

NEWS COMMITTEE

FROM THE

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE Institute of Human Relations, 165 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y. 10022, PLaza 1-4000

The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906, is the pioneer human-relations agency in the United States. It protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people.

MORTON YARMON, Director of Public Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York, Dec. 15...The first joint Jewish-Catholic-Protestant direct chartered mercy airlift for the starving children of Biafra left Kennedy International airport today carrying 40 tons of food and medicine, including 100,000 doses of urgently needed measles vaccine donated by UNICEF.

The tri-faith support for the mercy flight comes from Catholic Relief Services, Protestant Church World Service and the American Jewish Emergency Effort for Biafran Relief, which is composed of 21 major national Jewish organizations.

The flight is scheduled to arrive at the Portuguese West Africa island of Sao Tome tomorrow, Dec. 16, from where the supplies will be flown into Biafra on the nighttime air shuttles operated by Joint Church Aid, a composite group of Catholic and Protestant relief agencies of the United States and Europe.

Catholic Relief Services contributed toward the flight \$120,000 worth of high protein and concentrated carbohydrate foods and various medicinals; Church World Service contributed \$59,000-worth of food, antibiotics and seeds; and the American Jewish Emergency Effort for Biafran Relief paid the cost of the charter flight, \$40,000. The 100,000 doses of measles vaccine from UNICEF is valued at \$50,000.

The American Jewish Emergency Effort for Biafran Relief has also previously contributed \$38,000 to the Biafra emergency programs of Catholic Relief Services and Church World Service and has sponsored a series of full-page ads in newspapers throughout the country.

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Representatives of the three religious groups stated that an interfaith service will be held in New York City in the near future to commemorate the occasion of this tri-faith mercy airlift as well as a memorial to the four crew members who were killed on the night of Dec. 7 flying relief supplies from Sao Tome into Biafra when their aircraft crashed making its approach to the Uli airstrip.

The leaders of the 21 Jewish organizations are: Morris B. Abram, Honorary President, American Jewish Committee; Jordan Band, President, National Community Relations Advisory Council; Louis Broido, Chairman, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Dr. Nelson Glueck, President, Hebrew Union College--Jewish Institute of Religion; Dr. William Haber, President, American ORT Federation; Rabbi Joseph Karasick, President, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, President, American Jewish Congress; Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum, President, Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Dr. Max Nussbaum, Chairman, American Section World Jewish Congress; Dr. Joachim Prinz, Chairman, Governing Council, World Jewish Congress.

Also: Henry N. Rapoport, President, United Synagogue of America; Rabbi Jacob Philip Rudin, President, Synagogue Council of America; Samuel Samuels, National Commander, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.; Nathan Saperstein, President, National Council of Young Israel; Rabbi Zev Segal, President, Rabbinical Council of America; Mrs. Michael Shapiro, President B'nai B'rith Women; Rabbi Ralph Simon, President, Rabbinical Assembly; Mrs. Leonard H. Weiner, National President, National Council of Jewish Women; Dr. William Wexler, President, B'nai B'rith, and Charles S. Zimmerman, President, Jewish Labor Committee.

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