

Jewish Poor

NEW YORK--The wide extent of poverty among Jews in the United States was examined at a two-day National Consultation on Poverty in the Jewish Community sponsored by the American Jewish Committee. The Consultation was held at the Institute of Human Relations, 165 East 56 Street.

Dealing with the dimensions of the problem, Bertram H. Gold, Executive Vice President of the American Jewish Committee, told the opening session of the Consultation that estimates of the number of Jews in the United States living on an income of \$4,000 a year or less for a family of four ranged from 500,000 to close to 1,000,000. The number of Jews living below the poverty level, he continued, is actually larger, because most Jews live in cities and there, "the edge of poverty, according

to the government, lies nearer \$6,000. What is more, just above this level there are still others -- no one knows how many -- who must find their near poverty especially galling because of a large number of cultural factors -- the stress on higher education among Jews, Jewish family expectations, the pressures for upward social mobility in the Jewish community."

The total number of Jews in the United States is 5,870,000, according to the American Jewish Yearbook.

Turning to governmental efforts to cope with the problem, Mr. Gold charged that the anti-poverty programs of the past decade had

BORDERS IF MIDEAST PEACE

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Defense Minister Moshe Dayan indicated what Israel's borders

would be if a general peace settlement was reached in the Middle East at this time.

Jerusalem would not be divided; Nathanya would not be endangered from the east; the Straits of Eilat, controlled by Sharm el Sheikh, would not be in foreign hands.

The main test facing Israel, he said, is not so much official relations with the Arab states, but human relations with Arabs of the administered territories.

been of little or no help to poor Jews because these programs had been targeted to other groups and "do not even attempt to meet the very different economic and cultural needs of Jews. Besides, the Jewish poor with few exceptions are scattered, whereas most anti-poverty efforts are directed to areas of concentrated poverty. As a result, Jews have rarely been reached by such efforts, and until recently remained almost unrepresented on local poverty councils."

The problems of Jewish poverty, Mr. Gold pointed out, are due in some measure to the high proportion of old people among the Jewish poor. "As many as two-thirds may be in their sixties or older -- mostly members of the immigrant generation who were left behind when their neighbors made it into the middle class," he declared. "Many of the aged poor live in wretchedly neglected houses in neighborhoods no longer Jewish. Many are so afraid of crime in the street -- with good reason -- that they rarely venture out even to shop or see the doctor and do not visit with friends at all. Most Jewish institutions -- synagogues, community centers, Y's -- moved away when the majority of Jewish residents did, and their services have not been replaced. Thus, with hardly any social companionship, to be widowed usually means to be totally and hopelessly alone," Mr. Gold explained.

Dr. Mitchell I. Ginsberg, Dean of the Columbia Graduate School of Social Work and former New York City Human Resources Administrator, in addressing the conference, termed it "essential that what is done for Jewish poor not be at the expense of other poor."



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