in this city for 25 years. In 1975, a dental clinic was opened in the Kennedy Apprenticeship Centre serving all the ORT schools in Jerusalem. The students receive reduced price dental treatment there.

In 1975, a sale was organised at the Plaza Hotel and other sales were run to help students coming from large and needy families. Evening meetings were organised for members who were potential donors, fashion shows were held and day trips and conferences were organised for members. There was also a tombola. Activities took place in the main in the Kennedy Apprenticeship Centre, but assistance was given to all ORT students in the city of Jerusalem including transport payments, clothing, medical care, meals, etc.

1976: The film "My Father's House" was shown to 500 guests. An exhibition of Israeli painters was organised as well as a sale at the Plaza Hotel, conferences, fashion shows, reduced price clothing sales, etc. At the Kennedy Centre a physical culture centre was set up, bearing the name of two ORT students killed in a bomb attack in Jerusalem. There was also a tombola and a film on the life of Mr. Itzhak Rabin, the patron of which was Mrs. Rabin. ORT schools were visited.

1977: A series of conferences were held for members, a fashion show was given at the Han Theatre, dental care given in the clinic was improved, a sale was run at the Plaza Hotel, a tea was given to encourage membership recruitment, and there was a reception for the delegation coming from Women's American ORT.

### HAIFA

The organisation has been operational in this city since 1966 and members work on a voluntary basis in the Apprenticeship School at Kiryat Shprintzak. Daily meals are served to the students, help is given in organising the celebration of festivals and Holydays, and the most needy students are given special financial and social assistance. The Women's Committee also works in the Carmel, Kiryat Bialik and Afula schools.

Members have helped new immigrants and during the Yom Kippur War, they came to the assistance of soldiers' families and to the wounded. In 1975, an evening meal was organised at Kiryat Bialik when a show was given, and there was also a fashion show of work by ORT pupils.

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1976: Opening of a dental clinic at Kiryat Shprintzak attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour, together with members of the municipal government of Haifa. The centre serves students from ORT Haifa, ORT Ussefia and ORT Afula. The air ticket was paid for an Afula student who had to have a urgent eye operation in the United States. A sale and a tombola were also organised.

1977: Opening of dental clinic at Afula and at Kiryat Bialik: reception for the delegation from Women's American ORT, organisation of Bar-Mitzva celebrations for needy students from Kiryat Shprintzak.

#### TEL AVIV

During 1974, several fund raising events were held and new members recruited. Regular work was done with needy ORT students. Four fashion shows were held in Savyon, Natanya, Ramat Gan and Tel Aviv, as well as a carpet and painting exhibition. Members attended conferences and there were also special meetings for mothers of students to encourage them to work with the Women's Committee. A dinner, under the patronage of Mr. Chaim Herzog, was held at the Migdal Daniel Hotel.

1975: Both the general public and the students enjoyed a tombola organised by the Women's Committee. A fashion show for 600 guests was held at Natanya. A very big sale was organised at Ramat Hasharon and another one at the Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv. Conferences and parents meetings were held when Mrs. Dvorah Tomer and Mrs. Nitza Douek participated. 300 people attended a cocktail party at the Canadian Embassy. Economic and social assistance was extended to the students.

1976: Books were collected for school libraries, "L'Chaim" was shown at the Grand Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv and Mrs. Nitza Douek gave a conference in Eilat. Mrs. Tomer and Mrs. Douek went to Beer-Sheva for discussions with the Mayor of that town concerning the opening of a Women's Committee there. A big sale was held at the Hilton, Tel Aviv, a clothing sale at Lod, contacts were made with the Industrial Union, there was a parents' meeting at ORT Givatayim, Pnina Zaltzman gave a recital at the Tel Aviv Museum and schools were visited. Mrs. Dvorah Tomer and Mrs. Nitza Douek visited Europe and the United States and the regular aid programme to students including clothing, meals, transport costs, didactic material, etc) continued. A new committee set up in Kfar Saba.

1977: Monthly conferences were held for members, schools visited, and parents' meetings took place. There were two fashion shows a reception for the Women's American ORT delegation at Mrs. Douek's house, a concert given by the Chamber Music Ensemble at the Tel Aviv Museum, scholarship collection for students and a book collection. A meeting was held for Savyon women to encourage them to help the ORT Lod school. All financial aid accorded to students comes from annual income of the Women's Committee.

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The Committee will hold a tombola at Mrs. Mery Grinbald's home during the month of July.

#### KFAR SABA

This Committee has been running since 1976 under the chairmanship of the Mayor, Mr. Zeev Geler. The women committee members work daily in the ORT Guidance School on a voluntary basis, preparing meals, looking after the library and helping students with reading and writing difficulties. They also have contact with students' families. A sale was organised as well as a fashion show and school visits. A membership recruitment campaign has been launched.

#### HOLON

This Committee only began activities in the Spring of 1977, and has about 100 members at present. Voluntary work is carried out at the Pedagogical Centre at Holon where meals are prepared and served. A library has been set up and the students are helped with their homework there.

Members have organised two sales for students' families and have run a scholarship campaign. Members also help in preparing end of school year festivities.

Next year the opening of a school club is envisaged where students will be able to play and listen to music and meet together.

The organisation of a big sale and exhibition is also envisaged which will include hand work done by members.

#### STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<u>Members:</u>	4,000
<u>Membership Fees and Fund Raising Activities:</u>	
1974/75	142,000 IL
1975/76	135,000 IL
1976/77	300,000 IL (estimated income)

\$1 = IL 9.40

The Committee will hold a rambola at Mrs. Mary Grigal's home during the month of July.

KRAR SARA

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## ITALY

### Women's Committees

Since the last Congress held in Jerusalem in 1974, the general economic situation prevailing in Italy has unfortunately had a negative influence on the development of activities on the part of the Women's Committees as well as in general on total fund raising potential.

There are two Women's Committees running in Italy, one in Milan, the other in Rome.

The Women's Committee of ORT Milan has doubled its efforts and its involvement in an attempt to limit the effects of the crisis as far as possible.

Alongside the Women's American ORT, the Committee contributes to the social assistance programme for the ORT students through a series of fund raising events it organises. In March there was a Dinner and in November a Bridge and Canasta Tournament. Unfortunately, increases in the cost of inscription or entry on these occasions has not covered constant currency devaluation. The Women's Committee feels, however, that these fund raising initiatives are really useful, both from the point of view of membership recruitment since each year sees an increase in the number of ORT members, and for Jewish life as a whole since these events present an opportunity for all the Jews living in Milan to get together.

At present the focus of the Milan Women's Committee is on expanding membership recruitment activities to bring new strength into the group: the possibilities for renewing the form these annual fund raising events take is under close study in order to attract more participants.

The ORT Rome Women's Committee concentrates most of its efforts on membership recruitment.

The involvement of the Committees and their respective presidents and their devotion to ORT's work should be emphasised in this report.

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