

## Schwartz, Joseph J.

(1899–1975), European director of the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) from 1940–1949. Schwartz joined the JDC in his native United States. He was soon sent to Paris to serve as European deputy director; in 1940 he became director. When the Germans occupied France in 1940, Schwartz moved the JDC's offices to Portugal.

As JDC director, Schwartz directed many rescue and aid operations. He supervised the emigration of Jews who could still get visas to Western countries. He allotted funds for rescue activities all over occupied Europe, where JDC workers rescued and hid many Jews. He supported armed Jewish resistance, despite the policy of the American JDC. Schwartz endorsed illegal Jewish emigration to Palestine in 1940 and 1941. He established another JDC office in Istanbul. He sent thousands of aid packages to the Soviet Union via Tehran, which saved thousands of starving Jewish refugees in Soviet Central Asia. In addition, Schwartz allocated moneys for the upkeep of Jewish religious institutions in Palestine.

After the war, Schwartz sent JDC workers to help run Displaced Persons' camps in Germany. He also sent teams to help Jews in Eastern Europe, and aided refugees who wanted to go to Palestine. Schwartz continued working for Jewish organizations until his retirement in 1970.