

JERUSALEM
CENTENARY
CONGRESS

31.5 '80 — 5.6 '80

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C O N T E N T S

IN MEMORIAM	3.
OPENING CEREMONY	7
Chaim Herzog Speech	9
Itzak Navon Greetings	13
Teddy Kollek Greetings	15
AJDC Greetings delivered by Sidney Leiwant	17
JCA Greetings delivered by Eliyahu Eilat	19
Keynote Address by William Haber, President of World ORT Union Central Board	21
DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT	27
CONTROL COMMISSION REPORT	39
TRIBUTE DINNER	45
Chaim Herzog Tribute Speech	45
William Haber Reply	54
Daniel Mayer Reply	57
Max Braude Reply	61
RESOLUTIONS	65
VLADIMIR HALPERIN	77
ELECTIONS	

IN MEMORIAM

CONGRESS, JERUSALEM
May 31st - June 5th, 1980

AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION AND WOMEN'S AMERICAN ORT

Colonel Jacob M. Arvey
George Backer
Hilda Bensley
Judge Maurice Bernhardt
Celia Boren
Philip Braver
Jerome K. Brody
William B. Chersky
Joseph Cohen
Emanuel Ebin
Florence Fleischer
Samuel and Isabella Friedman
Arnold Gershunoff
Elizabeth Gluck
Efim M. Golodetz
Stanley Gordon
Fred Gruen
Frank L. Haber
Norman Haskell
Louis Hollander
J. Myron Honigman
Abraham Jaglom
Carola Kaufman
Sol Liebman
Dr. Helene Loewy
Philip Lown
Dr. Isador Lubin
Leah Meklembourg
Alvin A. Mermin
George J. Mintzer
Ken J. Pezrow
Daniel Plavin
Morris Polin
Samuel Post
Jacob Potofsky
Nathan Ratkin
Samuel Reese
Claire Schlessinger
Molly Seidman
Lee Sendar
Jack Shorr
Irving Simon
Isaiah Spector
Julius Steiner
Lucille Stern
Louis Stulberg
Tess Sunshine
Gregoire Tarnopol

Dr. Adam Wiener
Fred Windmueller
Fred Zeitz

ORT ARGENTINA

David Ayzenberg

ORT BRASIL

Yeda Nelly Rinder Benzecry
Adolpho Schechtman
Jacob Gleizer
Henrique Diamante
Sabath Jarakuchansky
Tofic Nigri

BRITISH ORT

Hilary Goldberg
H.H. Wingate
Leonard Cohen
Sir Ernst Chain
Master Diamond

WOMEN'S CANADIAN ORT

Ann Rosen
Rose Green
Ellie Weiss

CANADIAN ORT FEDERATION

Saul Hayes, Q.C.
Allan Bronfman K.ST.J., B.A. L.I.B. Ph.D., L.I.D., F.R.S.A.
Joseph Woliksky, O.B.M.
Sam Steinberg
Samuel Moskovitch, Q.C.,
Joel Sternthal

ORT CHILE

F. Nathan Gorodischer

ORT FRANCE

Jacques Schneider
F. Schrage
Theodore Vogel
Vitalie Toumarkine
Mrs. Gotman
André Băllicha
Roger Worms
Bernard Carles

ORT ISRAEL

Avraham Avraham
Ephraim Orshanski
Max Issak
Yehuda Amir
Dina Bert
Yeshayahu Grosskopf
Yaacov Dror (Cohen)
David Hildebrandt
James Nors
David Gvnat
Issa Shitrit
Ezriel Shkolerman
ORT ITALY

Janna Vita Donati
Nicola Fusco
Emilio Canarutto
Astorre Mayer
Nino Pavia

WOMEN'S MEXICAN ORT

Sonia Chelminsky

ORT NORWAY

Arne Fjelbu

ORT SOUTH AFRICA

Judy Melman
Bennie Jawitz
Louis Feldman
Abel Shaban
Edith Blumberg

ORT SWEDEN

F. Borgarradet Yngve Larsson
Docent Bernhard Tarschys
F. Landshövdingen Hjalmar Mehr

ORT SWITZERLAND

Otto Heim
Joseph Chorin
Leon Zuckermann
Fred Picard

OPENING CEREMONY - SATURDAY, 31st May, 1980

Remembrance

We who are assembled here today are the heirs to the generations that went before us. We meet as part of the legacy from the founders through all who held high the banner of ORT, through revolutions, wars, pogroms, upheavals, the holocaust and its aftermath. And now we meet in the State of Israel, to celebrate this Centennial. The deeds of those before us are woven into the annals of the Jewish people. It is not intended to call the roll of the many thousands who made ORT what it was, at various times and places, but neither are we excused from recording those whose memory recalls. Therefore let us remember:

Those whose names are appended to the first public announcement of the establishment of ORT in a letter dated April 10th, 1880, from St. Petersburg. They sent out a clarion call that resounded through the communities spread across the Pale of Settlement, and elsewhere in the Czarist Empire.

Let us remember the great institutions and the extensive programmes created, nurtured and operated by those who went before us for as long as possible.

We recall the Vilna Technicum, that became the pride of the community, and set standards in engineering and studies far beyond its place and time.

The ORT Vocational School in Dvinsk, the apprentice service and workshops for the children and their fathers of the Jewish workers of Lodz, the Technical School of ORT Kovno, which attracted youth of all of Lithuania, the workshops for craftsmen established in Kiev, the schools in Bialistock, the ORT School in Berlin. To these can be added the numerous ORT programmes in towns and cities and farmlands in Eastern Europe before and after World War II, those places that were the heartland of European Jewry and are gone.

And let us not forget the ORT programme in the ghettos under the Nazis so long as they were permitted to function and before they were destroyed.

Let us remember the thousands of ORT leaders throughout Eastern Europe teachers and students who perished in the Holocaust; Those who organised ORT programmes wherever our people found haven from the Nazi overlords - from Havana to Shanghai, to Montreal and New York among others; and those who conducted the life saving work of ORT, under the nose of the Nazis in France and elsewhere.

And let us not forget the rescue of what was possible in the

brief blink of time after the Liberation from the Nazis which was quickly aborted in 1949 when all Eastern Europe was closed to us, a return to Poland for Jewish repatriation in 1957 and the expulsion of ORT ten years later.

Let us remember the men and women of stature and dedication who are no longer with us who rallied to the standard of ORT over the decades, in France, Italy, Britain, the United States, Canada, in practically every Jewish community of size, in Latin America, in South Africa, and in Scandinavia, who created the ORT of their times and their place.

Let us remember where ORT programmes were but are no more. Programmes that have ceased to exist, but remain part of our history and the Jewish history of our time. Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Roumania, Bulgaria, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Germany. And let us not forget those ORT programmes which ceased to function because their work was complete, yet in their work wrote pages of the saga of our people - Holland, Belgium, Tunisia, Cuba, Algeria and China.

Let us remember the people of distinction, faith and vision who helped to put down the foundations of ORT in Israel, the many among the pioneers of the Jewish State.

The heroic teachers and students of ORT who fought and fell in the battle for Israel's survival.

And those who fell victim to terrorist attacks on the streets of Jerusalem.

Let us remember the presence of ORT through all the tribulations, the resurrections, the horrors and the renewals, that filled the last centenary of the modern Jewish era of which ORT is a part.

And let us remember every moment, every place and time and event where ORT was with its people - the men and women of ORT.

We remember.

INTRODUCTION OF CHAIRMAN OF SESSION BY WILLIAM HABER

It is a high honour for me to be in the position to call to order this 100th anniversary Congress of ORT. From St. Petersburg to Jerusalem, what a century! Because we are meeting in Jerusalem, and because we are under the aegis of the World ORT Union, and because he has so eminently represented Israel in the councils of ORT and has represented Israel in the United Nations, I deem it most appropriate to introduce as Chairman of this first session General Chaim Herzog, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the World ORT Union.

PRESENTATION by Chaim Herzog, CHAIRMAN OF OPENING SESSION OF THE WORLD ORT UNION CONGRESS

It is my privilege as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the World ORT Union to preside at this historic Opening Session marking the hundredth anniversary of our organisation.

We in Israel have lived through this generation and have much to be thankful for, in that we have experienced many great moments in history. Most of us in my generation can go through life with the deep inner satisfaction that we were one of the handfull who fought to create the State of Israel. Many of us were vouchsafed to live and experience other great moments in the age-old Jewish history, such as the Liberation of Jerusalem, and the return of the Jewish people to its holiest of places. Now we, as part of the ORT Organisation, are living through moments which are major milestones in the history of our organisation, second only in importance to the first meeting of the founders a hundred years ago in St. Petersburg.

We are an ancient people, but in the context of modern times it is no mean achievement for a Jewish organisation to have survived through the vicissitudes which have affected Europe in particular and the world in general over the past one hundred years, because we have not only been part of the world which experienced the changes which occurred. We have on many occasions in these one hundred years been the principle target of attack of libel, of pogrom, of disability and of hatred and finally of the most horrible Holocaust that mankind has seen.

It is no mean achievement for a Jewish organisation of international ramifications to have survived all this and to be entering its second century flourishing as never before.

The significance of this evening must not be lost on us, as we gather here in Jerusalem, the capital of a free and independent State of Israel, in the presence of the fifth President

of the State of Israel, Yitzhak Navon, and the first Jewish Mayor of the united Jerusalem, Mr. Teddy Kollek, to dedicate ourselves to the tasks which lie ahead of us.

Every Jewish event has some form of significance or other. Few Jewish events could be so pregnant with significance as this one. One hundred years ago, a group of Jews decided on a new approach for the Jewish people based on the idea of directing Jews to productive work and turning artisanship and agricultural labour into a central value in their lives.

Nikolai Bakst who conceived the idea, Baron Horace Guinsberg and many others at that time opposed the ideas of Herzl's Zionism. Not one of them could have dreamed that for the 100th anniversary celebrations of ORT, active workers of the organisation from all over the world would converge on Jerusalem to a Congress which would be opened by the President of the State of Israel.

I doubt that they ever dreamed that at the Opening Session of these celebrations, the chairman would be a citizen of the State of Israel, who had been chosen to be the Chairman of the Executive of that Organisation, that there would be delegates from many countries, but not one from Russia, in which the memory of ORT and indeed of Jewish Education had been virtually wiped out. Nor would they have dreamed of the widespread activities of ORT which would develop in the second half of the first century of the Organisation in countries as far removed from them physically and from their thoughts at that time as Morocco, Tunis, Algeria, Iran, India, Ethiopia and Argentina.

Those founders of the organisation, whose memory we evoke today and who include many who opposed Herzl's dream could never have credited in their wildest dreams the fact that after a hundred years the largest organisation of ORT would be in an independent state of Israel, with some one hundred schools, the second largest centre would be in France, and the third in Argentina, while in Russia not a trace of their initiative and the movement would exist.

Therein lies the significance of the event we are celebrating tonight. We are a direct human bridge between the founders of the organisation and those who will celebrate the 200th anniversary of ORT.

Two weeks ago I addressed the impressive banquet organised by British ORT to mark our anniversary, held in the historic Guildhall in London. In the audience was a granddaughter of Baron

de Guinsberg, one of our founders, namely Lady Isaiah Berlin. The grandchildren of the children who participated today in the ceremonies tonight will link us to the 200th anniversary celebrations.

Nothing could evoke more the sense of history and the inherent significance of these celebrations, than the President of the State of Israel a son of Jerusalem and one who has endeared himself to his people.

Conscious that each and everyone of us in this Hall, will remember this moment with all its emotional and historical significance, conscious of the fact that we are witnessing an act of history, as the President of the State of Israel rises to greet this conference, and we thus pass from our first century into our second century, it is for me a source of the greatest possible pride and privilege to invite to the podium the President of the State of Israel.

ADDRESS GIVEN BY ITZAK NAVON

Shalom Alechem and Bruchim Habaim:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Mayor, distinguished delegates - may I say dear friends. When I was born here in Jerusalem, it was in 1921, there were in all Eretz Israel of those days, some 70,000 Jews. Today, there are three million and a quarter.

When I was born, the Hebrew language had to struggle for its existence. Today it is the language of everyone from kindergarten to universities. And it is amazing how newcomers learn the language so quickly, for it is not so easy.

When I was born we did not produce what we needed in agriculture, in fruits, in different commodities. Today, we produce what we need. We even export! Only 32 years ago, the total export of the State of Israel was some 50 million dollars. Today, this is what one single firm in London - Marks and Spencers - buys from Israel in one year. 32 years ago, what we could sell to the world were three items - oranges, false teeth and primus stoves. Today, we produce and export most sophisticated machines, such as, for example, operation machines, run by laser rays, export textiles, complicated machines all over the world.

The achievements of the world Jewish community, of the Jewish people in the past 90 or 100 years is unparalleled in Jewish history in any part of our time in history, or in any other nation of the world past or present. Achievements unparalleled... it was the common effort of the Jewish people which gave such outstanding results in all spheres of life.

But to mention another field, which is not so published or talked of and which is not inferior or less significant than those I have mentioned before, is the change in the attitude, the conduct of the individual of the members of the Jewish people. This was the real revolution.

If Zionism means that we take our faith, in our own hands in our historical homeland, and cease to be the object of the will of others, then the real revolution was to turn the Jews to other concepts of work, of production, and it is the only place in the world, where people who were doctors, engineers and lawyers, out of their own free will, came to work to till the land. They went for manual labour. White collars turned blue collars. One of them is here for example. Mr. Teddy Kollek, who was a member of a kibbutz. When he ceased to be there, it was because he was sent to do some white jobs in some other places in the world.

INTRODUCTION OF MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK BY CHAIM HERZOG:

This Conference is being held in Jerusalem which under the dynamic and imaginative leadership of Mayor Teddy Kollek has become a thing of beauty; in which the cultural, religious and aesthetic mingle together to give the city its character.

Indeed I would not hesitate to say, that one of the great miracles of the people of Israel and of the Jewish people in this age has been the fact that a person of the character and understanding of Teddy Kollek was the Mayor of this city when the historic events of 1967 took place.

It is my great privilege to call upon him to extend greetings on behalf of the City to this Congress.

GREETINGS FROM MR. TEDDY KOLLEK, MAYOR OF JERUSALEM

Mr. President, Professor Haber, my dear friend Chaim, delegates, I welcome you to Jerusalem.

I agree fully with the President that we have made great progress in productivity and in technical achievement.

I came to bring you the greetings and the gratitude of the city. You have done things all over the world, but you have done great things here in Jerusalem. I congratulate you on the last one hundred years, and I wish you all the best for the next hundred.

INTRODUCTION OF GREETINGS FROM AJDC GIVEN BY MR SIDNEY LEIWANT

Next, we have greetings from the Joint with which we are so closely associated and they will be brought to us by Sidney Leiwant, President of the American ORT Federation.

SIDNEY LEIWANT

I have a presentation to make to you, but first on behalf of Mr. Donald Robinson, President of the American Joint, I want to express to you his personal regret about being unable to be here to make the presentation.

They have asked me on behalf of the American Joint Distribution Committee to present a plaque to the World ORT Union on this historic occasion. I think the feelings which are behind this plaque and they go along with the plaque are best expressed by a letter which was written to Mr. Max Braude, and which I would like to read to you.

"Dear Mr. Braude,

Congratulations and warm wishes on this full century of service to the Jewish people. There are few organisations which complement as do JDC and ORT. Both reflect the destiny and the needs of the Jewish people, dispersed across the globe often in flight, and always in need of education, rehabilitation and training. Both agencies arose because of a deep concern for the survival of the Jewish people. The Joint brought relief to European Jewry after World War I. ORT gave these same people needed skills and training. The bond grew and achieved its present status, after World War II when there was an understanding that JDC on behalf of American Jewry would give ORT financial assistance each year - the pattern of cooperation, however, goes beyond financial assistance. Often JDC provides the health care, the family assistance and other subsidies that give your youngsters the ability to take advantage of an ORT school whether in Bombay, Tehran or Casablanca.

The story is the same in Israel too, where the two agencies have moulded themselves in response to the changing times, and have continued their tradition of cooperation in a turbulent world which seems always about to engulf Jewish life. The complementary work of JDC and ORT is far from complete, but we are certain that both will continue to give Jews and Jewish communities hope and dignity for many years to come just as they have in the past.

With best wishes, Donald M. Robinson and Ralph L. Goldman."

Thank you very much.

GREETINGS DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF JEWISH COLONISATION ASSOCIATION

BY Eliyahu Eilat

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor and honorable audience,

I have the honour this evening to present a greeting on behalf of the Jewish Colonisation Association - the JCA and its President, the Hon. Lionel Cohen, to mark your entry into your second century of existence. I am honoured to wish this Congress blessed and productive activities towards the progress of the aims of the organisation and towards its development.

The founding of ORT and eleven years later of the JCA marked an important turning point in the life of the Jewish Diaspora in the Common ERA.

Baron Ginzburg and his friends, who founded ORT and Baron Hirsch, who founded the JCA were privileged people in that they brought about tremendous changes in the moral, social and economic sense against a background filled with suffering, distress, shortage, degeneration of Jewish urban life, lack of local economic support, and exploitation and persecution by the tyrannic Czarist rule.

ORT, through its work, provided not only an occupation and a source for a stable and respectable existence and future for the young Jews who studied in its schools, acquiring vocational training in its workshops. With this the young man gained self respect and respect from others and also raised his standard of living.

Since the very outset of JCA, close relationships were established with ORT. JCA was very active in promoting ORT programmes and their realisation. A basis for these relations was established during the lifetime of their founders, the Barons Ginzburg and Hirsch who were both determined to raise the spiritual and material level of Russian Jewry, improving their standard of living. They constantly looked ahead at the development of Jewish Society as both a working and a creative one that derived its existence from secure and stable sources in craft, industry and agriculture.

These were difficult tasks in Russian conditions at that time and even set against the context of Zionist conservatism amongst the Jews themselves. ORT however became known in spite of this as the pioneer of initiative and action which brought new openings to Jewish youth for the future. ORT then faced the education of Jews with new moral and social challenges that brought changes, essential new and important changes to the lives of Jews in Russia. The rich experience ORT gained during her years of activity helped her later to make use of expanding and broadening activities.

I am pleased to speak of the mutual understanding and close cooperation that still exists today as in the past between JCA and ORT - a cooperation with the aim, as always, of contributing to the needs of the Newish nation in Israel and in the Diaspora. It contributes to the social and spiritual life of the whole people and establishes vocationally and economically the individual's existence and his constructive place in the society of which he is a member, in which he lives, and to whose progress and flowering he contributes.

CHAIM HERZOG INTRODUCES WILLIAM HABER, THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Over the past 25 years, Mr. William Haber has led this organization in his capacity as President of the Central Board. There will be an opportunity in which we will be able to give full expression to the years of devotion and constructive effort at the head of this organization. It is entirely fitting and appropriate that he of all people should be delivering the keynote address on the hundredth anniversary of our organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dr. William Haber.

WILLIAM HABER

I shall read it the way I have it, Mr. President, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the dais, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends. First of all I am aware of the fact that it is ten minutes to eleven and I know that the mind cannot absorb any more than the seat can endure. I am consequently aware of the time factor.

Second, I was asked to speak in Hebrew, but unlike the President, I think I can do better in English. Unfortunately, I can't even do that. And I will speak to you in American. I like to tell a tale about a cat walking down the street with four newborn kittens. It is the kittens first walk. And as the kittens stayed close to the mother and moved along, the mother turned the corner and saw a bulldog coming down toward her. She stiffened her back and let out three barks. "Woof, woof, woof". The bulldog ran and the mother said to the kittens "You see the value of a second language." I wish I had it.

Finally, I got good news for you. I cannot compete with that movie. The story of ORT, depicted by the media, summarised so eloquently by Chaim Herzog. And it is not necessary to repeat them. It would be in effect saying that you weren't watching. It is a dramatic story. Just a few lines from my notes.

We meet under the banner of this short word "ORT". In Yiddish it means the place. For vast multitudes over the decades, our people came through the doors of ORT at one time or another, at one place or another, often under the most unimaginable circumstances. In ORT they found their place. Two million Jews, one hundred years! Ten decades of survival! A task of historic significance! These are momentous figures, my dear friends. They cannot possibly quantify the incredible events which they contained. These ten decades have been

filled with more history and particularly ORT Jewish history than centuries before. ORT which became a going concern under a so-called enlightened and liberal Czar, survived pogroms. It survived two world wars. It survived the incarceration of our people in ghettos in Poland, Lithuania, Warsaw. It went with those who escaped to Paris, or New York, or Shanghai, and when the war was over, they stopped for a moment. And then they established an ORT, a place, a haven, a preparation for their future. This ORT arose out of the ashes of the death camps, which became DP camps. It was the survivors themselves, my friends. It was the Jacob Oleiski's who is sitting here this evening who began the road back to life, to hope, to resurrection.

We were already here when the State was created. A very tiny little segment. And when Ben Gurion finally announced it and the War of Independence was over, we began programmes for demobilised veterans, right here. It was a beginning. Just like Israel was a beginning, a first in two thousand years.

I have always thought, my friends, that ORT has been a programme of self help, highly practical, wonderfully resilient, always relevant. And you know, that would have been enough. But my reading of the history of ORT tells me that it was more than that. It was more than the programmes it launched, the schools it created, and ORT remains now, and will be, a movement in Jewish life. I doubt that the founders in St. Petersburg had anything of that order in mind. What transpired was the taking hold of ORT by the currents of Jewish history. And by being part of that history ORT became what it is today.

I don't want to repeat the figure which are published. The record which you have. The story which you have seen. Just two or three.

I like to distinguish, and forgive me, I am not one hundred years old. I am only 81.... I know the last thirty years like I know the palm of my hand. I can talk about them. And for the last 25 years, when I became deeply involved in ORT Israel it had 4,700 and today 70,000. And ORT had 21,000. And today over 100,000. Just to give you the magnitude of this quarter century. What I want to talk about this evening isn't that history. Isn't the fact that this decade alone, 1970 to 1980 we graduated from ORT schools 250,000 girls, men and women. A substantial segment of the labour force of Israel and the labour force of many Jewish communities and these people came out of ORT, walk a bit taller, eat better, know what they are doing, and productively earn their lives.

What I want to talk about is what this Congress has got to do. I presume that this is what the keynoter is supposed to do. The ORT we have constructed in the last 25 or 30 years without any reflection about the founders (quite the contrary), we built on their foundation, it must be the basis of what we do in the next 20 years. And hopefully, in the next century.

This Congress is a watershed for a new beginning. I perceive our work as drawing the future of ORT, as a movement for continuing social change, as a movement for the deepening of Jewish meaning and identity, and to provide economic underpinnings of Israel and for Jews everywhere.

This Congress is organised around the work of five commissions. And the work of these commissions and other business of the Congress will be handled in five plenary sessions. I'd like to say a word about these commissions and what I hope they will do. While only addressing particularly the delegates, it is of no less interest to the visitors who are here not as delegates but as visitors. First, the Commission on Research and Development. I hope it will explore ORT's new directions. The roster of occupations, which exist today, did not exist fifty years ago. Many of them were not found in the census of occupations of the United States. There are new jobs that never were here before. And I am certain by the year 2,000 which speaking in terms of history is just the day after tomorrow. There will be hundreds of occupations, millions of jobs whose names we have not yet invented. We cannot have an ORT curriculum teaching yesterday's occupations and today's skills. We must train people to adapt. I like a phrase in the American occupational census, which talks about a family of occupations. And I hope that our Commission on Research and Development looking at the technical changes taking place will take a look as to what shall we be dealing with in the year 2,000. What shall we be teaching, what kind of equipment will we need, what kind of institutions will we have to build.

I suggest that the second Commission on ORT's role in education should look upon its task in a very comprehensive way. Education is preparation for the unexpected. We live in a world of the unexpected. It is the mechanism by which one generation passes on to successors their own experience in all things. Its a method, a scale of values, and we must make certain. I would like to pound that in, that the men and women we train in ORT tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. We train not only technicians and craftsmen, but men of dignity and confidence in their grasp of the world in flux.

The Commission on Critical Areas. (I congratulate the planners who put in a commission on that subject, because you cannot look around the world, we don't have to talk about Iran, a dozen places in the world without mentioning the Soviet Union are critical areas). We should take a broad view about where are the areas of danger in this commission.

The President of the State asked me sitting next to me "Do you work behind the Iron Curtain". I wish we did, we aren't allowed. We went back to Poland in the mid-fifties, for a very short time and were expelled again. We might go to Rumania, we don't know. But there are no opportunities. But we must be ready. We must have our welcome place for those who for example come out as refugees, as escapees let us say from the Soviet Union, because fortunately, some come, and we must be ready whether it is in Rome or in Israel, or in New York, machines, and teachers and investments ready to help them prepare for a life in a free world.

You will find in your kit something called a report on Long Range Planning. The Commission on Long Rang Planning. You know my friends, when you live to be a hundred years, you have a right to make long range planning. It could not have been made in 1880. It was quite uncertain even in 1910, and only fools would have made it in 1920, but here we are in 1980. We got to look ahead. There is this document. I want to congratulate the people who worked on it. Mr. Braude, Mr. Gould, Mr. Appleton and half a dozen others. It really looks at what is likely to happen in the Jewish communities of the world in the field of occupations, in the field of technology, in the field of migration. It is the best outline of what is likely to face us. And I congratulate those who put it in there, and urge that it be the basic document of this congress and be distributed to every delegate.

In the Commission on ORT as a Movement, you will recall that I used the word movement, on the importance of membership organisations, on fund raising and I suggest that it should be bold. Let me say it bluntly. I am of the view that ORT has been consistently underfunded. ORT has not to this day received the kind of resources that are anywhere commensurate with the priorities it occupies if we care for our children, and if we care for the economic underpinning which is required.

We must emancipate our minds of the self imposed inhibitions we put on ourselves. I may have been guilty of them.

Why not think of 200,000 students. Yes, maybe by the year 2,000, or 250,000. It is not subversive. It is an exciting idea. We would not have dared think of 100,000 20 years ago, or ten years ago. I have heard a director of ORT Israel talk about his 100th school. If you listen carefully, he also said they are crowded, they are inadequately equipped - we need more, why not think of 150, why not work out the plan to do it. And what is true here is true in Argentina. It is true in other Latin American countries. France has a fantastic ORT programme. We are very proud of what French ORT leadership and French ORT movement has done. A new school has just been finished. It is not the last. They are also crowded.

In brief, we are at the beginning and we ought to use this history and in particular these thirty years to look forward and to look ahead.

I should not in the closing moments, please stay with me three or four minutes, fail to mention our deep debt and gratitude, (I speak as the president of ORT), to the organisations of ORT. Yes, I see Ruth here, Beverly is some place, Women's American ORT. It has been the creator of ideas in ORT. British ORT, Swiss ORT, Norwegian ORT, Latin American ORT, South African ORT, real dedicated believers in the ORT ideal. And I think we have got to recognise that. I see in this hall tonight ORT workers, leaders! I was deeply moved when I met walking around earlier, some of the leaders of yester year. I tried not to be too sentimental. I didn't always succeed. But I haven't mentioned 4,000 teachers. They are part of this Centennial. 100,000 students, they are part of this Centennial. Organisations of men and women and alumni all over the world, they are part of this Centennial.

We live in very slippery times, uncertain, and we cannot build on sand. I happy to say that, as I see it, we have built well on the past and on the last thirty years. Mr. Braude had a phrase "We stand on the shoulders of those who went before us and can, therefore, see further". Let us build, so that the present generation coming up can stand on our shoulders and arrive at a time when our mission is accomplished.

A personal note, this is the last Congress of ORT which will hear my voice in the capacity as President of its Central Board delivering a keynote address on the functions of this body. Someone else will be in this place at the next such event. If I may use my prerogative of being here now and your patience in listening for one moment more, I want to share with you the joy that wells up in me as I recall what

ORT has been in my life. There are many here on this platform and in this hall to whom I owe deep thanks. For their generosity of heart and spirit. I have found among my colleagues in ORT and in all the distant places I have visited, an intangible quality that I can only describe as the family of ORT. And I found hospitality and personal warmth.

Fanny, my wife, has been with me in my journeys, with the presence of her spirit when I have to go alone, and I thank the family of ORT for taking both of us in wherever we went and wherever we have come. I am deeply moved, because, among other things, ORT has been to her and to me a thirty year journey of spirit. So many things, so many people have become part of our lives, have enriched us, have opened our eyes and senses, have deepened in the most profound sense our Jewish identities. As I look around at Max, Beverly, Ruth, the other leaders, my dear friend Daniel Mayer, Paul Bernick, Shelley Appleton, Pierre Dreyfus, to the long list, I embrace you all. You are part of my heart. I do not say farewell, you can count on me. I intend to be around. But most of all I have a sense of leaving things in good hands. ORT will go and go well. It produces its own, they are here today. They will carry on to higher heights. Thank you.

Chaim Herzog

We have tonight been privileged to live together through a moment of history. The movie of this session will no doubt be shown at the opening of the 200th anniversary and we will join the founders of ORT in the memories of our successors. This opening ceremony marking our 100th anniversary stands adjourned.

Monday, June 2nd, 1980

Max A. Braude

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

The role of World ORT Union Congresses is to make policy decisions for the future. The role of ORT's Executive Committee is to convert these decisions into programs of action for operation and funding. The role of the Director General is to direct and execute these plans under the supervision of its Executive Committee and several sub-committees, and to report progressively and regularly to each of these bodies. A British statesman said recently that political parties have no problems in formulating policies which are their platforms for the future, but the Government elected must act and take the responsibility for its action. That is far more difficult.

As I look back on my decades of association with ORT and service to ORT I find that with the exception of trying to move ORT from Geneva to London, and actually moving it, the duty I found most onerous was preparing reports.

This is the 40th report I present to a World ORT meeting and my 8th to the policy making bodies, the Congress and the Central Board. Since I shall be retiring within the next three days, this is obviously my last report. I am sure that the many veterans among you join me in feeling and saying -- dayenu.

The task of reporting to a Congress is simpler because Congresses are loaded down with all sorts of documents and reports; it is also simpler because at every Congress the President of Central Board inevitably reviews the history from 1880 to the present day and projects the future. This Centenary Congress is different, for you also have Dr. Leon Shapiro's hundred year History of ORT. The Control Commission Chairman, in addition to giving the Commission's evaluation, positive or negative, of the Director General's administration fulfills its constitutional function of reporting on the execution of the resolutions of the previous Congress. That is unavoidably a report of the activities of the past six years. Theoretically, therefore, the Director General is left with very little to say, unless he disagrees or wishes to comment on the reports which precede his. However, this time since this is my final report to the World ORT Union, I think it is my privilege to highlight what were the outstanding elements during my quarter century of service as Director General and to make some general comments on the future as I see it.

What you have already heard and what I shall be reviewing is the record of a period of amazing growth and considerable accomplishment. Those facts are inescapable. I remind you that though the last twenty-five years were not all fat years they were a period during which the circumstances and the climate, the cooperation of lay and professional leaders and the atmosphere helped make

it possible. Lest you suspect that I am taking more than my share of the credit for this accomplishment, I assure you that I still feel as I did twenty-five years ago, four years after Syngalowski's death, when I stated to the 80th Anniversary Congress in London: "I request that you constantly bear in mind that if whatever I report upon appears to you to be heavy underlining of marked progress, advance, growth and expansion under my stewardship, remember that a boy is always taller than his father when he rides on his father's shoulders." All of the developments, improvements and achievements of the past twenty-five years reflect the constant application and loyal devotion to building on plans and foundations well laid by Syngalowski, Lvovitch and Bramson, and those who preceded them.

In a recent article Sussia Goldmann who worked with Bramson, Lvovitch and Syngalowski described Bramson as a practical visionary, Lvovitch as a realistic dreamer, and Syngalowski as a pragmatist with a dream. These three men dominated ORT's leadership practically from the beginning of the creation of the ORT Union. I choose the word "dominated" deliberately for theirs was the period during which there was little conflict between lay-leadership and the professionals, at least at World ORT Union level, since its Chairman and Vice-Chairmen were its lay leadership though professionally employed by ORT. The decisive separation between voluntary and professional roles came only after Syngalowski's untimely death.

Sussia describes their dreams. He says that Bramson dreamed of the day when the validity of vocational education would be so established that Rothschild's son would enroll in an ORT school. Lvovitch dreamed of the day when the name ORT would become synonymous with vocational education to Jews and Christians alike around the world. Syngalowski's dream he summarized as being theirs too, but an additional one as well. He hoped for a system or ORT schools in which the Jewish worker or Jewish technician would be trained not only as a whole man but as a whole Jew. Goldman writes that it is sad that not one of these men lived long enough to see his dreams and aspirations fulfilled. But ORT has either fulfilled all of them in total or to a great degree in the past quarter of the century. Our schools have acquired reputations as such quality educational institutions that parents of every economic level are proud to enroll their children. ORT vocational training schools are no longer, as in Bramson's time, havens for orphans or the deprived, the displaced or the rejects of academic educational systems. Lvovitch's dream came true in a different manner than his own attempts to fulfill it through creating parliamentary committees, but through the status we gained by the quality of our basic and technical

assistance work which achieved for us the recognition of tens of governments, the United Nations development agencies, the World Bank, etc. Though we are not completely satisfied with the realization of the second half of Syngalowski's dream of educating the whole Jew, we have indeed come a long way since 1952 when a simple resolution calling for the strengthening of Jewish education in our schools met with opposition in the Congress and was barely passed. Everyone in ORT now appears to accept the fact that we have a major role to play in Jewish education and in strengthening Jewish identification. We all accept the dictum of Syngalowski: Jewish schools not schools for Jews.

I shall spare you detailed country-by-country reports, for those will be mailed to you after you have absorbed the extensive documentation in your kits and the oral reports you will hear. Instead I call your attention to a set of charts which have been distributed to you which reflect the growth of ORT's service to Jewry by making Jews productive citizens and its contribution to the economic viability of the Jewish communities around the world.

The charts span the period from 1950 (the first year when an organized central statistical system was established) to 1980. They show that whereas we served 19,000 people twenty-five years ago, last year we served 99,330 and by coincidence have already passed the one hundred thousand figure during this our hundredth year. Thus our educational and training activities have increased more than fivefold. The most significant chart is the one labelled "Student Body in the Technical and Vocational Schools". It shows that in our three year, four year, five year and sometimes six year high-school programs we now have $7\frac{1}{2}$ times as many high-school students within our network with all the responsibility that that implies. We will have 50,000 young people this year to whom we must give a broad enough technical education to allow them to adapt to the changing modern world. We have 50,000 youth whose working careers will go into the year 2030, a fifty year period during which the rate of technologic and scientific advance will be more geometric than arithmetic. 50,000 young people to whom we must give the general educational and cultural background which makes for quality in their future lives. 50,000 young people between the ages of 14 and 20, their most formative years, the years when they change children to adults, the years when very few Jewish youngsters - except the few in Jewish secondary day-schools, get any Jewish education whatsoever. Barmitzvah or confirmation, if they have one, is for the great majority the end of the line until their children in turn begin to study for their Barmitzvah, if their parents retain some of their Jewishness. Thus we become the largest secondary day-

school movement in the world at a time when the alert is constantly sounded against Jewish alienation and disaffection.

Yes, one of the most significant factors of these past three decades has been the shift from a program which was 70% young people in long-term training. Syngalowski used to say: "From a Feuerloescher emergency organization we must become a network of normal educational institutions." That we have become. Yes, we still do a lot of adult training and retraining. We still have refugees, displaced people and immigrants to train and retrain and reclassify occupationally. There are still tens of thousands of Jewish refugees and migrants 35 years after World War II, and there will be more. We shall always remain alert to their needs, but that is no longer our largest task.

In total one-half million people have completed their education and training in ORT schools and courses since World War II. For most of us it is hard to visualize even a single number as one human being, one personality. It would be more meaningful to us if this was a graduation ceremony for 1979 and not a Congress, and you were distributing diplomas to our 9000 high-school graduates only, at the rate of one a minute. That ceremony would take as long as the duration of this Congress if we worked twenty-four hours a day. We graduated only 325 in 1950. Here the growth has been 3000% -- 30 times as many.

This is indeed a great record of expansion and one of the explanations of why our world-wide budget went from \$3,000,000 twenty-five years ago to the \$69,000,000 we will spend in 1980.

The growth in numbers served is only one of many factors of the increased cost. The shift to a 70% concentration on secondary school education and the advance of technology are more important factors. That requires constantly growing large capital investment for building and equipment almost everywhere in the world, a factor which was a relatively insignificant part of the budget twenty-five years ago. I recall the great concern, fuss and fury and even the battles with the JDC about spending \$60,000 for a building in Morocco. Today we worry about buildings costing six million dollars. Twenty-five years ago a student lathe cost \$1200; a numerically controlled lathe today costs close to \$100,000. We used to buy or get gifts from Olivetti of \$1500 calculators; today we buy or lease computers costing \$300,000. Yes, quality technology schools need better buildings and much more expensive equipment and its obsolescence rate is increasingly rapid. But the major factor which caused this great budget increase was rampant inflation ranging from no less than 10% anywhere we operate to 100% in the country of our largest operation and over 200% in

the country of our most rapid expansion.

Increased costs and increased deficits are not a great accomplishment. The achievement on which ORT can congratulate itself is the manner in which we met, or, in recent years, almost met, the needs caused by the rapid increase in expenditure. ORT as a movement and an organization managed to grow steadily and to meet practically all of the increased need until several years ago. Whereas in 1954 we derived 62% of our central income from the UJA via the JDC, and AOF, in 1980 that support drops to 25%, a reflection of the growing strength of ORT organizationally almost everywhere. The steady planned progress of our strongest membership organization, Women's American ORT, became an example and a challenge to all other ORT groups. With few exceptions there was steady progress -- despite difficult times -- and in different ways. The progress in some, like England, was amazing. Complementing this growth in Central Income that was the achievement of a goal set long ago -- in fact at the founding of the ORT Union in August 1921. "Emphasis was placed on the necessity of local self-help and local participation in ORT budgets, not only as a means of financing local projects, but as a social principle distinguishing ORT from traditional patterns of charitable work." That is written history. The oral history comes during my first five years of service during which I was indoctrinated to the dogma that if an ORT program is needed it will be supported by the Jewish Community it serves; if an ORT program is valid, it should supplement governmental responsibility, not substitute for it, and receive governmental support. It is true that there always were and still are some areas where we cannot get or do not choose to accept government support. Nevertheless, though in 1954 only 30% of the worldwide cost of the program came from local sources, in 1980 77% of our world wide operational costs will be met in our countries of operation themselves.

My feelings waver between frustration and amazement when some of our organizations protest against the progress we have made in getting local support for programs. They have two arguments: supporting national organizations worry about the loss of authority and independence; the support-receiving organizations worry about the loss of influence or weight in negotiation and ultimate government take-over or nationalization. I am reminded of the old shtetel story about the old man who would come to the railway station every day with his old dog to watch the daily train go by. Every day his dog would bark furiously and chase the train. The old man would stand there contemplating the scene and stroking his beard. "Reb Moshe", somebody said, "what are you thinking about so seriously?" He replied: "I always wonder what my dog would really do with the train if he caught it."

There are indeed few governments anxious to assume an additional public payroll, even if the cost to them were the same. It is hard for me to believe that the Government of Israel is anxious to add four thousand people to its public payroll, but if it is I do not believe that would be a catastrophe. We would be able to turn to tens of other unmet Israel vocational training needs. I also believe that they appreciate the objective amount of our expenditure from abroad regardless of its relative percentage, and if they decide to and manage to catch our train I am not particularly frightened about what they will do with it.

To conclude these comments on the financial record of the past twenty-five years I remind you that I said we had always managed until recent years, although the budget went from three million dollars to 69 million in twenty-five years. But the growth in the first nineteen years was only up to 35 million dollars. It was in the six years since the last Congress that the budget practically doubled. A great deal of this was due primarily to inflation in the countries of operation and in most countries was met proportionally from local sources. The World ORT Union central budget problem was primarily related to the devaluation of the dollar, a factor which had the most impact on our headquarters in Switzerland where the dollar had gone from its consistent SFr. 4.30/4.35 for many years to rates below 1.60 and sometimes breaking 1.50. National deficits did not grow nor were programs cut, since the World ORT Union maintained its level of support to the national organizations. The World ORT Union's deficit grew because of its constantly increased headquarters costs. The expansion of the headquarters capability to meet growing needs ceased. The economy measures attempted were more than surpassed by the increased cost of the franc. It was already evident in 1973 that a move was indicated and I so recommended in 1974. By 1978 to my mind it became an imperative. It was my firm conviction that moving was necessary, for I felt that the World ORT Union had a larger role to play as the world-wide network grew, but that was unthinkable if it continued to be inhibited by soaring costs. It was for that reason that I did not retire in September of 1978 as I had planned, for my move proposal met with no enthusiasm, in fact strong opposition. Some of you are well aware of the ensuing difficulties after the proposal was made and even after the decision had been taken on two occasions. Time and money, a considerable amount of money, was wasted in the process of study, examination, research and debate, but even more serious than that was the development of a rift between those countries who provided support to operating agencies and the majority of those countries which receive support. Many wounds were opened and though most of them have healed some still remain. If there are many errors for which I take the blame over the past twenty-five years, I

think the major one was my not forcing the issue in 1974. It would have been easier and cheaper then. In retrospect, however, I am firmly convinced that despite the costs and heartache, anger and frustrations, even vendettas, among lay-leaders and staff alike, and even between them, that the decision was a proper one. We have arrived at close to a balanced operational budget for 1980 and in the years that follow immediately ORT should be close to a balanced budget while at the same time strengthening its headquarters, unless income drops. A by-product of the move, which was not foreseen entirely, was a complete rejuvenation of the headquarters staff. My successor will have the advantage of developing a new team, all younger than he is, less handicapped by experience and less costly. Time, I hope, will heal most of the wounds of our lay-leaders, or at least the pains of the opposition will become less acute. It was the staff for whom the decision to move was most difficult. The staff that departed, or will depart, because of the move were and will, I believe, be treated equitably, but were hurt. Nevertheless, a staff exists to serve an organization; an organization cannot permit its staff to become a higher priority than the purpose for which it was founded.

What I have said thus far reviews only the growth in students and costs during these past twenty-five years. The greatest satisfaction ORTists should have from the past quarter of a century, however, lies in other areas and not in growth alone. At the last Central Board meeting I reported on almost all of them, quite immodestly emphasizing my own role in their development and attributing most of them to accidents of time and place, if not to Divine Providence. I reported on the creation of our apprenticeship program in Israel in the early sixties. Giora Josephthal's role in that, and the role of the late Yigal Allon, the Minister of Labour who provided sizeable support. The late Zalman Aranne, a most ingenuous devoted and productive Minister of Education accused me of favouritism to the Ministry of Labour. I replied with a challenge.

It was - given the same support by the Ministry of Education which we had from the Ministry of Labour, vocational training in Israel could be doubled within a five-year period. He reacted promptly and favourably and supported by the late Pinhas Sapir an agreement was signed on 30th December 1964 whereby the State would cover the operational cost of every additional student. ORT was to share the cost of the equipment, a responsibility Women's American ORT assumed and continues to meet to this very day as the Israeli network continues to grow. Eliezer Lewin-Epstein, then President of ORT-Israel, cabled me stating "agreed and signed, your impromptu suggestion has become reality to the

benefit of ORT in Israel and the State of Israel." That was the beginning of the assumption of major financial responsibility for ORT's and other vocational training programs by the State. Prior to that time we had received I£40,000 annual subsidies. That agreement was the basis for today's situation, with 85% of ORT-Israel's operational budget met in Israel. I hasten to add that World ORT did not reduce its objective support to ORT-Israel as a result of the agreement. The 15% we will provide this year is four times as much money as the 75% we provided before the agreement.

At the last Central Board meeting I reported on the development of the concept of ORT technical assistance to developing countries. The results, if not already well known to you, certainly will be after the Commission meetings. Our success thus far is remarkable. Our program began with a survey of vocational training needs of some eight sub-Sahara countries which I headed personally -- I suspect because I was frightened of what lay ahead. I was afraid that what seemed logically possible for ORT could end up as operationally unfeasible. My fears were unfounded. Our position in the field of development work is now well recognized. Despite the loss of five head-quarters staff members concomitant to the move to London, the program continues to grow under the able administration of its new director.

You will notice that I do not designate him by name. That is deliberate. So much of the record of our achievement in the past quarter of a century is due to so many of our professional staff, from the heads of WOU departments who have been the three legs of the firm chair on which I sat, the WOU Division heads and their staff, and above all the directors of national organizations and their staff, the directors of schools -- from all of them up to the directors of transport, communications and public relations -- I mean people like Julius Nick in Israel, Fritz Rohrbach in Switzerland and Alberto Ballicu... in Italy, so much is to the credit of all the staff at all levels, that I hesitate to mention any other names for fear of forgetting someone. I wish to assure every single one of them, present or not with us, of my sincere appreciation of their total cooperation and dedication, and to say to each of them -- thanks, thanks very, very much, personally and in your behalf.

But back to the Technical Assistance program. It has grown in size and sources of support. It has enhanced ORT's image, Israel's image and, in fact, the Jewish image. It is a social and economic need and a humanitarian purpose which we helped meet while in no way departing from our service to the Jewish people, in fact strengthening that service.

One of the most important aspects of the period was the complete overhaul and updating of our pedagogical techniques which we began in 1960. Until that time I am afraid we had been applying the same educational methodology which we used in Vilna in 1920. I recall during my first visit to South Africa being invited by the Ministry of Education to see one of their vocational training programs for blacks. It taught only brick-laying, masonry, carpentry and tailoring. The teacher of tailoring was not in his classroom when I came in with the government inspector. I walked up to the teacher's desk and found lying on it a tailoring program printed in Yiddish. I asked the inspector what language it was in. He thought it was Zulu. The program dated from the early thirties, when the instructor had attended an ORT course in Kovno. ORT was still using the same types of program in the fifties, uebersetzt but not much verbessert -- translated but not much improved. We seem to have been blissfully unaware of the fact that satellites were roving in space. We were uninformed about the innovations in educational methodology which had been introduced in England, Scandinavia and the States at the beginning of the space age, to some degree inspired by western shock at the technological advances of the East. In 1960 we began to renovate our pedagogy, firstly by exposing our directors and senior teaching staff to the new world of education by study missions abroad. That pet project of mine became and remained one of ORT's highest priorities since then and is the background and the basis of the high quality to teaching at our schools, at every level from elementary vocational training to advanced technological studies.

I think you should also be aware of the advance in the quality of ORT's Jewish educational program. I deliberately say "aware" and not "proud". For though we have improved appreciably in quality I still think we are inadequate in quantity in some countries.

An excellent resolution was adopted by the last Congress on the purposes, necessity for and quality of the Jewish education we should provide. Though otherwise strong, it only called for a minimum of three hours a week for Jewish subjects, instead of the modest five which I had asked for. It is true that many of our schools now exceed five hours, but one of our largest networks still simply seems to be unable to exceed three.

We have raised the level of the skills we teach from electrical installation to advanced electronics, from carpentry to computer technology, for example, providing opportunities for elite education for those qualified in almost every high level technology, while not forgetting the needs of the scolastically retarded and

competent. We have some magnificent advanced institutions in spacious modern buildings and some small ones in barely adequate quarters performing as important and as difficult a function as the giant ones. We have never failed to respond to a real need. I think ORT's national Presidents and Directors will confirm that though we may have kept them on a very tight leash budgetarily, we never refused, because of financial limitations, to respond favourably to any new initiative which was a clear need, and our capacity to meet it, possible.

Every one here has had a major role in and made a major contribution to this fine record -- to the fulfilment of the dreams of the leaders of the past. All of you have made it possible for us to adopt Kadima - Forward - as our watchword. ORT did not do it all alone. We did it together and with the help of several sister agencies and supporting organizations, a list headed by the JDC whose help has more than quadrupled in my time. It is the accomplishment of all the national organizations around the world, their leaders and their members, their directors, their school directors, teachers and staff as well. Some of you performed the hard operational functions; others of you had the equally, sometimes more difficult, task of finding the means to support the work being done. Some of you spread the ideology as well as making of ORT not only an effective agency, but the productive movement it is today. Perhaps we, born in St. Petersburg, should in Russian style applaud each other on our past.

But what about ORT's future -- It is indeed a difficult and dangerous thing to predict the perspectives of our hundred year old organization as it goes into its second century. The atmosphere in which it begins is fraught with universal problems and, of course, Jewish ones as well. There can be no denying that we are in a period of almost universal economic recession. There can be no denying that we are in a period of growing unemployment and spiralling inflation. There can be no denying that we are in a period of rising anti-semitism. We are in a period of decline in Jewish demographic growth, coupled with growing alienation and the disaffection of Jewish youth. Forty years after the holocaust we are still in a period when Jews are suppressed, discriminated against and in some areas in great danger. We are in a period of fear for our brethren in the event of any political upheaval whether it comes from the deposition of a ruler or fear of one's death. Pessimists, and the pessimists are usually right, would say all these things will continue into the foreseeable future. It has been said that there never was a period when the outlook for Jews was good. There have been times when it was better. But there certainly have been

times when it was far worse. Thank God for the creation of the State of Israel, for Jews now have a place to go to, if they are free to move. No, they will never again drown when rotten vessels sink at sea because they are not permitted to land anywhere. Though the quantity of the exposure may be smaller and the extent of the danger somewhat less, one can only predict a precarious period ahead. Yet it is against this background that this Congress will adopt long-range theses. For we must plan our posture and our strategies for our second century despite the uncertainties. There are of course some things which won't change. There will be Jewish poverty in almost every part of the world and we shall have to play our part in combatting it. The problems of Jewish identity among the young generation are not simply solved by the recognition of them, excitement about them, and by raving and ranting speeches on every Jewish platform. There is definitely something ORT can do about that among the hundred thousand young people and adults who now study with us every year, and those we can reach in Jewish community schools. I suppose one could say that a hundred thousand a year is a drop in the ocean. It is more than rhetorically interesting to realize that the ocean is made up of drops. There will continue to be the question of improving the quality of Jewish life. Will Jewish leaders only be found in fundraising circles or will they come as well from the traditional educational, religious, cultural and other social sources of Jewry? ORT has a heavy oar to pull in all these troubled waters too, and we will make some headway. And as for ORT in its basic role -- education and training -- the constant problem of technical change in geometric proportion will continue. That will require consistent and more teacher training, constant updating of existing training and the constant addition of new skills to our gamut. We shall it seems never be without the migrant and the refugee and must do our best to serve them best in the ways we know best. We shall have to remain alert to the improvement of our pedagogic methodology, research and development. Our centers for this purpose in Israel, Argentina, Switzerland and France must be further developed and get more central assistance and direction. Although ORT-Israel has long been a major vocational training network in the country and has spread from Hazor in the North to Eilat in the South, there are still many thousands unschooled, there are many needs as yet unmet, many of which we are uniquely equipped to handle. The same is true of France and Latin America. We shall move into Jewish Community schools at their request, update and make them more comprehensive, and make them better so that they will attract more students in the affluent as well as poorer communities. This aside from meeting ORT's dedication to career education, general education plus a saleable skill,

we will provide the opportunity for giving good Jewish education to more and more youngsters in the battle for Jewish identity.

I think our rate of growth can be maintained. The need is certainly there. I therefore consider it as not far-fetched to predict that we will reach our second hundred thousand students way before we reach our 200 anniversary. I think it is practically unavoidable in thirty years. I think it is possible by the year 2000, if you continue to strive and strain as hard as you have in the past decade. We have made remarkable strides forward these past ten years. But there is still a whole world of potential support for ORT as yet untouched and areas in which we have not even begun. My optimism about ORT's future comes from the evidence of this centenary year. It proved how much ORTists can do, if they really set themselves to it. I repeat that though the current outlook is somber, it is not that much worse than what the outlook was ten years ago. During that ten years we experienced our most remarkable growth despite the adversities. If we continue to view adversity as a challenge the dream of 200,000 students by the year 2000 will not be a dream but a reality. It is in your hands. Thank you and God bless.

REPORT OF THE CONTROL COMMISSION OF THE WORLD ORT UNION

TO THE CONGRESS 1980

Given by Claude Bigar, Chairman
of the Control Commission on
Wednesday, 4th June, 1980

It is often asked what the functions of the Control Commission are? Does it review the accounts of the schools? What does it do?

According to the Constitution, it reviews all the activities of the World ORT Union and in particular the implementation of the Resolutions of the Congress and the Central Board, as well as the decisions of the Executive Committee.

As everyone acknowledges this definition of the Control Commission activities goes beyond the actual possibilities of action of this Commission. However, this definition has been formulated in this way so that the Control Commission may be empowered to extend its control to every activity of the World ORT Union.

The drafters of a Constitution and those who have adopted it, that is to say the previous Congresses, thus intended to endow this Commission with a vast role at the level of the world Organisation, so as to ensure to the World ORT Union a certain measure of security.

For indeed, if this Commission declared to you that it has carried out these controls and that it only had to extend its congratulations, a sense of security would spread over the whole organisation.

We have, therefore, to be told whether the controls have been carried out and what have been their results.

Straight away, we can state that events have necessitated considerable activity on the part of the Control Commission and so as to proceed in an orderly way, this report will be divided into two parts:-

Before dealing with the general controls, our proposals and our conclusions, we shall first deal with the implementation of the resolutions and the decisions. Not in order to praise or to criticise those responsible, but so as to ascertain what could conceivably be achieved and what could not, to distinguish between the possible and the impossible, and to indicate to what extent hope became reality. And also, to help you see to it that the Resolutions of the Centenary Congress which will be full of hope correspond in the best possible way to reality.

In Argentina, the student body has considerably increased and the organisation has been strengthened; local sources of finance have risen from 65% to 85% since the last Congress. The recommendations for the development of the schools in the provincial cities have been followed and cooperative activities with other schools continued.

The Resolutions of the 1974 Congress and of the Central Board of 1977 concerning Technical Assistance were short, but recommended very great development. Reality has often surpassed the recommendations.

In a great many fields, and throughout the world, Technical Assistance programmes have been carried out, together with a host of international organisations, such as the World Bank, the U.S.A.I.D., the Canadian International Development Agency of Canada, the Swiss Technical Cooperation Services and numerous others.

However, since a number of important staff members have left the organisation and the administration fell far behind in its work, the Technical Assistance Department encountered with some organisational and operational difficulties. The new Head of the Department has devoted himself with courage and perseverance to this challenging task and positive results can already be seen.

As regards fund raising, some recommendations have been followed and the results are outstanding. The generosity of donors and the devotion of the fund raisers deserve commendation. During the troubled times we have gone through, when major exchange rate fluctuations have created havoc on so many budgets, sometimes dramatically so, it is quite remarkable that donations have accumulated at such a positive pace. Spectacular progress has been made in Britain, in Canada, in Sweden and in France, and as always, Women's American ORT has surpassed even its own very high targets.

Jewish Education

The 1974 Congress underlined, perhaps more than ever before, the importance of Jewish Education in the ORT school network. This represents, increasingly, an essential component of our programmes and many families choose ORT schools for their children, mainly because of the importance given to Jewish Education.

The 1974 Congress adopted a great many recommendations. These have been followed up on two levels: by the national organisations and by seminars and study trips encompassing the entire network.

Teaching material, reference works and school textbooks have been sent to all national organisations. Student libraries have been built up and a study on Jewish bibliography edited and distributed throughout the network. Audio-visual material prepared by different national organisations has been reproduced and circulated to all the schools: slide shows of commentary have been prepared by ORT France, ORT Morocco, ORT Milan; lectures by Mr. Meir Rosenne on the

Middle East conflict, have been produced on cassettes: programmed courses in Jewish History, special issues of the technical and pedagogical bulletin have focused on Jewish Education; articles on the teaching of Hebrew by audio-visual methods; proposals of curricula and syllabi worked out by one or another of the national organisations have been distributed throughout the network.

We can say that the wish expressed by the 1974 Congress to see enthusiastic ongoing Jewish Education programmes within the ORT network has been fully achieved.

The growth of ORT France has been quite remarkable. The increase in the student body is not solely due to demographic reasons. As foreseen at the 1974 Congress, great efforts have been made to improve the flow of information which has induced numerous families to choose ORT schools for their children.

As regards the effort to improve the motivation of the students towards the skills they have been taught, this has become part of a national effort aimed at upgrading the skills that we teach. However, the majority of the students said they had chosen the technical stream because in ORT they have an opportunity to study in a Jewish atmosphere. This is a new element.

The maintenance of the school of ORT India has been assured, in spite of the continuing emigration. The conditions prevailing in industry do not allow for the organisation of in-service courses, but the quality of our diploma is appreciated everywhere.

The Central ORT Institute at Anières, near Geneva, has implemented the recommendations of Congress and of the Central Board which were transmitted to it by the Central Office. It turned out that the recommendations adopted by Congress were more extensive than those which were transmitted. The verification as to whether the texts adopted had been respected by the transmitting body, i.e., the Central Office, was not carried out in time.

Nonetheless, it is inspiring to note the excellent results of the students of the Central Institute, which has achieved a feat unique in our network, namely that of enabling the best of our French-speaking students to obtain the highest engineering degree in Switzerland, the Ecole Polytechnique diploma.

Recent political events in Iran have not prevented ORT Iran from pursuing the projects outlined in the Resolutions of the 1974 Congress and the 1977 Central Board. In fact, a school has been opened early in 1980 for the new communities in the North West of Tehran and manual training courses have been reintroduced. Under the present circumstances, the management of ORT Iran has been making admirable efforts to maintain and even to expand the schools.

In alphabetical order, we now come to ORT Israel, all the sectors covered by the recommendations - progress has been spectacular. Although we have grown accustomed to miracles in Israel, the goals attained deserve everyone's admiration.

The increase in the student body of ORT Israel is such that, at present, of all the schools of ORT throughout the world, two-thirds of the worldwide enrollment of ORT schools is found in the ORT Israel student body.

This growth has required very considerable financial support which has had to be sought, and was generally found from Israeli government bodies. Women's American ORT and the World ORT Union made efforts to contribute to this development by providing to ORT Israel what seemed possible and necessary.

Under still difficult circumstances, ORT Italy has followed the recommendation to give priority to the particularly difficult problem of finding suitable premises. Two buildings adjacent to the Rome school have been rented and adapted, and from now on ORT Italy can confidently look forward to the expansion of the schools in Rome.

In the provinces, the small communities needed support for the survival of their schools.

Very substantial efforts have been made to improve the quality of teaching and to maintain for the pupils the necessary environment in the difficult circumstances prevailing in the country.

In Morocco, the main problem is to maintain the quality of the schools and, if possible, to improve it.

The recommendations of 1974 and 1977 all stressed this point and the necessary efforts have been made. However, we realise how difficult it is to modernise instruction when adjustments have to be made to suit a Jewish population reduced from 300,000 to 18,000 persons.

However the fate of the ORT schools in Arab countries is to remain there as long as possible, working efficiently in all cases and always with a spirit of hope.

Since the last Congress the Control Commission met on numerous occasions to discharge its duties. In addition to its usual tasks including the review of the auditor's reports as well as attendance and active participation at meetings, we introduced an innovation in the working methodology of the Control Commission by conducting in-depth studies of certain specific aspects and functions of the Organisation.

We studied inter alia the activities of some national organisations, internal control, and the presentation of financial reports. More recently we conducted a study concerning the move to London. This undertaking was not intended to intervene as to the appropriateness of any decision, the latter being solely within the scope of the Executive Committee, but we deemed it essential to provide the Executive Committee with additional information.

This decision, the transfer the major part of our Geneva office to London, was taken democratically, and although economic developments since then have moved against that decision, it is still too early to pass final judgement as to the merits of the move.

During the aforementioned study we noted a number of matters which we believed should be brought to the attention of the President of the Central Board and the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Throughout our term of office we have carried out controls and we have kept abreast of the action taken vis-à-vis our conclusions.

Of course, we shall not dwell on the recommendations we have made and which have been followed-up. Rather we shall report on major findings which we have communicated to the governing bodies and which, to our knowledge, have not given rise to any substantive decisions.

1. The World ORT Union Pension Fund

As you know, staff members as well as the World ORT Union itself contribute monthly to a Pension Fund designed to provide a suitable pension for each employee upon reaching retirement age. This Fund should, naturally, give maximum security to all those who have devoted all or part of their working career to ORT; they should be able to rely on this Fund in their old age.

The legal structure of this Fund, in our view, is unsatisfactory, especially as a result of certain recent events.

For this reason we feel it our duty to repeat and strongly recommend that the Pension Fund, which is at present simply an account on the books of the World ORT Union become a foundation, legally independent of the World ORT Union. It will be up to the leaders you elect and the ORT employees, jointly, to establish this foundation at the earliest opportunity so as to ensure the security of the pensioners, though an actuarial report is not yet available.

Today's retirees and those of tomorrow will be grateful to us for having brought up this matter in our report to you, provided, of course, that our recommendations are acted upon immediately.

2. Financial Controls

These controls should provide ORT administrators, as well as the various committees, with assurance as to the regularity of the operations. The same firm of auditors has been carrying out this task for decades.

The auditor's report must reflect all the facts. In the course of our controls, we have found that the auditors submit their reports to the office of the Director General of the organisation, which then transmits them to the Control Commission. This procedure could create a situation of dependence which is contrary to accepted practice.

We are not merely standing on ceremony. It is our knowledge of the everyday reality of the organisation, of the life of the organisation which leads us to talk to you in this way. In order to improve this situation the auditors should report directly to the Chairman of the Executive Committee and to the Control Commission on any matter which appears to them to depart from customary practice, and they should do so in a detailed report.

Moreover, the appointment of these auditors should be made annually, as stipulated in the Constitution, and should not be automatically renewed by tacit agreement.

The proposed amendments to the Constitution, which have been circulated to some members, do not take these proposals into account.

3. Internal Control

Our studies have led us to the conclusion that the functioning of financial control needs improvements, and that additional legal and tax controls should be established to improve the organisation's structure.

While the outside auditors should be the entity reporting annually to the Chairman of the Executive Committee and to the Control Commission, a post of Internal Controller might be envisaged. He would be constantly at the disposal of the organisation and would be directly responsible to the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The administration of the ORT Union, including Technical Assistance, has become so vast and complex, the national financial and tax regulations have become so varied that, in our view, it would now be appropriate to adapt our structures so as to harmonise them with present and future needs.

We have been neither blind nor deaf, and you did not elect us to remain mute.

We have considered that the role of the Control Commission was first and foremost to do its utmost to safeguard the World ORT Union, and it is in this spirit that we have conveyed to you, in all frankness, the constructive comments which we deemed it our duty to make.

In conclusion we recommend that the bodies who will be elected continue to see to the further strengthening of controls both at the Central Office and in the affiliated organisations.

We thank you for your attention and before concluding we are pleased as our term expires, to pay tribute to the thousands of teachers, specialists and staff members who, in some instances, devote their entire lives to ORT, and who are entitled, as are indeed all members of our organisation, to the protection which it is the Control Commission's duty to provide.

TRIBUTE DINNER

Tuesday, 3rd June, 1980

CHAIM HERZOG

Before we pay tribute to those people for whom this dinner was planned, I would like to express our appreciation to those veterans who have served ORT for many years and who are leaving us when our hundred anniversary Congress is over. David Alberstein, who served as ORT Director in Algeria, Tunisia and Iran, and then as World ORT Union Inspector and then for many years as Chief of Operations.

Charlotte Baer, who managed somehow to survive as Max Braude's Secretary for 25 years.

Robin Gilbert, Coordinator of this Congress and many others before, whose services included Ethiopia, India and Central ORT Institute, and who for a long time served as Director of the Department of Organisation, and Fund Raising.

Berton Cantor who headed our public information services and who was responsible exhibition in the Binyanei Haouma, and the press supplements, brochures and Centenary posters.

Nathan Rosen, who headed our statistical section for over 20 years, and then stepped in to fill the job of Purchasing Officer, in recent years, most efficiently.

Victor Smaga, Director of Finance and Administration, throughout more than two decades, the last of which was undoubtedly the most complex, with its monetary revolution and rampant inflation.

Last of these veterans but by no means least is Vladimir Halperin who will have served for 36 years starting his career under Aaron Syngalowsky. He was nominated Director of the World ORT Union at the same time as Max Braude was nominated Director General. Vladimir Halperin is what is known as a real Yachsin, if we had a nobility in the State of Israel. He is our real link with the founders of ORT for he is the Great Grandson of Baron Horace Guinzberg, one of the five founders of ORT in St. Petersburg. Indeed, the Guinzberg's and the Halperins were part of the Jewish aristocracy of Russia and later of France. As many may be aware, I too have roots in France, and when my late father passed through France on his way to take up his post in Palestine over 45 years ago, he referred at a public meeting there in Paris to Vladimir

Halperin's father as "Torah Gedolah Bemakom Echad"- Torah and greatness in one place.

Mrs. Halperin is on her side the great niece of Carl Netter, the founder of the Alliance Israelite and of the first agricultural school in this country at Mikveh Israel. David Ben Gurion invariably included Carl Netter among the six most important Jews associated with our rebirth as a nation in our country.

Vladimir Halperin is a leading figure in Swiss Jewry and is President of the Central Committee of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Switzerland. His association with ORT goes back to 1944. He has been associated with ORT activities in Eastern Europe, in North Africa, in Iran, he founded ORT Belgium and was associated with Dr. Syngalowski when the latter proceeded to found ORT in Israel. He has been involved in the very vital task of ensuring adequate Jewish Education in ORT and will address the Congress on memories of 36 years of work for ORT.

Max spoke at the opening of the problems created by the move to London. There were those who opposed it prompted by a genuine and sincerely held belief that it was not in the interests of ORT. The debate was won on its merits, and the decision was taken by the responsible body authorised to do so, namely the Executive Committee. The process of healing has taken its course, and may I express here and now the hope and prayer that this process will be completed at this Congress - our Centennial, for the organisation and its purposes, is above us all.

It is right and proper therefore that we pay tribute this evening to Dr. Halperin and his colleagues. They have left their mark on our organisation and they have had the great privilege, to have brought this organisation to its one hundredth anniversary to have participated in it in Jerusalem, and to have handed on to a new generation an organisation in which the Jewish people takes the greatest possible pride. The Talmud says "Schar Mitzva, Mitzva", the reward of the good deed is the good deed itself. So with you Dr. Halperin and your colleagues, your life's work is always something you will be proud of and may you all be vouchsafed many happy and healthy years in the continuing service of a people which you have served so well.

Thank you.

We are convened tonight to take leave in their official capacities, of three outstanding and very distinguished individuals who have been involved in the leadership of ORT for all or part of the past 30 years, in other words, for approximately one-third of the life of ORT since its inception.

These have been years following the most terrible Holocaust in mankind's history in which one-third of our people were lost, and the years which saw the Jewish people take its own destiny in its hands and recreate a state in its ancient religious and political homeland.

The period after World War II was a period of reconstruction, of building, of the recreation of a nation, whether in Israel or elsewhere. It was a period of mass immigrations of our people. It was a period in which ancient Jewries disappeared and others flourished. It was a period in which the centrality of Israel for the Jewish people was emphasised, a situation which was reflected in our own experience within the ORT family. It was a period in which the great Jewish communities of North Africa, from which emerged much that is great in our history, culture, learning, Talmudic genius, the Golden Age, disappeared or became very much diminished.

It was a period in which the Jewry of France emerged as the second largest community in the free Diaspora. It was the period in which American Jewry, as a proud and distinguished component of the greatest democracy in the world and the leader of the free world, shone forth in every field of endeavour - political, intellectual, literary, scientific - and using the great gifts of freedom and affluence available in the American society, made immeasurable contributions to the advancement of mankind and the strengthening of the Jewish community.

It was a period in which a concept of all Jews being brothers and being one responsible for the other was perhaps for the first time in Jewish history completely self-understood and self-evident, and was applied, in Israel and by the Jews of the free world, in every walk of life.

It was a period in which Israel became the intellectual centre of World Jewry and the prophecy that "From Zion shall go forth the law" came to be realised.

It was also the period in which, along its own distinctive path, but parallel to the great march forward of the Jewish people, ORT rose Phoenix - like from the ashes of Eastern Europe and the Nazi Holocaust, to serve once again the Jewish

people wherever it may be and to make its contribution to mankind. And in this majestic march advancing along the road of construction, mutual help and self-help, promoting the cause of Jewish youth and Jewish education, strode ORT.

An organisation does not move forward on its own. It is led, and it is led by men and women of courage, of imagination and of stature. And when it has reached the dimensions which the ORT organisation has reached today in the world, this means that it has been led by great men and women of great courage, considerable imagination, and immense stature.

These are the people we are gathered here to honour today, each a great man in his own way, each a man who has left a lasting impact on society and a major contribution to his people and to mankind.

Bill Haber has been a leader in ORT since December 1950, when he became President of the American ORT Federation, which position he held for 25 years. In June 1955, that is, 25 years ago, he became President of the Central Board of the World ORT Union. And so this man was born when this organisation, celebrating its century, was but 20 years old, has led the organisation for one-quarter of its life. This is a great achievement, and his service to the organisation was recognised by the establishment of the William Haber Chair - at the School of Engineering in Jerusalem in 1974. His public and professional service marks him out for the outstanding person that he is - Professor of Economics and Dean at the University of Michigan, Chairman of the Federal Advisory Council on Employment Security to the Government of the United States, Consultant on Manpower to the U.S. Secretary of Labour, and Advisor on Jewish Affairs to General Lucius D. Clay, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Zone in Germany. He is generally reputed to have authored, in association with Wilbur Cohen (subsequent Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare) one of the first drafts of a State Social Security Act.

He holds numerous professional honours, including Honorary Doctorates at Brandeis University and the Hebrew University, with which organisation he has been closely associated for years, having served as Chairman of the Academic Council of the American Friends of the Hebrew University and as a leading member of its Board of Governors. He received in 1955 the United Jewish Appeal Humanitarian Award for aiding Jewish survivors of Hitlerism. A prolific writer, Dr. Haber has written more than a dozen professional books and is a frequent

contributor to professional journals. Outstanding is his landmark study of a state's economy, "The Michigan Economy".

I have barely touched on his variegated and brilliant career in the service of his country and of the Jewish people. Through all this active life his wife Fannie, who is known to us all and loved by us all, has been at his side. We are honouring you tonight, Bill, because we love and respect you, not only because of what you have done but because of what you are - a real, sincere, good Jew, whom we admire. Your name is linked indelibly with ORT, and will remain so. Your name has been perpetuated in the Chair established in your name at the Jerusalem School of Engineering, but in order to mark the appreciation of a grateful organisation, this Centenary Congress has designated a garden at the entrance to the Jerusalem School of Engineering to be known as the William Haber Garden. Thus will your name live for evermore in the environment to which you contributed so much, that of ORT, in the Eternal City which means so much to you and to which you have been so devoted. We in ORT Israel, for our part, are proud that your name will grace the garden at the entrance to the School of Engineering which is a shining pearl in our crown.

It is perhaps indicative of the universal character of ORT that we are honouring tonight two such utterly diverse characters as William Haber and Daniel Mayer, who for 21 years served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the World ORT Union, and is a distinguished member of the great French Jewry which has produced so many leaders in the field of human endeavour, human thought and human liberty, and of which he is a worthy representative.

Daniel Mayer, in my experience, invariably added an intellectual and philosophical dimension to the debates and the transactions in ORT. He took them out of a dry administrative context and raised them up into a higher plane, thus giving the deliberations their Jewish and universal dimensions.

Daniel Mayer is above all a human being who sees the concept of the dignity of man above all other considerations. This concept he has expressed on numerous occasions in a manner in which only he, who handles language and words as an artist, can do. During the Second World War he became a leader in the French National Resistance and an organiser of the Maquis. He was active, while in Marseilles, in keeping the Socialist Party of France alive, and secretly printed its newspaper "Le Populaire" at home. In 1941 he was made Secretary of the underground Socialist Party in the southern or so-called Vichy zone. In 1943 he came to London

during the war for a visit to meet with General de Gaulle, and in that year he was made a member of the National Resistance Council, on which he served as Chairman of the Committee on National Economy and Industrial Production. He received the Rosette of the Resistance for his underground activities.

After the liberation of France in 1944, Daniel Mayer became a representative of the Conseil National de la Resistance (National Resistance Council) in the Consultative Assembly. In 1945 he was elected a member of the Constituent Assembly, where he was Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

He was a close associate of the late Leon Blum, and when Blum formed an interim government in December 1946, Daniel Mayer was appointed Minister of Labour and Social Security. He served as Minister of Labour and Social Security subsequently in five successive cabinets. Apart from ORT, he has been very active in the League for the Rights of Man, of which he became President.

I do not have to elaborate before this body on his devotion to ORT, on his many trips on behalf of the organisation where he pleaded the cause of ORT before kings and rulers in Iran, in Morocco, in Tunis, in Scandinavia, in Israel. By his very activity and his position as a Jewish leader of renown, he contributed to the international standing of ORT, and emphasised by his very personlaity the inherent universality of the ORT organisation.

In the years to come, when the records of this Centenary Convention are read, the future historians of ORT will appreciate the immense scope and the world-wide basis of the ORT organisation on its 100th Anniversary, as they evaluate the completely different backgrounds, experiences, disciplines and characters of the two men who as lay leaders led ORT through the final quarter of its first century. Nothing could be more diverse than these two characters, and in this diversity lies the inherent strenth and impressiveness of ORT.

The name Daniel Mayer will be indelibly linked with that of ORT. To give to this fact tangible expression, we will dedicate on this occasion the Cletta and Daniel Mayer Garden at the Jerusalem School of Engineering. And thus the plants tended by the students in the School of Engineering in an organisation which is so close to his heart, will flourish and thrive in the sunlight and crisp air of Jerusalem, and add to the beauty and aesthetic quality of the city which Daniel Mayer loves so much, and with which henceforth his name - one of

the prominent names in French political life, the name of one of the leading personalities of European Jewry - will be associated. One expects the representatives of the public to be transient by their very nature, and indeed we in ORT have been fortunate that two of the lay leaders have served over such a long period. One does not expect the professional leadership of an organisation to change. It becomes part of the landscape. You cannot envisage the organisation without this leadership. You become used to it. You begin to wonder how you can manage without it.

For many of us, MAX BRAUDE is ORT, and one has at times to rub one's eyes and pinch oneself in order to realise that with this Congress, he concludes a long and very distinguished period of service as the Director-General of the World ORT Union, a period of service which has encompassed almost one-third of the existence of the ORT organisation. He joined this organisation in 1951, almost 30 years ago, as Director, and he has served as Director-General of the World ORT Union since 1957.

Trained as a rabbi, Max served as ranking Jewish Chaplain with the U.S Army in Europe, serving with the Seventh Army. Prior to that he had served as Director of Training of the U.S. Army's Chaplaincy School at Harvard University. Like many of us, he was part of the forces of liberation which found the remnants of our people after the Holocaust in Europe. He devoted his life to this great task. From 1947 - 1951 he served as a senior official of the International Refugee Organisation in various capacities, including the supervision of the entire health, welfare and educational operations. And then he joined ORT.

Thus his entire life has been dedicated to the service of his people; to service in the cause of the underprivileged, of the refugee; to service in the cause of health, of welfare and of education. You have before you here a man who has devoted his entire life to the positive aims and aspirations of mankind. He has participated in numerous conferences on health, on development, on education. He was awarded the medal of the Norwegian Refugee Council in recognition of his contributions to refugee welfare. Through his participation in the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, he has organised a programme for training of Tibetan refugees as vocational teachers, and helped the Polish authorities with the problem of their repatriates from the Soviet Union. He was active in positions of responsibility in the International Refugee Organisation.

I could go on and on about a life filled with effort and endeavour

in the cause of the less fortunate fellow man.

In the field of the professional Jewish leadership throughout the world, he is today one of the best known and outstanding personalities, whose personal standing is so invaluable in the task of representing an international Jewish organisation. It is difficult to appreciate the importance of such a standing in the professional leadership for any organisation, and above all for an organisation of the international Jewish and non-Jewish ramifications of ORT.

Max is a universal Jew who could and can relate to the unbelievably wide variety of cultures, of approaches, of concepts, of places, of religions, of colour, of race, which constitutes the existing pattern of ORT's activities throughout the world. Max is equally at home in the Yeshiva at Kfar Habad as he is in the Kibbutz at Ein Harod, or in Choisy-le-Roi in France, or at the Agency for International Development in Washington, or among the Bnei Israel in India, or when presenting our case to the leaders of JOINT and the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency. With every one he has a common language. That is part of his great attributes - indeed I might say his genius - and that is why he has been such a success in leading our organisation. He is a man for all places.

But why should I tell you about Max? After all, I am talking to an audience which represents an organisation which in itself is the greatest possible tribute a man could have. We heard his outstanding report which is a song of achievement. ORT is a function of the combined efforts of many devoted people throughout the world - teachers, administrators, public-minded individuals - but if ORT had not grown to its present majestic stature, if it had not encompassed the vast and varied activities that it does, if it had not become the leading vocational education organisation throughout the world, if it had not created almost half the vocational education system in Israel, if it had not been active in Ethiopia and Iran and Morocco, if it had not been entrusted by the Western governments with great technical cooperation projects - if all this had not been done, the accusing finger would have been pointed at Max as the man leading the organisation.

Now that it has been done, now that all these immense achievements have been attained, now that we are what we are, it is right and proper that we honour a man who for one-third of the life of this organisation has been at the leadership helm, and has created a monument to himself which is far more powerful in the evidence it evokes, than could any words of mine or

of anybody else in this hall. The greatest tribute to Max for a lifetime of devotion and activity is ORT. You have seen it. Look at it wherever you are, and there you will see the tribute to Max. He does not really need words of praise or tributes from us. Everything that you see, everything that you admire, has a share of Max in it.

Max has retired from his job as Director-General of World ORT Union. He is moving to live in Israel, and we the Israelis welcome him and Elly to our midst. We wish him and Elly many many happy years and fruitful endeavours with us in the years to come, in which we look forward to his continued association with ORT.

I said that ORT in itself is in many ways a living tribute to Max. But in order formally to express our appreciation of a life's work in the service of the Jewish people and, above all, of ORT, it is my privilege to announce that the World ORT Union will endow the Max A. Braude Chair of Educational Technology and Development. We are happy in ORT Israel, Max, that your name will now be forever linked to this, our great achievement in Jerusalem.

And so, my friends, we take leave of you formally, although not personally because we know and pray that you will be with us for many years to come. Together you represent something so great that only the perspective of time will enable people to appreciate its magnitude. Many many years hence, in the years to come, when new generations have emerged and new challenges face us, the students in the ORT School of Engineering in Jerusalem will enter the school, admire the flowers in the William Haber Garden, will sit in the shade of the trees of the Cletta and Daniel Mayer Garden and hurriedly prepare themselves for the next test, and will study in the Max Braude Faculty of Educational Technology and Development. And perhaps one will ask the other at some stage or other as they view the plaques bearing their names: "Who were these people?" And the answer will come: "They were good Jews."

William Haber

I want to tell you my friends I can see myself in my garden clothes weeding and nothing gives me more pleasure than to see Daniel Mayer in overalls weeding next to me. I am willing to bet he could not recognise the difference between a flower and a dandelion. I'll help him.

I can only tell you my friends, nothing could be lovelier for me than another garden. The garden in Ann Arbor takes all the time I have got. And now every other weekend I fly to Jerusalem to make sure that ORT's inadequate budget does not neglect my garden.

I can only say, thinking of this new development, of an experience I once had in a D.P. Camp, 1948, Landsburg. I was walking in for a meeting with a committee. A man stopped me. "Professor, are you the advisor?" "Yes". "I want to talk with you". He talks. I say: "I haven't the time. The committee is waiting. I am already half an hour late." "I will say just one word to you, one word". "What is this word?" "Gewalt". It took an hour. You know, when a Jew says 'Gewalt', you got to listen. It is a terrific word in the Jewish history and the Jewish vocabulary. It is like the definition of what one calls a Jewish telegram. Did you ever hear it? Here it comes to the house: "Start worrying, letter follows". So, when I hear about the garden, I say 'Gewalt'. But it is a beautiful and lovely idea. Flowers are very dear to Fannie and me, because she is one of the flowers, always blooming, and I don't have to do any weeding. So, I can only say that Chaim Herzog extended himself with great generosity tonight. I would be insensitive not to express my deep gratitude and deep appreciation. And I think it is proper to say that the equation would be hard to balance as to whether it is what I did for ORT, or what ORT did for me. For I see in this room people I met in Johannesburg, in Port Elizabeth, in Bombay, in Rome, in London, in a dozen cities throughout the world on every continent, and people who have enriched me by their affection, their respect and their devotion into our cause. The ORT family is a beautiful family. I haven't met any juvenile delinquents in it, but a lot of jubilant delinquents. And I see many of you here and that is a heartwarming experience. I wish I dared to mention some names but I would be leaving out too many and I will not.

How can I omit Jacob Oleiski. You know my friends, he is the first ORT personality I ever met. I know enough Yiddish to know that ORT means a place. When I met Jacob I learned that

it meant an organisation. It meant the programme, it meant an activity, it meant a certain kind of involvement. The first school I saw he showed me, and I recall when I came back to the United States, after serving in Europe and the American army and the D.P. Camps, and proceeded to suggest to the leaders of American ORT what was good and what was wrong. They said we don't need advisors. If you have ideas, come in and help. So, I became President, and once you become president and you like it, it takes a long time to get rid of you. It took a quarter of a century, and it enriched my life, and my wife's life, and has introduced me to an aspect of Jewish activity I could find in no other way. So, I am here Chaim Herzog not so much to accept your thanks which I deeply appreciated, but to express my thanks.

ORT is a wonderful organisation. I have met nobody who has got anything against it. You know, I am reminded of a story, of a man I met whom I know well, who is 38 years old, unmarried, attractive, impressive, well-to-do, personality, and I said: "How do you explain it?" "I brought home a girl, I remember very well, I liked her." "What happened?" "Mother didn't like her." "Well what else happened?" "I brought home another girl, equally in love with her, Mama didn't like her. One day I had good fortune. I went to a party, I saw a girl sitting by the wall all by herself. She looked like Mama. I danced with her. She danced like Mama. I talked to her. She talked like Mama. I brought her home. What happened? Papa didn't like her." Well, both Pappa and Mamma like ORT, and I tell you this with real experience. Of all these thirty or more years, I have not met a leader in Jewish life in any country who says anything critical about the ORT mission, the ORT objectives, the ORT programme, the ORT work. That we don't get enough money is a detail. Policy wise ORT is fantastic.

Well, I appreciate Chaim's beautiful word about comrade Daniel Mayer. We have been together for two score years. I can think, perhaps, of no more than one or two instances where we differed, and I think of this exciting quarter century, of thirty years, Daniel, Max, Bill, believe me, it's been a team. The signals were not always called right, or not always responded to, but basically it was a team, and I am positive that much of what was done over these past twenty years is a result of the kind of team work that Daniel Mayer and Max Braude and I played together.

And after this really eloquent and beautiful statement of Chaim, a superb review of Max's contribution, it would be superfluous to add anything. If this were a parliamentary session, I would

merely say, Mr. Chairman, I second the motion. Has it always been a pleasure? No. Max has opinions. He has ideas, as Chaim says. He is not merely a receptacle for somebody else's ideas. But as I look back upon meeting him, 32 years ago, in Heidelberg, Germany, when he was with I.R.O., and I was advisor on Jewish affairs to the Commander in Chief of the American Forces Max has been to me the symbol of a wise, dedicated, public servant. I take great pride in having had some influence in drawing him into ORT.

My dear friends, I am deeply moved and I am deeply touched. I can continue, the evening is moving on, but I want to tell you how very grateful I am for this wonderful outpouring of affection and devotion to Fannie and to me.

Thank you very much.

Daniel Mayer

Well, it is true that I learned through a felicitous indiscretion, just a few hours ago, that I was one of the ones to whom tribute was to be paid this evening. I wasn't really given enough warning to fully master my emotions, and I should like to thank Chaim Herzog for all that he said. Nonetheless I did have time to reflect a bit on the meaning of this event, and whatever ones' beliefs, or lack of beliefs, may be, I am convinced that man's paramount goal is survival. In fact, for two days now I have been joking with people, and it has almost become old hat, about how unfortunately I won't be around for ORT's 200th anniversary celebration, and that response has been identical, people look solemnly and seem to think that given my age it is only natural, and then suddenly it dawns on them, they are not going to be around for the bi-centenary either.

And so, man endeavours not only to prolong his physical existence, but also, if possible, he tries to ensure that his memory lives on, and some derive that kind of certainty from their religious faith while some others will live on because of their accomplishments that go down in history, their public act. Or the works that they leave behind, be they artistic, scientific or humanitarian. Some, and in fact there is no law against it, could combine the religious and material spheres just for safety's sake.

And your friendship, you the ORT leaders, all of you, has led you to provide another means to live on, in the plaque which will be seen by youngsters, by students, the plaque which is going to be affixed in the garden and I am doubly touched because the inscription on that plaque will enshrine the union of two names which were united for forty-five years.

It was my wife, Cletta, who gave me a greater understanding of Judaism, and a deeper love of Israel, than I might spontaneously have had. And this was easy to understand because Cletta was born in a country where pogroms raged, while the land of my birth was a true homeland. So it seems just and perhaps only fair that her name be united with mine here in Jerusalem. I think you understand this. Here in Jerusalem where Golda Meir referred to that part of Cletta's activities which took place at the time of the creation of the State of Israel. At a time when so many Exoduses, other than the very famous one were taking place.

Let me speak of one of Cletta's recollections, when she arrived in Jerusalem, just a few hours after the victorious Israeli army

had arrived in the city in 1948. An Israeli army officer in a house discovered a set of caricatures and drawings by the famous 19th century French artist Daumier. And he immediately proceeded to organise for the victorious troops who had just conquered the new capital and who were still in arms in fact to organise an exhibition of the prints and a lecture on Daumier.

And I daresay, there are very few armies at war in the world who could have reacted similarly. In fact to me this is a symbolic combination which was seen on the part of the Army, of active involvement in the matters on hand, combined with cultural pursuits. And is not this also the very symbol of ORT's activities, though transposed to a peaceful context.

ORT which has sought to train the hand while enriching the mind. We have the rehabilitation of the hand and its complement, the wealth of the mind. This is ORT's twofold task, from its very outset, and it will ever be so, beyond the present team, and indeed we were a team, despite any differences we may have felt, and had we not been a team we would certainly have claimed that we were after all that we have heard this evening.

Doubtless there will be substantial changes in many of the aspects of ORT. And I think that although some of the major members of the team will be different, nonetheless the key to ORT will remain. That is to say, helping human beings to achieve self fulfillment. You will allow me to quote myself. It was twenty years ago at the Congress that was held in London, in October, 1960, that I said the following: "And to those from whom we seek donations, we should tell them, the generosity we expect from you is not charity but solidarity. We do not ask you merely to enable your fellow man to have something to eat, but rather we ask you to enable him simply like you to be able to live to his own livelihood." You will receive no humble gestures of gratitude, from those whom ORT will help, in thanks for your donations, but rather the proud thanks of a free man. We will not give you the pitiful and oh, how childishly vain satisfaction of hanging up a list of your charity cases, but when you pass by a scaffolding and hear the joyful whistle of a workman, when you see young men and women scientists and technicians emerging from their laboratory, or when you notice a farmer working his field, with an unusually pensive look on his face, you will take just pride in thinking that perhaps one of these people, may be going about his or her work because ORT through you made it possible, and that will be your sole reward. And what holds true at the individual level - the idea that the donor is in no way superior to the receiver, this is equally true at the collective level. He who gives derives no special rights therefrom. Nor should

the recipient be made to feel inferior. This has always been true and will apply to the future as well.

And I don't think the day to day proceedings of ORT are going to change very much either. The Director General will most probably continue to submit his carefully constructed reports replete with accurate or inaccurate figures, the Chairman of our different bodies will continue to solemnly state that they and they alone are responsible for the decisions taken by others of which they were unaware until moments before they went out and affirmed this, but what will remain true and this I think is very close to the philosophy of Albert Einstein, is the existence amongst the accounts and the figures, and the numbers, the existence of an invisible column on the balance sheet which headed up "Man", and that is surely the only worthwhile account.

The garden which will bear the plaque inscribed with both our names will probably be a modest one. Doubtless far less splendid than the boulevard, St. Germain, or Fifth Avenue in New York, but it will also be less anonymous, with less hustle and bustle and it will be a restful haven of peace, not a busy thoroughfare with people rushing by, but a place to stroll, to halt and to meditate. And I must confess I have always preferred the song of the birds in a modest garden to the honk of the automobile horn.

I confess I learnt through another indiscretion that the garden was going to be planted with roses, and I am not altogether convinced that the wealthy and generous ORT donors really intended even out of friendship towards me to pay tribute to the French Socialist Party in that way, because the Socialist Party symbol is the rose. But in any case, the symbolism goes deeper for me, and I recall once going to a stroll in Haifa, and together with my wife and Abba Ishi who was at the time the Mayor of Haifa. And as we walked through the streets, he pointed to a profusion of flowers and different species of plant so varied, coming from all the far corners of the earth. He had had flowers brought from Japan, from the Philippines, and many other remote places. And as we complimented him on his good taste and on the extravagant beauty of the flowers, he confessed that they reflected more than just his love of growing things, or his addiction to beauty and the lovely smells and perfumes that came out of them. He told us, people who come to Israel have already suffered great hardship, they have known tremendous difficulties and here in Israel, they also have to face problems. Sometimes the administration is not as understanding as it might be, and when people have to wait in public buildings or around them, if they can

gaze on flowers they have a reaction that is so natural, it is like when they see children. They smile, and somehow they thirst to renew their belief in the brotherhood of man.

Dear friends, I have no illusions that I am going to be immortalised just because a plaque has been affixed to a garden wall, and I know that that plaque will probably turn to rust and that our names will be worn away. Or perhaps well before then, some student will be reading the plaque, will wonder who this person was and will think that it was probably placed there to commemorate the feats of some goalie or player or a victorious football team. In fact, I think it is only the work of man which is immortal, and each generation adds its link to that chain of immortality. Unwittingly, even sometimes gloatingly, each generation is bonded to its predecessors, and a future team in ORT will be bonded to ours, paving the way for the work of succeeding generations. But if immortality is to be achieved, it depends upon the spirit in which the work is accomplished. This requires steadfastness, loyalty and a sense of moral values, and here again we can turn to nature for an example. If you go to a mountaineous, snow covered land and you look down at your feet, where you have already trod, the snow has melted, it has gone dark, it has turned to slush and even mud. If you look ahead along the path, where you haven't yet walked, the snow is still white. And if you make a final effort and raise your eyes to the heights, there the snow remains pristine and eternal.

Max Braude

I think I must say something about Bill and Daniel Mayer and about my colleagues to keep from being maudling, because it is very easy to get deeply moved by so exaggerated a tribute. I say exaggerated, because none of it would have been possible without the help of all of you, and the understanding and the affection. You know, I have known Bill for thirty-two years, much longer than my association with ORT. When he left the post of Advisor on Jewish Affairs, to Lucius Clay, for Germany, he was promoted to the post of Advisor on Braude's affairs, and by affairs I mean everything. He is a strange man. He lives in perpetual jet lag. He even told me this afternoon, he wanted to leave early to be home to Fannie, and Fannie was with him. Yet constantly, unbelievable as it may be, he was someone to lean on, someone to give you sage advice, someone you could depend upon, to understand you problem, or your organisation's problem, or somebody else's problem. His remarkable ability to change hats in fifteen minutes, from being an Advisor to the President of the Hebrew University to Advisor to the Hillel Direction National, or Advisor to me, an amazing ability. I used to say, in fact, I said it at a dinner in his honour very recently, that we divided the functions. He collected the honours, the 'Koved', and that I collected the salary and that everybody knew that we were grossly overpaid. For in addition to anything else, Bill, like me, when engaged in a joint venture with Daniel Mayer was a most rewarding one. We were in the business of collecting children's smiles, of seeing children grow into men, of seeing people become productive, and the fringe benefits were far greater than the basic rewards. Daniel Mayer and I had about twenty years of conversation which consisted of smiles. That was our only common language. I, after working for many years in many different languages badly, didn't even speak English well, but it was almost the equal of Daniel Mayer's English, even if my French was worse than his English. We never had many quarrels but we did have some. He was temperamental from time to time and I suppose so was I. In fact, I think I had a few disagreements with Bill Haber. But being a devious sort of personality I always knew that if the problem got severe I could arrange for Daniel to consult with Cletta, of blessed memory, and that Fannie would beat some sense into Bill. It was pleasant. On one thing we never differed, Daniel Mayer and I, on human problems, and I think on moral problems. Despite the fact that I think that he thought I was some sort of a computer and didn't really think I had much concern about anything else but budgeting and budget

balancing, when we got down to issues of anything that was of human value, we never had an argument. When as a result of the great confusions of a year and a half ago, Daniel Mayer resigned, we left the hotel together, I think we were still friends, I am sure we were still friends.

And then Chaim Herzog came in, Chaim's greatest fame to me, and I think to most of Israel, will rest upon the magnificent job he did in calming the people of Israel before the six day war. Most of you remember those magnificent broadcasts, saying take it easy be calm, it isn't all that bad. And for me he served that purpose again in the crisis which followed the decision to move. I am deeply grateful for his beautiful words. He is so professionally and profoundly efficient in his speech. I don't know how to thank him. Perhaps he might in some way be repaying me for the three weeks when I served his father as his secretary when the Chief Rabbi of Israel came to Chicago.

I am too moved. So, since I can't deal with you lay leaders, from whom I have professed to have a completely different stance. In fact, I remember once coming to ORT Israel and telling the President of ORT Israel at that time that he misunderstood the ORT emblem - that scissors in the middle was a stupid instrument, but if you took it apart it doesn't function very efficiently. United it is very dangerous, and that was the symbol in ORT of what would happen to a lay leader if he got between two professionals.

You know, I learned a lot from Syngalowski. Very much. Very strange things too. Bill Haber will recall the first party for the staff which Bill insisted Syngalowski give when Bill became President of the Central Board. We were all assembled and Syngalowski said to Bill: "I want to introduce you to the people who ruin my work." He didn't mean it. I think he also said something else which he meant more and which has always fascinated me. He used to say: "Braude, there are three kinds of directors in ORT. When you say to them what time is it, one says, my God, it is almost a quarter to twelve, and you say to the other one, what time is it, and he says it is only a quarter to twelve, and the third one's answer is, it is not my fault." You know, I love all three of them. The impetuous, the impassive, patient and the one who manages to do well because he is afraid he will be blamed if he doesn't do well.

I think there is one thing which Dr. Shapiro in his history missed, and he will forgive me I am sure. The human factor, the real human factor in human relationships, in what was accomplished during these past twenty five years. He may have missed the

coincidence that about ten of us joined the ORT Union within a period of about two years. Five years after the war. The fact that three of us came from Chicago was not what made it a sort of Mafia, but in a sense, except for issuing contacts on each other, we functioned that way. And it was a period of great productivity. I am so fearful of mentioning names because I am sure I will forget. Therefore, I can't talk about Nathan and Paul, and Bernard and Jakob Oleiski, and Josef Harmatz, and Joe Guedj and Joe Amar, and Bernard Wand Polak and dozens of others, Parvine Moatamed. I tell you I cannot. I dare not start to list the wonderful people to whom all of this credit is really due. I am not immodest, In fact, Daniel Mayer, one time, called that to my attention. It was a period when I was going to leave ORT, retire early, and it was agreed that in my retirement I would try to collect big gifts from people capable of giving big gifts, and I warn all of you in the room that that is still not excluded. The issue was what to put on my visiting card. What do you put on your official card? Daniel Mayer said 'Former Honorary Director General' or something like that. I didn't like these titles. I said "I shall put just my name." I said "What do you have on yours?" He said "That is all I have on mine, but in my case it is modesty." Anyway, I am not that modest, far from it. And I am not stupid. I am so deeply grateful to all of you, because you made it possible for me to have so productive a life of which I was unaware until I heard it recited today. Very few people have the privilege of hearing their eulogies. In fact, I think it is disgraceful for me to continue to live. So don't send flowers. Send contributions to the ORT Fund.

Thank you all, every staff member, everywhere in the world, and everybody in this room and every lay leader. Though I at times appeared to have been a little disrespectful, I was never not affectionate to you all. I am extremely fond of all of you, and I am grateful to you for having helped me live a productive life and letting me believe that I was doing things my way.

Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS VOTED BY CONGRESS ON JUNE 5, 1980

I

TO ORT ISRAEL

It is significant that on this historic occasion the worldwide ORT family should assemble in Israel, the centre of Jewish life and the country of ORT's largest programme.

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress expresses appreciation to ORT Israel for its warm welcome and for the opportunity afforded delegates and participants to visit ORT schools around the country.

The Congress expresses its gratitude to Women's Israel ORT for its generous hospitality and appreciation to ORT Israel and its staff for their aid in the planning and facilitating of this Congress, which helped make it a memorable and productive event.

The Congress takes pride and satisfaction in the vital role that ORT plays in the life of Israel. The ORT family, as do Jews everywhere, stand as one with Israel and her people and share with them the hopes and dreams that true peace can bring.

II

APPRECIATION OF THE ORT STAFF

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress

recognises that the strength of ORT in its activities and services in many lands consists in the first place, of its 4,000 men and women who have identified with its mission. By their work within their specialities they have given high calibre professionalism and that special human quality that is the bench mark of ORT. They have helped to establish standards that have raised ORT to its present level.

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress

extends its deep gratitude to the directors, teachers, the technical and administrative staff of the national organisations and of the World ORT Union for their dedication and for the professional skill with which they perform their tasks.

III

TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress is

aware of the historic nature of this meeting. It commends the Directorate of the World ORT Union, its staff and the many others who were responsible for the formulation of the main issues before us and for the smooth operation of the Congress operations.

IV

NATIONAL ORT ORGANISATIONS

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress

expresses its appreciation and takes particular note that the international character of the World ORT Union is fundamental to its tasks and to its role in Jewish life. The global nature of the ORT programme rests upon the cooperation of its affiliated national organisations and it is this working together toward common goals that helps to assure the fulfillment of the role of the World ORT Union in its service to the Jewish people. The growth of activities, organisational development and funding capacities of the national ORT organisations are basic to the ability of ORT to meet current and future needs.

V

ON JEWISH ORGANISATIONS

The tie that has bound ORT to Jewish organisations has been an essential expression of ORT's integration with Jewish life throughout its existence and in all parts of the Jewish world. On the occasion of this Centennial Congress, the World ORT Union offers its warmest gratitude to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for its financial support for the ORT programmes, its sympathetic understanding, as well as for the many ties that have given strength to our cooperative endeavours in the service of our people.

In addition, this Congress welcomes the opportunity to express ORT's appreciation to the Alliance Israelite Universelle, the Baron de Hirsch Fund, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Combined Jewish Appeals in France, Latin America and other areas, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds of the U.S. and its community affiliates, the Israeli United Appeal of South Africa, the Jewish Colonisation Association, the United Jewish Appeal, the Jewish Agency and all other Jewish organisations cooperating in and helping ORT's work.

VI

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress

meeting in Jerusalem from May 31 to June 5, 1980, has reviewed the various reports on ORT activities and developments since the Emergency Congress held in Jerusalem, February 24 to 28, 1974 and ratifies the decisions made and actions taken by the various bodies during this period.

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress

expresses gratitude to the members of the Central Board and its president, Dr. William Haber, to members of the Executive Committee and its Chairman, Chaim Herzog, and its immediate past Chairman, Daniel Mayer; and to the national committees, their officers and their staff.

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress

expresses deep appreciation for the outstanding contribution by Max A. Braude, Director General of the World ORT Union, and the staff of the Central Office.

VII

TOWARDS THE 2ND CENTURY OF ORT

The message sent by five notable community leaders to the Jewish Communities of the Czarist Empire on April 10, 1880 announcing the formation of a fund to aid Jews in acquiring the skills for livelihood and thus to help lift the burden of poverty and oppression began a movement that was destined to make its imprint on the lives of our people throughout the decades that followed.

The ORT Centennial marks 100 years of hope carried by ORT through the multitude of events and circumstances that enveloped Jews during these times. From St. Petersburg, then to Jerusalem now, from Imperial Russia to countries around the globe, ORT has moved with the ebb and flow of Jewish experience.

It has served our people through pogroms and in peace, from the Holocaust to the birth of the State of Israel; and in the constantly challenging world of today. Whatever the time or circumstances, ORT has held fast to the tenet that through education, using the instrument of vocational training, we could insure the economic future of Jewish communities and sustain Jewish life. In its 100 year history, ORT has served two million youth and adults worldwide.

The Congress points with pride to our network of schools currently offering vocational and technical education to over 100,000 students in Western Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Israel, Asia, Latin America and the United States.

What lies before the Jewish people, will write the prescription for the work of ORT, as it always has. New tasks lie ahead, even as new challenges emerge from the world of technology, of work and the Jewish condition.

The Centennial ORT Congress in Jerusalem is not only a celebration but has been a forum to establish plans and priorities in preparation for the second century of ORT. The Congress recognises that the ORT Centennial is an event of historic dimension for all of our people.

ORT faces the decade of the 80's and the second century of its history, committed to continue serving the Jewish people and determined to meet the challenges and responsibilities of the future.

VIII

ON SOVIET JEWRY

The plight of Soviet Jewry is the outstanding example of anti-Semitism exercised as national policy by a police state. The Soviet Authorities continue to press the Jewish religion and culture and endeavour to force assimilation all of which conflicts with the Soviet Union's own constitution and also flagrantly violates the Helsinki agreement to which it is a signatory.

It is also noted with great concern that recently the Soviet Union has introduced new measures which not only obstruct the right of those seeking to apply to emigrate but has also reduced very substantially the numbers actually leaving.

This ORT Centennial Congress

expresses profound concern as to the future well being of the Jews of the Soviet Union. Both as Jews and as members of the ORT family, we express our solidarity with Soviet Jewry. We urge the free countries of the world, and all international bodies to exert pressure on the Soviet Union to recognise their responsibilities to humanity in general and to their Jewish citizens in particular.

IX

ON SYRIAN JEWS

Jews still in Syria are a hostage community, living under the most restrictive and threatening circumstances.

We urge all governments and the United Nations to do all within their power to secure for Syrian Jews their human rights, including the right to emigrate.

X

APPROVAL OF THE LONG RANGE PLANNING PAPER

The ORT Centennial Congress

a. accepts and approves the Long Range Planning Paper as presented to the ORT Centennial Congress as a broad strategic outline of the major trends of ORT development and growth and as a basic projection of the priorities and tasks of ORT in the next decades.

b. recommends that the World ORT Union should formulate objectives and priorities for the implementation of the purposes of the Long Range Planning Paper and that the World ORT Union report progress to the first meeting of the Executive Committee following this Congress.

XI

THANKS TO ASSISTING GOVERNMENTS

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress

expresses its gratitude to the governments of the countries of ORT operations for their sympathetic understanding and for the financial support extended to ORT programmes.

XII

APPRECIATION TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTIVE OF THE

WORK OF ORT

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress

expresses its appreciation for the sympathetic understanding and consistent support of non-governmental philanthropic and humanitarian organisations. We take particular note of the Danish Refugee Council, the Evangelische Hilfswerke, Misereor of Germany, the Norwegian Refugee Council, NOVIB of the Netherlands, the Radiohjälpen of Sweden, the Swissaid, and the Van Leer Foundation.

XIII

APPRECIATION TO GOVERNMENT BODIES FOR AID TO ORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The World ORT Union Centennial Congress

conveys its gratitude for the support to ORT Technical Assistance by the governmental bodies concerned with such programmes of modernisation and manpower development as the CIDA of Canada, DANIDA of Denmark, the Development Agency of the Swiss Government, the German Ministry, SIDA of Sweden, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank and others.

CRITICAL AREAS FOR JEWRY

Resolution I

In light of the critical situation which will be with us for many years worldwide, it appears that for the foreseeable future there will always be Jewish refugees migrating from one country to another. The Commission recognises that in transit areas, ORT continues to play the same role that it has played throughout its history by providing language instruction and such other courses that would facilitate the refugee's integration in his new homeland. He must remain always alert to these situations which call for this type of service.

In addition, National ORT organisations in countries of immigration must explore with their National Jewish community services whether there is an unmet need in which ORT could play a role; whether it be social or educational so as to enhance their integration into the mainstream of Jewish life.

Resolution II

We recommend that the Organisation Department of the World ORT Union be responsible for keeping national organisations and through them the membership well informed on critical developments on the world Jewish scene and how they affect the ORT programme.

We recommend that ORT membership organisations around the world be encouraged to devote study and programming time to the realities of changing conditions in Jewish life in different parts of the globe and the underlying causes; as an educational background so that if and when they are called upon for service and action, they are informed and prepared. We, as an international organisation are especially equipped to play a role in educating our local Jewish communities to the conditions of Jewish life around the world.

XV

ORT AS A MOVEMENT - THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATIONS -
THE ROLE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION IN ORT

We recommend the establishment of active broadbased membership organisations in every ORT country, including countries of operation.

In countries of operation, advantage should be taken of the large number of graduates to form active structured alumni organisations in and around the ORT schools. Also an effort should be made to recruit for membership support, parents of ORT students, educators and the general Jewish public as a natural vessel for membership development.

We further recommend that progress in the establishment of their membership organisations shall be reported by each country to the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the World ORT Union following the adjournment of this Congress.

XVI

We advocate the expansion and strengthening of the World ORT Union of an effective, properly staffed department of organisation with an adequate budget:

1. To act as liaison with ORT organisations throughout the world.
2. Whose central responsibility it shall be to give assistance in the establishment and development of membership organisations, public relations and information in countries where none now exist.
3. To promote fund raising facilities to meet the expanding needs of ORT.
4. To provide educational materials suitable for our membership and community enlightenment, and visuals including films and photographs, noteworthy technological and scientific advances in ORT operations.

We further recommend that a report be given by the Director General to the first meeting of the World ORT Union Executive Committee following the adjournment of this Congress relative to progress in this regard.

XVII

We advocate that every operating country shall have an organisation and fund raising department within their functional structure and that in order for it to reach the maximum of its potential there should be a Director of Organisation in addition to a Director of Technical Operations.

XVIII

We recommend that two separate Commissions be appointed by the World ORT Union Executive Committee, one to address membership organisation, and the other to address fund raising.

XIX

To help meet the present and the growing needs of ORT's global programme we call upon our organisations everywhere to bend maximum efforts to increase income to ORT from all sources to strengthen the World ORT Union central subvention budget by our increased contributions.

In these objectives, particular emphasis is placed upon development of our income sources through the organised fund raising efforts of our membership organisations within and through out respective communities.

XX

We recommend that all ORT countries consider undertaking the raising of additional designated and non-designated funds to be used by World ORT Union in specific critical areas of Jewish population.

XXI

We recommend the recruitment and development of young membership and leadership which will improve fund raising and widen the membership base.

XXII

We recommend the World ORT Union formulate plans for encouraging and assisting the development of membership organisations and that the Director General report progress to the first meeting of the Executive Committee following this Congress.

XXIII

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE COMMISSION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Technical Assistance Commission recommends:

that the Technical Assistance Department be accountable through the Director General to the Executive Committee of the World ORT Union, whose Administrative Committee shall oversee all technical assistance activities engaged by ORT.

XXIV

that ORT, in addition to its independent role, collaborate with both national and international non-governmental organisations so that concerned volunteer organisations can provide joint services in the field of training in developing countries based upon their needs.

XXV

that steps be taken to strengthen the Technical Assistance Department's working relationships with ORT national organisations for their mutual benefit.

XXVI

that this Congress assembled, reconfirm its commitment to share its technical and pedagogical knowledge, particularly with the developing countries in order to secure for all a dignified life starting with one of the most fundamental of human rights: the right to acquire the skills to work.

XVII

RESOLUTION OF COMMISSION IV - JEWISH EDUCATION FOR LIFE

Article 1.

With reference to the resolutions of previous Congresses of ORT regarding Jewish education in ORT institutions, and after reviewing the situation in this field in ORT institutions, Congress emphasizes even more strongly how essential is the need to intensify and broaden Jewish education and a Jewish way of life in ORT institutions throughout the world, in order to strengthen Jewish identity and consciousness amongst our students.

Article 2

Despite the achievements in the field of Jewish education in ORT institutions, Congress is of the opinion that there is room for improvements in some areas, even for far-reaching changes.

The Commission on Jewish Education for Life has reviewed the background material prepared by MM. Aboudaram, Goldstein, Halperin, Miller and Schieber, and has noted with satisfaction the suggestions outlining a framework for the intensification of Jewish education in the ORT schools.

Congress recommends that these papers be circulated throughout the national organisations and be used as a guideline for Jewish education.

Article 3.

In order to advance the goal of Jewish Education and to intensify Jewish identity and consciousness among ORT students, the Congress recommends that each country, according to local circumstances and in coordination with the World ORT Union:

- a. should widen considerably the teaching of Jewish subjects including Hebrew, Jewish History and Culture and Bible studies, and
- b. should reinforce a Jewish way of life, within the schools and in the daily life of the students with the cooperation of their parents.

Article 4.

The Congress suggests that the relationship between ORT Israel and other ORT national organisations should become closer particularly in the field of Jewish Education, taking into consideration the importance of Israel for Jewish Education in the Diaspora and of the Diaspora for Israel.

Congress recommends that exchanges, seminars and study trips of teachers and students between ORT Israel and the other ORT national organisations be more frequent.

Article 5.

In order to be able to implement the above-mentioned recommendations, it is suggested that:

- a. A special department be set up by the Head Office of the World ORT Union, whose task it will be to develop programmes, to supply the means and to ensure that the programmes are carried out according to the guidelines laid down by the Head Office in cooperation with the ORT network in each location.
- b. Didactic and pedagogic methods suited to the latest teaching systems be developed and consolidated, in order to assist in instilling the subject and spreading the idea of Jewish identity amongst the pupils.
- c. Special teachers be trained and teachers in the network be upgraded in Jewish subjects.
- d. The Executive Committee of World ORT Union appoint a permanent Commission whose task it will be to formulate policies, and to receive reports, in order to ensure that the recommendations of Congress on this subject are carried out.
- e. The Executive Committee shall allocate suitable financial means for the realisation of this goal.

Article 6.

The Commission applauds the accomplishments of the ORT programmes already established in Jewish day schools in Latin America and Italy. It, therefore, urges the ORT national organisations to improve the services offered by the Jewish communities by introducing options in vocational and technical subjects.

XXVIII

NEW DIRECTIONS IN TECHNICAL TRAINING

The Commission recognised the difficulty of drawing conclusions on a number of specific points concerned with technical training, due to the widely divergent educational needs of different countries within the ORT framework which are influenced by social and economic factors.

However, it is evident that in a rapidly changing world, where technology is progressing at an increasing rate and social expectations are growing, technical education and vocational training are more vital than ever. ORT's major task remains as before to foster and propagate the preparation of Jewish youth for a productive and constructive Jewish life the world over.

It is imperative that ORT students should have a sound basic education in addition to their technical training. Every effort should be made to convince the public that many young people who may absorb little in conventional schools, often develop their potentialities to a greater extent within technical educational schools.

General recommendations

1. The main function of ORT should continue to be the managing and development of vocational and technical education in specialised schools.
2. ORT should make every effort to expand and raise the standard of technical and vocational training within the comprehensive system, where it is involved.
3. Taking into consideration the rapid changes anticipated in modern technology the organisation should make every effort to have a flexible and adaptable system of education. ORT should endeavour to anticipate changes by keeping close contacts with the most technically advanced countries.
4. Further effort should be put into adult education and retraining. The existing facilities should be made more accessible to more people and cover a wider range of subjects within the framework of permanent education.
5. Further efforts should be made to attract women to technical education and to enhance their professional status. Therefore, equal opportunities for girls and boys should be provided in all ORT schools, leading eventually to a co-educational system. Women should be encouraged to seek training in areas formerly considered as masculine.
6. The education and training of students from underprivileged backgrounds and/or students with learning problems was and remains one of ORT's main goals. This segment of the educational work calls for deeper insight and a courageous imaginative approach - innovation should be encouraged in this area of work.
7. Taking the example of the efforts made by ORT in the Jewish schools in Italy and Latin America and elsewhere, further effort should be made to develop the concept of work technology and creativity in Jewish schools the world over.
8. Stronger links should be established between students of ORT Israel and ORT, or other Jewish students in the Diaspora. This end can be achieved by setting up common educational projects in Israel. The basis may thus be laid for a Jewish international school to be built in the future.
9. ORT organisations all over the world are confronted with difficulties in recruiting adequate staff.

The basis of success of every teaching programme rests on the merits and qualities of the teachers. No effort should be spared in preparing teachers and instructors throughout the ORT network. It is strongly recommended that a teachers' training institution be established in ORT Israel.

It is recommended that all instructors and teachers in ORT schools should attend regular refresher courses to ensure that they are well informed of new developments in their subjects and in methods of teaching.

10. Computer studies should be introduced in all technical and commercial courses at an accelerated rate. The number of students in electronic data processing should be increased.

11. Intensive use of modern communication technologies in the teaching and learning processes should be diligently applied.

12. It is recommended to the Central Office that stronger links be established between the ORT organisations in different parts of the world in order to facilitate the exchange of information in teaching experience and techniques.

ADDRESS BY VLADIMIR HALPERIN TO THE CONGRESS: 5th June 1980

Dear Friends, do not be afraid! You will be disappointed, for you will not be hearing the speech from me that some of you expect.

You learnt on Tuesday evening that I had been asked to leave the organisation. I am not going to evoke either the circumstances nor the conditions surrounding my departure. But it is out of the question to pass by a friend, an event without giving a greeting, without saying farewell.

As a preliminary to this final message, I should like to quote for the benefit of all and for mine in any event, this observation, still relevant today, though made a long time ago by that teacher of all of us, Jean Jaurès. In that wonderful speech to the young people of Albi High School given in 1903, on the occasion of a Prize Giving, Jaurès expressed himself in these terms.

"...Courage means loving life and looking upon death with a quiet mind. It is going towards the ideal and understanding the reality: It is acting and giving oneself to great causes with no knowledge of the reward the world reserves for our effort, nor indeed whether there will be any reward at all. Courage is searching out the truth and speaking it. It is not submitting to the rule of the triumphant lie as it goes its course, not echoing in our soul, through our mouth and hands the mindless applause and the fanatic's cry."

Friends gathered here, you can doubtless feel the extent to which I am thoughtful, moved and preoccupied as well. Contrary to what Mr. Appleton announced, I will not recount my personal memories of this long road, rich in joy and in satisfaction, but also in barbs and in thorns, which surely made it less idyllic and more real and human. But even here in Jerusalem, there is no sky without a cloud, no rose without a thorn. It is my true intention here to bring you a testimony coming from the bottom of my heart: better still, in the ancient Jewish tradition, to bring you a confession, a kind of "vidouï" and try to make you understand what these thirty six years in the service of ORT have represented for me, above all, in its historical perspective "ORT made in Switzerland" the story of ORT in Geneva from 1943 to 1980.

In fact, it must not be forgotten, that if ORT is celebrating its Centenary, its first forty years were passed in Russia and that ORT only gained its international dimension over the past 60 years, of which more than half, 37 of them, had for their frame and for their springboard, Geneva.

This Centenary Congress requires us to direct especially sincere and grateful thought to the three great leaders of ORT who trained and forged our generation - Leon Bramson, David Lvovitch and Aaron Syngalowski. Without them, we would not be here.

I am happy to greet Mrs. Sarah Bramson, the daughter of Dr. Bramson, who is here with us from New York and Mrs. Hanna Syngalowska-Pirenne from Geneva, the daughter of Dr. Syngalowski. With your permission, Mr. Appleton, I am going to ask Sarah Bramson and Hanna Pirenne to come and take their place on this dais so that you can have the pleasure of greeting and applauding them and so that they too can be closer to you.

I was 22 or 23 years old when Dr. Syngalowski, who had just found refuge in Geneva asked me, thanks to a meeting in the Aliyah and Hachshara Home in Vercoix, to join him as his assistant in ORT's work. At one and the same time he called me and he warned me against the disappointments, the difficulties and the ingratitude of social work. I remember our first arms of work in the tiny office at 5 rue du Rhone with Syngalowski, Sussia Goldmann and his wife and some others and the road that has been run since. What an era! What sweat, what tears, what great effort, but also what joy, what anguish and what hope.

1943 - and the clandestine departure from Voiron near Grenoble for Geneva. It was also the time when, after leaving the workshops in Dr. Korczak's orphanage in Krochmalna 92 at the very last minute, ORT continued its work in the narrow streets and in the tumbledown hovels of the Warsaw ghetto under the watchful protection of Dr. Jaczunski and Rachel Gurmanova. It was also the time of ORT's work in France under the Occupation, in the sinister camps of Gurs, Rivesaltes and Récébedou.

In 1944, ORT's remarkable programme for refugees was started in Switzerland.

May, 1945, saw the Liberation, which the free world had waited for so much, followed by the immediate restarting of work in France. I remember our first working sessions with ORT France delegates in a café in Annemasse, for it was not yet possible for us to get to Paris, or for them to come to Geneva. At the end of that same year, the foundations were laid for ORT's extraordinary programme for DP's, following an impatient and commanding call from our dear Jacob Oleiski who sent an urgent message to Geneva, to Paris and to New York from the Landsberg Camp. "ORT friends, where are you? - What are you waiting for to give back life and work to those who have escaped from torment, to the surviving few".

And soon after, ORT extended its work to D.P.s in Austria and I see in this room one of those survivors, our friend Bruce Teicholz, who was president at that time of the DPs committee in Austria. And from the beginning of 1946, identical action was undertaken for DPs in Italy, launched from Geneva, with the support of Raffaele Cantoni, of Renzo Levi, of Dr. Schönkopf and of his brother-in-law, and of Abraham Blass and so many others.

In 1946, ORT schools were set up in Belgium, in Holland, in Italy and Greece. At the same time, indeed at that very moment, in a spirit of immense hope, the reconstruction of the ORT network in Eastern Europe was begun in Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, and in Czechoslovakia. It was at the same period that Dr. Syngalowski conceived the idea of the Institute for training teachers at Anières.

In 1947, Jules Senouf and Jacques Pinto in Casablanca, Elie Nataf in Tunisia and Jacques Lazarus in Algeria sent urgent appeals to Paris, to Geneva "Why must we, the Jews of North Africa, remain the forgotten Jews of ORT, and why have we not, as have the Jews of East and West Europe, deserved ORT schools for our young people?" And very soon, a significant network of ORT schools was born in the Maghreb countries. I am happy to see among us the first and the last director of ORT Algeria, today the director of ORT in Lyons, my friend Georges Emsallem.

November, 1948, at this same spiralling rhythm and in the name of all out involvement, ORT Israel was established, only a few months after the Declaration of the State of Israel. Dr. Syngalowski went by boat from Venice to Haifa and he, but lately a non-Zionist, knew how to lay the foundations of the magnificent ORT Israel network within the space of a few weeks and in the face of incredulity and scepticism on the part of many. It began with the creation of the first workshops in the poor quarters of Tel Aviv, the Levant Fair Grounds and backed from the beginning by the ORT Israel pioneer builders, Dr. Beham, Dr. Ceitlin, Joseph Shapiro, Mr. Klir, Elie Eliachar and several others. When we contemplate today the admirable structure of ORT Israel, we think with gratitude of the action of its three successive directors, Dr. Wirklich, - yebadlu lehayim arukim - Jacob Oleiski and Joseph Harmatz. The creation of ORT Israel at the end of 1948 responded to the unanimous desire on the part of the World ORT Union as a whole, with however, a special intervention and more marked impatience on the part of our organisations in South Africa, Canada and Women's American ORT. This is also the moment to remember how, before the War of Independence, ORT opened a mechanics school at Rome Airport, thanks to the cooperation, especially, of Abraham Blass and Renzo Levi, which enabled the first pilots and mechanics of the Israeli airforce to acquire the necessary training, at the request, if I am not mistaken, of the chiefs of the burgeoning Israeli airforce of the time, Aaron Remez and Shai Shahaar.

I had the outstanding privilege of being present in Geneva at a meeting between Dr. Syngalowski and the first President of the State of Israel, Dr. Chaim Weizmann and of seeing with my own eyes, Chaim Weizmann rising and giving his blessing to Dr. Syngalowski, adding, "In bringing ORT to Israel, do everything you can to also bring for us to copy, even to steal from Switzerland its feeling for work well done, the precision of its watchmaking industry, of its mechanics, in brief, the secret of quality work."

Then, in July 1949, ORT held its great Congress in Paris with, among many others, Julius Hochmann, George Backer, Anna Center Schneidermann, Leon Meiss, Elie Eliachar, Louis Kahn, Jules Senouf, Armand Brunschvig, Liebmann Herzch and a strong delegation from Poland prominent at the sides of Lvovitch and Syngalowski. In spite of serious divergence of opinions, this Congress ended on the night of 14th July with the adoption of significant resolutions in an atmosphere of refound unity within ORT.

Alas, at the end of 1949 and at the beginning of 1950, the Iron Curtain came down between the West and the East of Europe, cutting us off from our fine schools and our devoted workers and leaders in Eastern Europe.

1950 saw the beginning of ORT in Iran under the courageous and dynamic leadership of Abraham Blass and President Moussa Toub.

Then came the waves of refugees from Hungary, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, for whom ORT in France, in the United States, in Israel represented and continues to represent the only true chance of survival.

1955, the great Congress of ORT in Geneva marked a date, capital in the history of our movement. Sadly, one year later, in 1956, with the tragic death of Dr. Syngalowski, ORT lost its pilot.

The following year in 1957, ORT was able, in the atmosphere of relative liberalisation under the Gomulka regime, to find its way once more in Poland, about which I shall say a few words in a moment.

1960, ORT held its Congress in London and in the same year ORT India was created by Robin Gilbert and Gerhard Gabriel. At the same period, under the dynamic leadership of Bernard Wand Polak, the remarkable expansion of ORT's network throughout Latin America was begun, in Argentina, in Brasil, in Uruguay, then in Peru, Venezuela, Mexico, Paraguay and in Colombia. This was also a pioneer period from whose background a figure stands out, that of President Numo Werthein.

In 1965, the Congress was in Rome, in 1970 in Geneva and in 1974, it was held in Jerusalem. More recently, we can see the creation in New York of the new Bramson School and the setting up of the difficult and ambitious programme in Ethiopia for the rural training of the Falashas.

In presenting this abridged history of the Geneva period in ORT, I am aware that all of it was made possible thanks to the individual and collective undertaking at all time and to the work of a team, inspired by faith and perseverance.

What were for me personally the outstanding facts of this rich era and of my modest contribution to it. First of all, it was the work and the style of ORT in Switzerland under the inspiration of Dr. Syngalowski from 1943 on. A refugee himself, Dr. Syngalowski very rapidly knew how to make the Swiss authorities and the leaders of the Swiss Jewish communities understand the urgency of changing the attitude of mind towards refugees, of no longer being content to give them shelter, but to give them the right, if not of work, at least of a preparation for active life and the exercising of self responsibility. Inspired by such men as Armand Brunschvig, Professor Hersch, Paul Dreyfus de Gunzburg, Adolphe Neumann, Judge Max Gurny, ORT Switzerland brought about a veritable revolution in the domaine of social work and the name of ORT in this country became a household word, making ORT a privileged organisation.

Conceived in wartime, the Central ORT Institute for technical teacher training at Anières, constitutes the second outstanding factor in this period, because, without it, the networks in North Africa, in Israel, France, in India, in Iran and in Latin America would have been inconceivable. I am happy to see several former Institute students in this room, today the directors of ORT schools and organisations in different countries.

The third outstanding factor was, of course, the creation of ORT in Israel in 1948 and its pace of development ever since, at one and the same time a pride and a challenge, a source of continuously renewed emotion.

The fourth remarkable factor was the rise of ORT, so rapid and so far reaching, in North Africa. Today, only a few fine schools remain in Morocco, but what a pathway has been forged and what an investment was made, when we think of the total transformation of the individual and collective aspect of the Maghreb Jew and the extraordinary changes in the economic and social panorama of the Jewish communities there. The same is true for the scope of work carried out by ORT on behalf of Iranian Judaism since 1950. Even whilst being discreet, we cannot recall our work in Iran without paying homage here publicly to the talent, the courage and the determination of Parvine Motamed and her team.

Another memorable step for me was the first mission with which I was entrusted in 1949 to the American ORT Federation, at a time when relations between Europe and the United States posed serious problems for our organisation. I feel it a privilege to have contributed to a certain extent towards better reciprocal understanding and towards the re-establishment of normal and trusting relations.

One of the highlights of this epoch was the return in strength in 1946 to Eastern Europe which was accompanied with out of the ordinary determination and hope, then the return to Poland between 1957 and 1967, thanks to the exemplary and prestigious work of our unforgettable friend and example, David Slobodkin, so ably seconded by David Alberstein and so many other valued workers in Poland itself. This was probably one of the most difficult and most successful programmes which commands the admiration and the gratitude even today of all those who benefited from it or who were associated in it. The return of ORT to Poland aroused much hesitation and apprehension in 1957 and it was only by a very small majority that our Executive Committee authorised Joseph Chorin and myself to undertake this fact-finding mission in September, 1957, which enabled us to present recommendations unanimously adopted by the Executive Committee and which also had, as their immediate result, the re-establishment of AJDC activities in Poland. If we had not taken this decision then, we would not have been able today to stand before this Centenary Congress with a good conscience.

Faced with the disbelief and scepticism of many among us, the importance of the new line of thinking of ORT Union in Latin America from the beginning of the 1960s must be underlined. This new policy has enabled ORT in that continent to attain the dimension needed. Much remains to be done throughout the Jewish communities of Latin America, but we know now, thanks to the pioneer work of Bernard Wand Polak, backed up by Alexander Magat and many others, that ORT has met and will continue to meet the educational, technical and social needs of Latin American Jewry.

I must also recall to mind the particular importance that I, along with all of you, put on the very remarkable and equally pioneer efforts that ORT undertook in its basic education centres in Casablanca and in Tehran, then in its educational centres in Israel, notably at Kfar Saba and at Holon, efforts and results which must be continued, since they respond to one of the fundamental and priority vocations of ORT.

Before concluding, I should also like to be able to evoke my personal satisfaction in having been able in 1957, together with the late Leon Weiss and Faivel Schrager to convince Mr. Daniel Mayer to join the Executive Committee and to assume its chairmanship one year later.

I should also like to say to Nathan Gould and to the Women's American ORT that I think with gratitude and emotion of our fine years of cooperation together.

I owe a lot to ORT, particularly the fact that it was there that I met and learnt to appreciate my excellent secretary in 1946, who, one year later became my wife. I would not have been able to carry through the quarter of the half of what I tried to do without her support, her patience and her wise counsel. That goes for each of us poor men, and in rendering public homage to our wives, it is reasonable that I should speak most particularly of the one I know best.

In the dreams I have at the threshold of the second century, there is certainly one which is at the same time a prayer: to see ORT return one day to its roots in Russia. We are sad to think that at this Centenary, we have not even been able to gather together in remembrance on the Kever Avot, on the tombs of our forefathers. I would permit myself to give this recommendation to the new ORT Executive Committee, which you will elect. It is to constitute a delegation charged with the mission of going to the Soviet Union, not to negotiate, but to bring to the Jews of Silence and of Courage in Leningrad and in Moscow, in Kiev and Vilna, Kovno, Riga and in Odessa, a wholehearted testimony of the indissoluble links that bind us, of our presence by their side and of our determination to be able one day to work for them in Russia. I should like that in the coming days, this sincere message from the Centenary Congress in Jerusalem reach the Jews in the Soviet Union by means of Kol Israel Lagolah. They are certain to be celebrating this anniversary with us.

I should also like to request the British delegation, particularly Lady Chain, upon her return to London to bring the assurance of our affection and faithful gratitude to our dear Ida Romanovna Movchovitch, who in her 95th year, is I believe the doyenne of our organisation. Thank you, Lady Chain, for your kindness in carrying out this responsibility with Madame Movchovitch and also with our old and veteran friend, Marc Mihailovitch Wolff.

In taking my leave of you, I have to say to you all, to my comrades, some of whom have been my students, to our successors: Be pioneers today and tomorrow. Carry the torch of ORT aloft high and far. Be the scouts, "always prepared" and do not forget the definitive value of authenticity and of example. Remember that ORT's grandeur has always lain in its equal attention to both the large and the small tasks, without ever losing sight of the interest of the individual as much as of the group.

Da lifneh mi ata omed: lifneh naar yehudi halomed. Ve heveh zahir bemitzva kalah kebahamurah.

If our unforgettable friend Schragar had been with us, he would have reminded us of the day to day tedium and would have asked us to turn our attention to the often unrewarding and less spectacular tasks with the same sense of responsibility. If he had been here, Schragar would have saved us from many difficulties along the way and from errors of judgement, by bringing us back to the right sense of proportion.

To the new Director General whom you will be designating, I should like to address my good wishes for complete success and achievement at the head of our organisation. Hasak!

I will finish by a quotation from the text from one of my favourite sources of inspiration in the area of political science: Pierre Mendès France:

"I have never thought that I was wasting my time. I have always been sure that, with me or without me, or after me, truth would make its way. And justice. You see I am an optimist. It is the task of each one of us to work tirelessly in order to go faster, in order that there is less time lost, lives lost, happiness lost. Each one of us can contribute his share in this. This is why I have always been a fighter."

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5 JUNE, 1980 in JERUSALEM

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5 JUNE 1980 in JERUSALEM

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5 JUNE 1980 in JERUSALEM

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