

Suggested Material

for

General of the Army Dwight Eisenhower

Approved
[Signature]

Mr. Swaps' draft

This occasion, as I understand it, represents the formal launching of the national campaign of the United Jewish Appeal. The fact that you have set for yourself the stupendous goal of \$170,000,000, an objective unparalleled in the annals of private relief and humanitarian endeavor, is strong testimony to your understanding and generosity.



Humanitarianism is the common link that binds all Americans together. Therefore the problem which faces you today is one in which all Americans have a deep concern. As great as is our love of freedom, equally great is the American feeling of compassion for those in distress wherever they may be. Throughout our history we have been drawn to those who need our help in every corner of the world. Whenever tragedy or disaster has struck the American people has promptly and generously extended its hand of mercy and help.

During the past decade our kinship with the victims of misery and oppression has been sharpened. We were keenly made aware of the underlying injustice of racial and religious persecution. We had tragic and horrifying evidence of the threat it represented to our own institutions of human freedom and democracy. It is to the everlasting credit of this great nation that while we were engaged in winning the war we also planned and labored for the winning of the peace. It is this historic endeavor that continues to confront us today. And this meeting might well be considered a peace session -- a session dedicated to assuring peace to the oppressed and homeless among the surviving Jewish population of Europe.

There are some people who have not yet emerged from the nightmare of oppression under the Hitler regime. In this group the Jews are perhaps

United Jewish Appeal #23/47 - see Speech #50 in Michael Frank

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the saddest example of the problem of suffering humanity in the post-war world. I shall never forget my first visit to a concentration camp in Germany in the hour of Allied victory in Europe. Much has been written of the inhuman and bestial treatment meted out by the Nazis to the Jews and others marked for persecution. It represents a dark chapter in modern history. It is a chapter that we can perhaps in some small way help erase through the type of humanitarian endeavor that is carried on under the banner of the United Jewish Appeal.

The incredible methods of torture and murder that were invented by the enemy to destroy innocent men, women and children are happily a thing of the past. Yet as I stand before you today I cannot help seeing before me the horrible nightmare of the death camps and the pitiful, broken bodies of the relatively small fraction of survivors liberated by our fighting forces. When our armies marched into those centers of human destruction, we were stunned by the sights and smells of death and living death. Men who stolidly faced every emergency and risk of war were shattered physically by this gruelling face-to-face meeting with horror and suffering.

We knew then as we know now that it was our responsibility as Americans and as human beings to save the victims who had been reduced to living skeletons. It is not necessary to repeat here the measures that were taken by the American army to help them. It is a source of pride to me that I was able to participate in the establishment of the first assembly center for the homeless survivors of the concentration camps in Germany. It is also, I am sure, a source of satisfaction to all of you that the American army has recognized its continuing responsibility in providing basic maintenance and shelter for the many thousands who remain in displaced persons camps and centers in the American zone of occupation.

Because of my personal knowledge of the situation overseas I feel that I

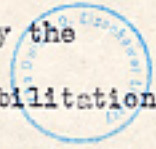
have the right not merely to endorse but to urge your most generous support of the 1947 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal. The fact that the Jews of this nation have joined together in one great effort to save and rebuild the lives of their fellow-Jews represents a splendid demonstration of unity. It commends to the entire American people the special significance and compelling force of this appeal. All Americans must be impressed by the scope of your endeavors in bringing relief and rehabilitation assistance on a large scale to those in distress, in finding homes for the homeless and in restoring countless thousands to productive life.

It is my earnest hope that this campaign will have the active interest and support of every American. Its work of mercy and healing constitutes an all-embracing program of human reconstruction that goes to the heart of the problem of post-war rehabilitation. Regardless of the suffering and privation which the survivors endured under the Nazis, they represent fine human material for the task of creating a new world for the good of all mankind. Let us not forget that many of these same refugees were among the heroic fighters in the underground armies in occupied territory. Others fought courageously in the partisan forces behind the enemy's lines. And hundreds of thousands of Jews gave a good account of themselves in the American army and every other army of the Allies. Among them were many who had escaped from the clutches of their oppressor.

The wounds of war and the scars of oppression have not yet fully healed. It is our duty to hasten the end of suffering that has come in the wake of mass destruction of life. In undertaking a campaign of such great proportions through the United Jewish Appeal, the Jews of this country have demonstrated a keen awareness of the unity and kinship that must be the foundations of the post-war world. In the magnitude of this undertaking you have served to give dramatic emphasis to this underlying principle and brought before the American people as a whole the vital necessity for greater cooperation and brotherhood among the

peoples of the world.

From my own observations in Europe I know that you have achieved much in the past toward the alleviation of the plight of the oppressed and the homeless. This year you face an even greater challenge because the situation overseas demands not only emergency aid in the form of relief, food, clothing and shelter. Circumstances require that you undertake also to lay the foundations for the resettlement of the homeless and for the rehabilitation of the sick, the orphaned, and the needy. That part of the war for freedom has not yet been won. And delay or lack of resources may defeat the valiant efforts of these human beings to achieve their just share of our common victory.



No group more than the Jewish people has demonstrated that generosity can bring great spiritual rewards. Generosity has never impoverished anyone.

On the contrary, it has greatly enriched the lives of all those who have practiced it. And I am sure that Americans are thankful that they are in a position to give rather than to receive. None of us can fully enjoy the blessings of this great democracy without sharing them with those less fortunate than ourselves. In going forward with this year's campaign to raise \$170,000,000 for the United Jewish Appeal, you are setting for yourself an objective which embodies the highest form of human compassion and brotherly help.

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