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THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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September 26, 1963

To: Participants in American Jewish Emergency Effort for Biafran Relief

From: Morris B. Abram

This is an interim report on the collection and allocation of monies for Biafran Relief.

In response to the advertisements placed in The New York Times and in several other newspapers, as well as to the letters that a number of you have sent to your constituencies, we have raised as of today \$90,000, exclusive of costs of ads which were paid for by special contributions. The Steering Committee, which consists of representatives from four Jewish bodies, has met. After consulting with representatives of Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service and UNICEF, it was decided to make available as our first allocations the amounts of \$18,000 for Church World Service and \$20,000 for Catholic Relief Services. The Church World Service allocation will make possible 20 flights of food amounting to about 180 tons. The Catholic Relief Services allocation will make possible a shipment of badly needed medicines from Portugal directly to Biafra. (The medicines include blood plasma, anti-dysentery medicines, and antibiotics which will be dropped into Biafra by parachute next week.)

A tentative decision has been made to allocate approximately \$10,000 to UNICEF, but we withheld making the allocation until we are persuaded that this is an effective means of getting food and medicines into Biafra.

There is a possibility that we may use the UNICEF allocation plus an additional \$5,000 to help make possible a special flight from the United States of a joint Catholic, Protestant and Jewish relief shipment to Biafra. We are presently exploring this with the CRS

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and CWS in possible cooperation with the Mogen David Adom of Israel. We will, of course, keep you informed as this develops.

Our decision to allocate these two sums to CRS and CWS is based on a careful assessment and documentation of the fact that these are the two most effective agencies in getting supplies through to the people of Biafra. The remaining sums we are holding in escrow, pending further developments in Biafra.

Following is a breakdown of our present finances:

- A. \$46,000 has been deposited directly by the American Jewish Emergency Effort for Biafran Relief.
- B. \$12,000 has been distributed to the three relief agencies since the donors' checks were made payable to either UNICEF, Catholic Relief Services or Church World Service.
- C. \$22,000 has been distributed to the various Jewish organizations who sponsored the ad. Of this total approximately one-half was sent to B'nai B'rith. Of the \$22,000 only \$7,000 has been redeposited.

Thus after our \$33,000 allocation, we have approximately \$8,000 remaining in our own account and we are still waiting for the remainder of the \$22,000 to be redeposited.

Let me thank you again for your very generous interest and support.

MBA:msb