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MURRAY LEVINE
COUNSELOR AT LAW

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 5260

Don't forget to put 1/19/30

Mr. Pu.?

Recd: 1. Dez. 1930
Beantw.: 1/6/32

300 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

November 19, 1930.

Central Board, Ort Verband,
Buelowstr. 90, Berlin W. 57,
Germany.

Dear Friends:

I have your letter of October 30th and your letters of October 25th and 17th addressed to the American Ort. I have not written you sooner because I could not give you any definite advice and did not believe in writing you cheerful news for which there is no basis in fact.

Your friends here appreciate fully the staggering difficulties which face you and I must say for myself that your letters have brought me more sadness and depression than even the bad financial situation which we all find ourselves in here. There is the tragic thing that when the needs of your work are so greatly increased the means for its fulfillment are so largely diminished. Most people here have either eliminated or largely decreased their contributions to charitable causes; they look upon such contributions as a luxury which is the first thing eliminated when conditions are not so prosperous. We see the disastrous results on every side. The Hias called a conference last month and announced that it was about to shut its doors unless heroic measures were adopted. What they have accomplished I do not know yet. The Jewish Consumptive Relief Society at Denver, which ordinarily is supported by Jews throughout the whole country, has sent out appeal after appeal threatening to close its doors if something were not done. The United Jewish Campaign has definitely collapsed; they have obtained a little over a million dollars of the six million they planned to raise. The latest information is that it has been decided to separate the JDC from the United Agency and that they each will hold a separate drive. The Agency will hold its drive first at the beginning of 1931 and after it is finished the JDC will conduct its drive. Both the New York and Brooklyn Federations of Jewish Charities are now engaged in drives to make up their current deficit and for next year's budget. They are not meeting with much success. An offer of \$1,000,000. made by Jonas to the two Federations on condition that they unite into one institution finally had to be rejected because neither of them

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succeeded in wiping out its old debts which was a condition of the gift. On top of all this a series of drives have been commenced for the purpose of relieving unemployment. \$6,000,000. is being raised in Manhattan alone and other large sums in other cities. An endeavor is being made to mobilize all the energy and resources of the people who can give in this battle against unemployment just as in wartime they mobilized the people for the purchase of Liberty Bonds.

I cite you these few instances out of many that could be cited so that you may understand the very difficult position American Ort finds itself in. We were never a favored child of the powerful Jews; today, when so many other demands are being made upon them, our appeals fall on deaf ears. I must say to you that Dr. Moskowitz has been most energetic. Naturally we had to depend upon him. Cullman and Warburg have been most sympathetic but no matter how many times we knock at the doors of the JDC the answer always is that they have no money and even if they had, Ort has received more than its proper share.

What is there to be done? Frankly, I do not know. Expenses have been cut down to the minimum. We have given up the office and have a room in the Ort Tool Supply Corp. office free of rent. We have only one girl and Mr. Hirsch Kahan (we ^{had} finally decided to let Mr. Hirsch Kahan go and obtain in his place a man who can do the publicity, membership and Landsmanschaft work). We adopted these economies so as to release every penny possible for you. Even so we have found it very difficult to meet expenses and are raising a fund of \$1000. now among ten of us so as to meet office expenses.

We held a meeting of the Steering Committee (Messrs. Cullman, Warburg, Moskowitz, Boudin, Dolowitz, Dr. Ellisberg and myself) this week and we took up the question of our attitude toward J.D.C. in the future and it was decided that, if a fair arrangement could be made, we should go along with the J.D.C. Dr. Ellisberg endeavored to interest Messrs. Cullman and Warburg in the idea of an independent campaign. They flatly refused to participate therein, frankly saying that they were not in a position to oppose the J.D.C. in any way. The committee also decided to make strenuous efforts to collect the outstanding pledges to the Cullman Campaign and all of us have agreed to help in this work. I am hopeful that this will produce some results in the near future.

I have the feeling that we here will not be able to accomplish anything unless one of your executives comes here, who will have the time, the energy and the official right to demand from everyone of the wealthy group that can be reached that they do not permit the work of Ort to be shattered.

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The work of Lvovitch in England in this connection is very inspiring. I think it was a mistake not to notify us here of the plans for the banquet so that we could give it publicity. It would have been an easy matter to arrange a meeting to listen over the radio to the speeches of Einstein and Shaw. No one knew anything about it in advance and was surprised to read about it in the newspapers. Paul Felix Warburg told me that his father asked him what it was all about and that he, Paul, was embarrassed because he could tell him nothing about it, his father saying "I should think you would know about an Ort affair of this kind". Paul also told me that because the newspapers announced that Mr. Otto Schiff was at the dinner, while he was actually here on that day, Mr. Felix Warburg called Mr. Schiff up and asked him about it. I do not think that this mistake in the publicity work helped us any with Mr. Warburg.

The Steering Committee also decided to send Dr. Moskowitz and Mr. Cullinan to visit Mr. Rosenberg and present again the situation of Ort. Mr. Felix Warburg's health not being very good, all these matters are now referred to Messrs. Rosenberg and Breslow. From what I heard, the latter is not very sympathetic and our efforts must be concentrated on Mr. Rosenberg. I am hopeful that we may be able to do something in this direction but do not really expect to be able to accomplish much as I have heard that the J.D.C. has just had to renew a note for \$100,000. which it borrowed and has not been able to meet.

I shall write you soon again but please bear in mind that when I do not write it is because no developments have transpired that are worth while writing about.

Sincerely yours,

M. Levine

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