

**2010 MARKS MY 40<sup>TH</sup> YEAR WITH THE JDC AND 30 YEARS SINCE MY PRESIDENCY. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO GIVE YOU AN OVERVIEW OF THE 1970'S AND WHAT JDC WAS LIKE DURING THAT DECADE.**

**A SERIES OF DRAMATIC EVENTS AFFECTED JEWISH LIVES AND JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE 1970S, INCLUDING THE OCTOBER 1973 YOM KIPPUR WAR; THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S 1975 ADOPTION OF THE INFAMOUS "ZIONISM IS RACISM" RESOLUTION—AND A RESULTING SURGE IN GLOBAL ANTI-SEMITISM; THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MODERN EXODUS OF SOVIET JEWRY; AND THE HISTORIC VISIT OF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT TO ISRAEL IN NOVEMBER 1977, WHICH LED TO THE CAMP DAVID PEACE TALKS AND THE SUBSEQUENT SIGNING OF A PEACE TREATY BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IN 1979. THROUGHOUT THE DECADE, JDC CONTINUED TO UPHOLD ITS BASIC CRITERION FOR DETERMINING JDC ACTION: TO AMELIORATE JEWISH NEED AND TO FULFILL THAT MANDATE IN A NONPOLITICAL MANNER.**

**I WAS HONORED TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE FROM 1973 TO 1977 AND PRESIDENT FROM 1978 THRU 1980.**

**BUDGET**

- 1. 1977 - \$35 MILLION**
- 2. 1978 - \$40 MILLION - \$10 MILLION FOR ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL**
- 3. 1979 - \$47 MILLION - \$11 MILLION FOR TRANSMIGRANTS**
- 4. 1980 - \$64 MILLION – LARGEST ITEM WAS \$24 MILLION FOR CARE OF SOVIET EMIGRANTS**



**TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY ITS ROLE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD, JDC COMMISSIONED A SELF-STUDY IN 1976 WHOSE REPORT LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE THAT EXISTS TODAY. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE REPORT RECOGNIZED THE CENTRALITY OF ISRAEL IN JEWISH LIFE. IT CALLED FOR INCREASED EMPHASIS ON MANPOWER TRAINING TO HASTEN THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY BACK TO NEWLY STRENGTHENED JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE WEST, AS WELL AS A CONCERTED EFFORT TO REACH OUT TO SMALL AND DISTANT COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE. IT ADVOCATED THE DEVELOPMENT OF LONG-TERM-PLANNING CAPABILITIES AND THE MAINTENANCE OF A SO-CALLED CULTURE OF FLEXIBILITY, WITH THE GOAL OF MAXIMIZING JDC'S POWER TO DEAL WITH EMERGENCIES AND RESPOND TO UNPRECEDENTED CONDITIONS AND EMERGING NEEDS.**

**IN ISRAEL, THE LATE 1970'S SAW JDC MOVE ITS HEADQUARTERS FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM AND FOCUS ON DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE MODEL PROGRAMS THAT WOULD STIMULATE SOCIAL CHANGE AND RESPONSIVE COMMUNITY ACTION THROUGHOUT THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE SECTORS. JDC'S COMMITMENT TO PROFESSIONALISM IN SOCIAL SERVICE LED TO THE CREATION OF THE JOSEPH J. SCHWARTZ PROGRAM TO TRAIN MANAGEMENT FOR THE BURGEONING COMMUNITY CENTER MOVEMENT.**



**THE PROGRAM'S EMPHASIS ON RESEARCH, EVALUATION, AND INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING RESULTED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BROOKDALE INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY AND ADULT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, WHICH HAS EVOLVED INTO TODAY'S MYERS-JDC-BROOKDALE INSTITUTE. LATE 1979, NEW JDC HEADQUARTERS THANKS TO RALPH AND TED KOLLECK.**

**IN THE SOVIET UNION, THE TRICKLE OF JEWS ALLOWED TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION PURPOSES HAD BY THE MID-1970S BECOME A VERITABLE STREAM, SOARING TO OVER 51,000 ÉMIGRÉS IN 1979 IN RESPONSE TO ESCALATING POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS. THE STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE EMIGRATION RIGHTS FOR SOVIET JEWRY WAS BEYOND JDC'S NONPOLITICAL MANDATE. HOWEVER, AS THE AGENCY THAT HISTORICALLY PROVIDED CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR JEWS IN TRANSIT, JDC BECAME DIRECTLY AFFECTED WHEN INCREASING NUMBERS OF ÉMIGRÉS INSISTED ON REMAINING IN TRANSIT COUNTRIES TO APPLY FOR ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, OR NEW ZEALAND. BACKLOGS QUICKLY DEVELOPED, WITH THOUSANDS OF TRANSMIGRANTS REQUIRING FOOD, SHELTER, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR MONTHS ON END. AND TO FILL IDLE TIME RESPONSIBLY, JDC SUPPORTED A RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.**



**VISIT TO IRAN (1979)**

**WE VISITED IRAN IN 1979 TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. JDC HAD A NUMBER OF ONGOING PROGRAMS AT THAT TIME PRINCIPALLY SUPPORTING EDUCATION. IT WAS SHOCKING TO SEE THE END OF THE SHAHS REIGN WHICH HAPPENED 6 MONTHS AFTER OUR VISIT.**

**IN NORTH AFRICA, WHERE THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN MOROCCO, TUNISIA, ALGERIA, AND EGYPT CONTINUED TO DIMINISH IN SIZE, JDC MAINTAINED AN ACTIVE CONCERN FOR THEIR WELL-BEING, HELPING THEM SUSTAIN THE INSTITUTIONS NECESSARY FOR JEWISH LIFE. IT PROVIDED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION IN MOROCCO AND TUNISIA AND ENABLED THE JEWISH AGED, SICK, AND POOR IN ALL FOUR COUNTRIES TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY.**

**IN WESTERN EUROPE, THE FRENCH JEWISH COMMUNITY—DUE TO ITS CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS—CONTINUED TO RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL JDC FUNDING IN THE 1970S. THE MASSIVE JEWISH INFLUX FROM NORTH AFRICA IN THE TURBULENT 1960S HAD SWELLED THE COMMUNITY'S NUMBERS TO AN UNPRECEDENTED 700,000, AND JDC CONTINUED TO PROVIDE ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP MEET ONGOING COMMUNAL NEEDS. SINCE 1961, JDC HAD ALSO BEEN NURTURING THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES AS AN UMBRELLA FOR SERVING THE INCREASINGLY SELF-SUFFICIENT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN EUROPE.**



**THROUGHOUT THE '60S AND '70S, JDC HAD AN AGONIZING SENSE OF INCOMPLETENESS ABOUT ITS POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT IN EUROPE, BECAUSE ITS COLD WAR EXPULSIONS FROM THE SOVIET SATELLITE COUNTRIES PLACED MOST OF EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWRY OUT OF DIRECT REACH.**

**YUGOSLAVIA ALONE NEVER EXPELLED JDC. THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT, IN CONTRAST, INVITED JDC TO RESUME OPERATIONS IN MARCH 1967. JDC'S RETURN TO ROMANIA LITERALLY MEANT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH FOR MANY IN THIS DEPRIVED POPULATION, LEFT BEHIND WHEN THE VAST MAJORITY OF ROMANIA'S ABLE-BODIED JEWS WERE ALLOWED TO MAKE ALIYAH. JDC'S WELFARE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SUSTAINED THOUSANDS OF LONELY HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND FREED THE COMMUNITY TO INVEST ITS SPARSE FUNDS IN JEWISH EDUCATION AND CULTURAL LIFE.**

- 1. RABBI ROSEN**
- 2. VISIT PRESIDENT CHECHESQUE**
- 3. WALK IN THE PARK WITH RALPH AND RABBI ROSEN**

**WHEN RALPH GOLDMAN BEGAN HIS TENURE AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT IN JANUARY 1976, A PRIMARY GOAL HE SET FOR JDC WAS TO REENTER EASTERN EUROPE "THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR"—THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS.**



**HUNGARY, HOME TO THE LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION IN THE SOVIET SATELLITES, WAS THE FIRST TARGET. JDC CONSULTED WITH NUMEROUS EXPERTS AND CONDUCTED PROTRACTED AND SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT. IN DECEMBER 1979 A DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS PREPARED, SETTING THE TERMS FOR JDC TO REENTER HUNGARY IN JANUARY 1980 AND LEADING TO A NEW ERA OF JDC INVOLVEMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE.**

**MAILBOX CAMPAIGN (1979)**

- 1. THE FEDERATIONS OF PROVIDENCE AND SPRINGFIELD WANTED TO HELP IN CAMBODIA AND NOT GIVE THE MONEY TO THE RED CROSS.**
- 2. UNTIL THEN JDC ALWAYS MADE A TOKEN CONTRIBUTION FROM OUR BUDGET TO WORLD WIDE DISASTERS.**
- 3. IN CASE OF CAMBODIA, OPENED A SPECIAL MAILBOX CAMPAIGN FOR JEWS TO IDENTIFY WITH THEIR NON-SECTARIAN PROGRAM.**

**EVENTUALLY LED TO THE CREATION OF THE JDC-INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

**PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED – RECOGNIZE SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE**

- 1. RALPH GOLDMAN**
- 2. JACK WEILER**
- 3. HENRY TAUB**
- 4. HEINZ EPPLER**
- 5. MAX FISHER**



**DECEMBER 9, 1980**

**MY TERM OF OFFICE ENDED TODAY. WE PLANNED IT SO, WHEN WE ADOPTED A POLICY OF ROTATING LEADERSHIP WE ENVISIONED A PERIODIC REJUVENATION, AN INFUSION OF NEW IDEAS, NEW BLOOD, AND THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY IS WHAT WILL KEEP OUR COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE STRONG AND DYNAMIC.**

**HERE IN THE JDC WE ARE CARRYING FORWARD A TRADITION, A HISTORY THAT PARALLELS THE AGONIES AND THE ECSTASY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE – TWO WORLD WARS, THE HOLOCAUST, THE REBIRTH OF ISRAEL. WE ARE PART OF THAT UNFOLDING HISTORY. WE HAVE HELPED TO SHAPE IT, TO BEND THE DESTINY OF OUR PEOPLE TO OUR WILL.**

**IT IS AN ENNOBLING – AND A VERY HUMBLING THOUGHT. IT IS VERY GRATIFYING. IT MAKES ALL OUR EFFORTS AND OUR SACRIFICES SO WORTH WHILE.**