

INVENTORY OF THE RECORDS OF THE STOCKHOLM OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, 1941-1967

Administrative History

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is the world's leading humanitarian assistance organization. Formed in 1914 in response to the onset of World War I and the devastation it wreaked on thousands of Jewish communities across war-torn Europe, JDC has served over the past century as the overseas arm of the American Jewish philanthropic community, providing rescue, relief, and rehabilitation services to global Jewish communities and individuals in need worldwide.

In the present day, JDC continues its efforts to alleviate hunger and material hardship, rebuild and sustain Jewish cultural and social service infrastructures and communal institutions worldwide, aid at-risk Jewish communities and individuals, and provide critical relief and long-term non-sectarian development assistance services for victims of man-made and natural disasters in more than 90 countries across the globe.

The JDC Archives holds, describes, preserves, and makes accessible the organization's institutional records. These records include: approximately 3 miles of textual records; a photo collection of approximately 100,000 photo images; over 1,300 films; and a collection of over 1,000 sound recordings, which document JDC's history and its global activities.

Scope and Content of Records

The Stockholm Collection contains the records of JDC's Stockholm office during the years 1941-1967. The majority of the materials focus on the Stockholm office's activities during World War II and in the postwar period from 1944-1949.

In wartime, JDC's Stockholm office, strategically located in neutral Sweden, was well-placed to coordinate the delivery of supplies to survivors and refugees in Europe, collaborate in wartime rescue operations, and to establish contact with and coordinate searches for survivors after the war ended.

These records also chronicle JDC's collaborations with other organizations to assist survivors, such as its work with the Red Cross on the White Buses. This project, headed by Count Folke Bernadotte, a Swedish diplomat and then-president of the Swedish Red Cross, provided packages and medical care to survivors in concentration camps, as well as bringing some concentration camp inmates to safety in Sweden during the last months of the war. JDC also cooperated with the local Swedish Jewish community, the Mosaiska Församlingen, to assist Holocaust survivors who had arrived in Sweden from Denmark, Norway, Hungary, and concentration camps.

After the war, JDC representatives in Stockholm arranged for shipments of supplies distributed by JDC offices to survivors in Germany, Poland and Austria. These were referred to as the Felix Convoys, coordinated by Mrs. Kerstin Felix. JDC also provided care and maintenance for refugees with tuberculosis and other diseases who were sent to sanatoria in Sweden to recuperate. In addition, the Stockholm office also corresponded with Jewish communities in South America and South Africa who sought to send money and other aid to survivors, and with other Jewish communities requesting assistance, such as the Jewish community in Prague.

Some files in this inventory hold confidential information, and are restricted in accordance with the JDC Archives' [Access and Restrictions Policy](#).

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers with the exception of files that are restricted due to the nature of their contents. Restricted files can include legal files, personnel files, case files, and personal medical diagnoses, etc. Please see our [Access and Restrictions Policy](#) for further details.

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Preferred Citation

Repository, Title of Collection, Folder number, Title of item, Date of item.

Example: JDC Archives, Records of the Stockholm office of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Folder 71, “Emigration from Germany to Sweden 1943, 1945, 1947-1948.”

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Ayala Levin-Kruss in 2013.

FILE LIST

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Accounts 1941, 1944-1945, 1958 |
| 2 | Accounts 1944-1947 |
| 3 | Bills and Expenses for Auto-Convoys 1946-1947 |
| 4 | Bills and Expenses Stockholm Office 1946 (1 of 2) |
| 5 | Bills and Expenses Stockholm Office 1946 (2 of 2) |
| 7 | Korrespondens 1944 (1 of 2) |
| 9 | Correspondence 1947 |
| 10 | Korrespondens 1947-1948 |
| 12 | Correspondence and Lists 1945-1948 |
| 13 | Correspondence and Lists 1946-1947 |
| 18 | Joint Correspondence A-D 1945 |
| 19 | Joint Correspondence E-G 1945 |
| 21 | Memoranda to Staff 1946-1949 |
| 23 | Marcus Levin File 1942-1943 (1 of 2) |
| 24 | Marcus Levin File 1942-1943 (2 of 2) |

- 28 Joint Belsen October 1945-August 1946
- 29 Joint Belsen August-December 1946
- 30 Joint Belsen 1946-1947
- 31 Joint Belsen December 1946-March 1947
- 32 Joint Belsen March 1947
- 33 Joint K-Z 1945-1947
- 36 Joint Persia, Cyprus, Rumania, Switzerland, Shanghai 1945-1949
- 37 Joint Portugal 1944-1946
- 42 Miscellaneous Correspondence with AJDC Geneva 1958-1960
- 43 Miscellaneous Correspondence with AJDC Geneva 1961-1963
- 44 Telegrams 1945-1947
- 45 Telegrams Portugal 1944-1945
- 46 Aid to Jews of Europe 1943
- 47 Public Relations Material, Correspondence, and Publications 1945-1949, 1952-1953, 1958-1960, 1968
- 48 Correspondence 1944-1949
- 49 Correspondence 1945-1949, Mosaika Forsamlugen (1 of 2)
- 50 Correspondence 1945-1949, Mosaika Forsamlugen (2 of 2)
- 51 Correspondence 1945-1948, 1962-1967
- 52 Korrespondens Wa-WD 1945-1948
- 53 Korrespondens – Fiskarudden Lidingo 1947-1948 (1 of 2)
- 54 Korrespondens – Fiskarudden Lidingo 1947-1948 (2 of 2)
- 55 Transmigration Kommitten, Stockholm 1945-1946
- 56 Judiska Transmigration Kommitten, Stockholm 1946
- 58 Olika Sammanslutningar 1944-1948

- 59 Olika Sammanslutningar 1945-1947, 1949
- 61 Olika Sammanslutningar 1945-1949
- 62 Olika Sammanslutningar A 1945-1949
- 63 Olika Sammanslutningar A-C 1945-1949
- 64 Olika Organization H-L 1945-1949
- 64a Correspondence 1948-1949
- 65 Olika Organization N2-P 1944-1949
- 66 Olika Sammanslutningar T, UT 1944-1948
- 67 Olika Sammanslutningar Ut-V, Ö 1945-1949
- 70 Emigration Case File 1949-1949
- 71 Emigration from Germany to Sweden 1943, 1945, 1947-1948
- 72 Joint Frankrike Paris Emigration Service March 1946-March 1947
- 73 Joint Frankrike Paris Emigration Service April 1947-April 1948
- 75 Olika Sammanslutningar 1944-1947
- 76 Olika Sammanslutningar 1946-1947
- 77 Olika Sammanslutningar 1947
- 78 Olika Sammanslutningar 1947-1949
- 79 Olika Sammanslutningar 1948-1949
- 81 Correspondence Lj-Lö, K 1945-1949
- 87 Correspondence 1945-1947, 1949
- 88 Korrespondens Bi-Ble 1945-1948
- 89 Korrespondens Bli-Br 1945-1950
- 90 Korrespondens Bra-Bri 1945-1950
- 91 Korrespondens Bro-Bö, 1945-1950
- 92 Korrespondens C 1945-1949 (1 of 2)

- 93 Korrespondens C 1945-1949 (2 of 2)
- 96 Korrespondens E 1945-1950
- 97 Korrespondens E 1945-1948, 1950-1951
- 98 Korrespondens Ga-Gep 1945-1948
- 99 Korrespondens Ger-Gn 1945-1949
- 100 Korrespondens Gra-Gr 1945-1949
- 101 Korrespondens Gru-Gö 1945-1949
- 102 Korrespondens Gr-Goldm 1945-1949
- 103 Korrespondens Goldr-Got 1945-1949
- 104 Korrespondens Ha 1945-1949
- 108 Korrespondens Jag 1945-1949
- 109 Korrespondens Ka-Kau 1944-1949
- 110 Korrespondens Kau-Kern 1945-1948
- 111 Korrespondens Kers-Kleinberg 1945-1950
- 112 Korrespondens Kl-Ko 1945-1949
- 118 Korrespondence Ross-Roz 1945-1950
- 120 Allman Korrespondens Schm-Schw 1944-1948, 1950
- 121 Allman Korrespondens Sp-Sta 1945-1949
- 123 Allman Korrespondens Su-Sz 1945-1950
- 124 Korrespondens Web-Wein 1945-1948
- 129 Olika Sammanslutningar F 1947-1948
- 131.1 Olika Organization P-S 1941-1949
- 132 Olika Organization P-S 1945-1947
- 134 Correspondence A-An 1946
- 135 Correspondence – Assistance and Supplies 1945 (1 of 2)

- 138 Correspondence Marcus Levin 1945
- 139 Correspondence Regarding Packages A-H, W 1945-1949
- 140 Correspondence Regarding Packages I-M 1942-1943, 1945-1948
- 142 Felix Convoy 1947
- 143 Joint A-J 1945-1946
- 144 Joint Correspondence S 1945-1946
- 146 Parcels to Europe
- 147 Parcels to Individuals N-O 1945-1948
- 148 Supplies 1945-1947 (1 of 2)
- 149 Supplies 1945-1947 (2 of 2)
- 151 Telegrams 1945-1946
- 155 Correspondence and Lists 1946-1949
- 157 Allman Korrespondens Si 1945-1948
- 159 Lists of Survivors
- 160 Olika Organizations N1 1944-1946, 1948-1949
- 161 Correspondence 1945-1946 (2 of 2)
- 164 Correspondence 1946
- 165 Correspondence 1947-1949
- 167 Correspondence Ap-F 1945-1946
- 169 Correspondence Joint Paris 1946, 1955
- 170 Korrespondens Me-Mi 1945-1950
- 171 Correspondence Sch, Sto 1942-1943, 1945-1948
- 172 Korrespondens Y-Z, A-O 1945-1950
- 174 Joint Frankrike 1945
- 175 Joint Frankrike 1946

- 176 Correspondence 1946-1949, Germany – Stockholm
- 178 Correspondence Germany 1945-1948
- 179 Correspondence Germany 1946-1949
- 180 Norway 1947-1949
- 181 Norway 1949-1953, 1956-1957, 1965-1966
- 186 Original Poster 1947
- 187 Telegrams 1945-1949
- 189 Office Correspondence 1946-1947
- 193 Frankrike Joint January 1949-April 1950
- 194 “Let Us Never Forget” Inga Gottfarb 1996