

War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress.

DR. ELLEN HELLMAN'S REPORT.

Dr. Ellen Hellman, the Board's observer at the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress held recently in New York, has submitted her report on the Conference to the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies. It still awaits study by the Foreign Affairs Committee. The following are points from the report:—

The Conference comprised 267 delegates made up as follows: 24 members of the Executive and Administrative Committee, 81 U.S.A. delegates, 86 delegates from 21 foreign countries (excluding enemy occupied territories), 76 delegates from Jewish Representative Committees set up by the World Jewish Congress for the enemy-occupied territories, 8 observers (7 from the American Jewish Conference and 1 from South Africa).

The Soviet Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee was invited, but excused itself on the ground of the large amount of work in which it was involved in connection with the liberation of Soviet territories by the Red Army.

Dr. Goldmann's opening address at the Conference was generally considered a brilliant performance. He placed the moral responsibility for the tragedy of European Jewry on the free democracies. He said that all attempts at rescue had been too little and too late. He pointed out that at the time of the Dunkirk debacle the emergency led to all red-tape being swept away. This could have been done for the Jews but was not. After outlining Jewish post-war demands, he went on to deal with the need for collective Jewish action—the principle on which the World Jewish Congress is based—and the concept of a Jewish people. Dealing with the elements which deny this unity he said: "We Jews should have become politically conscious enough to disregard minorities." He dealt with the degree to which united effort could result in effective political action and stressed that "the external front is only as strong as the internal front." (Mrs. Hellman comments that so far as the United States Jewish community is concerned, the internal front "constitutes a series of pill-boxes with numerous stretches of open country in between.") Dr. Goldmann urged that the re-establishment of contact with Russian Jewry is one of the major tasks facing us.

In commenting on the session of the Conference at which relief, rehabilitation and rescue were dealt with, Mrs. Hellman stresses that the experts on the staff of the World Congress are extraordinarily able men who provide a solid factual basis for all the work that is done. The chief point of the speech of one of these experts, Mr. Kubowitzki, was that until this crisis the Jews had no instrument of rescue. They were organised only for relief and it took years to realise the difference between the two and to create techniques effective for rescue.

The pro-Zionist attitude of the Conference revealed itself at the outset.

The addresses of the representatives of enemy-occupied territories indicated "bitterness and resentment at the callousness and complacency of the free communities."

The Conference set up seven Commissions—Organisation, War Crimes, Relief, Finance, Political, Rescue, Rehabilitation. It was in these Commissions that the real work of the Conference was done and that the underlying conflicts of interest and ideology revealed themselves.

The main issue at the Conference was whether the World Jewish Congress should continue its relief activities or not. Mrs. Hellman comments that in actual fact, relief and rescue on the one hand, and political activity on the other, cannot be divorced and there was general agreement that the two are inter-related. This applies likewise to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee which claims to be a purely relief organisation but, it is alleged, inevitably takes part in political activities.

The resolution adopted on the subject of relief and rehabilitation proposes to set up some machinery to effect co-ordination of activities, but there is no great optimism as regards success.

With regard to the question of the future of European Jewry—mass transference to Palestine or the attempt to rebuild Jewish communities in their former homes—there were extremists on both sides. Some did not wish to contemplate reinstated Jewish communities in Europe and some wanted to go all out to replace what had once existed. But the leadership and apparently the great majority of delegates has adopted "the primacy of the Palestine idea." The Representa-

(Continued in Third Column).

South African Jewish Girls as Unrra Workers.

CHOSEN BY DEPUTIES AND J.W.A.

Three Jewish girls are among South Africa's first party of Unrra relief workers to go up North. By special request of the Council for Voluntary Relief Abroad, the body set up by the Union Government to act for Unrra in the Union, they have been selected by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, acting in conjunction with the South African Jewish War Appeal. Their names can now be officially released.

They are Miss Miriam Gordon, Miss Mickey Jaspán and Miss Phyllys Rabkin. All three are trained social workers and they are well qualified to undertake their forthcoming task in the refugee camps of the Middle East.

Miss Jaspán is the daughter of Mrs. A. Jaspán of Johannesburg and took her B.A. in Social Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand. More recently she has been working at the Mental Hygiene Clinic in Wanderers View, Johannesburg.

Miss Gordon was born in Johannesburg and educated in England. She was studying at Oxford when the present war broke out, specialising there in French and Spanish. Through the outbreak of hostilities her studies were interrupted, and after spending a period in assistance in the work of the Central Council for Refugees in London she returned to South Africa in 1940 to continue with a social science course at the University of the Witwatersrand. Until now she has been engaged in social welfare work at the Johannesburg Non-European Hospital and has carried out a special investigation into the effects of tuberculosis on non-Europeans.

Miss Rabkin comes from Cape Town and is the daughter of the late Mr. L. Rabkin and Mrs. Rabkin. For two years she was Vocational Guidance Officer for the Ort-Oze at Johannesburg as well as Chairman of the Zionist Socialist Youth Movement. During her period of studies at the University of Cape Town Miss Rabkin carried out a social survey of the Cape Coloured community.

This party of Unrra workers will leave by plane for Cairo in the very near future. They are to be engaged in relief work among women and children in refugee camps in the Middle East, their engagement being for the period of a year. A well-known South African with whom they will come into direct contact is Miss Hansi Pollak, who has lately left the army in order to become Camp Welfare Officer for Unrra at Cairo.

The Council for Voluntary Relief Abroad put the request for the volunteers to the Board as a matter of great urgency, and in little more than ten days a committee of the Board had made its selection from a long list of candidates.

A farewell party to Miss Gordon, Miss Jaspán and Miss Rabkin took place under the auspices of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies and Jewish War Appeal at the Carlton Hotel last Wednesday.

More J.W.A. Relief Reaches Switzerland.

COLLABORATION WITH NON-JEWISH BODIES.

Remittances from the J.W.A. to suffering Jewry in Europe are safely reaching their destination. This fact is once again emphasised by the receipt at the Johannesburg offices of the Jewish War Appeal of a cable from its representative, Mr. Saly Mayer, in Switzerland.

Cabling from his headquarters at St. Gallen, Mr. Mayer acknowledges the arrival of a further large sum of money and adds: "Your generous grant being used in your name for the upkeep of children in homes. Besides yourself the American Joint, Swiss Red Cross and Non-sectarian Children's Help are sharing cost."

Mr. Mayer continues to receive details of refugees who are finding their way across Nazi Europe into Switzerland. Among these are large numbers of Hungarians who have been able to evade the German armies but who were unable to reach safety behind the Russian lines. This influx is likely to continue and to bring with it extra calls for relief.

S.A. Jewish War Appeal

NATIONAL COUNCIL TO MEET SUNDAY.

The "Parliament" of the South African Jewish War Appeal, namely, its National Council, will hold its next meeting in Johannesburg on Sunday, February 4th. The meeting will be attended by representatives of all the major centres in the Union, including Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban and Bloemfontein.

Goldstein Family received Gen. Smuts.

Ella Goldstein, the distinguished violinist, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Uriel Goldstein, were received by Gen. Smuts in the Prime Minister's Office on Monday, 30th January, at mid-day. They were introduced to the Prime Minister by Mr. Morris Alexander, K.C., M.P., and Mr. Alexander, who had arranged this introduction on the occasion of Miss Goldstein's 18th birthday. Gen. Smuts gave her an autograph of himself.

Miss Goldstein's birthday was celebrated by her parents who invited 50 guests to a tea party on Tuesday afternoon at the Nelson Hotel.

Senator Brookes at Wynberg.

There was a very large gathering at the Talmud Torah Hall on Tuesday, 26th January, to hear Senator E. H. Brookes, M.P., when he addressed the combined Associations of Claremont, Wynberg and Bosch Massadah.

Mr. Saevitzon, Chairman of the Cape Zionist Society, was in the chair. Mr. L. J. Chairman of the Rondebosch Massadah Association, introduced Senator Brookes and paid tribute to him for the excellent work he was doing.

Senator Brookes stressed the importance of unrestricted immigration of Jews into Palestine. The plight of the remnants of European Jewry was sad and their need pressing. Palestine was the only possible place in which the Jews could again build up a normal family life.

At the conclusion of the meeting Dr. Kravitz, Chairman of the Wynberg Zionist Society, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker.

(Continued from First Column).

Executive Committee of German Jews want to go on record that no Jew would return to Germany.

Summing up, Mrs. Hellman endorses the points of Dr. Goldmann's closing address, and says it was a good Conference. It acted as a relief to emotion and sentiment and it went far towards building the foundation for Jewish solidarity. Representatives of the most distant countries got together and got to know each other and were pulled together in bonds of mutual interest. It took far-reaching decisions and arrived at more, unanimous decisions. It stilled grief and tears and found its way to a new hope in a new and better future.

In conclusion, Mrs. Hellman said that the body who attended was moved and thrilled that the Conference had achieved its purpose. Clearly, she adds, there is no doubt that it will achieve its purpose. Clearly, the progress is at this stage not representative of Jewry as a whole but only of segments of it.

BARMITZVAH.

BUIRSKI.—Anton, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Buirski, Milnerton, will read a portion of the Torah at the Gardens Synagogue, Cape Town, on Monday, 3rd February, 1945.

BIRTH.

WOOLF.—To Air Corporal and Mrs. Woolf (nee Adrienne Salomon), a bonny daughter at the Monica Nursing Home, Bulawayo, 22nd January.