NEW YORK, June 18....The first group of young American Jewish participants in a pilot exchange program for future leaders of the Federal Republic of Germany and the American Jewish community leave on Sunday, June 22, for a two-week first-hand experience of present-day Germany.

In announcing its program, Maynard I. Wishner, President of the American Jewish Committee, stated that the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of West Germany, co-sponsor of the exchange program with the AJC, had developed the German program for the current participants "to provide an objective view of the 'new Germany' and its thirty-year history and accomplishments."

Mr. Wishner pointed out that "throughout the trip, emphasis has been placed on providing contact with Germans of approximately the same age groups and professional backgrounds."

He advised that the program for the first group of German young leadership to visit the United States in November is being planned by the Committee, and will permit the group "to study the American Jewish community and its contributions to the social, cultural, political and economic life in the U.S."

Richard L. Weiss, Chairman of the Leadership Exchange program and a member of the American Jewish Committee's Board of Governors, detailed the American group's program which begins in Berlin, "selected because it is illustrative of the past and the present-day division of Germany."

Throughout the visit, seminars, field trips, meetings with political, academic, media and labor representatives have been scheduled in order to provide maximum contact between the Americans and Germans.

In describing the arrangements in Bonn, Mr. Weiss reported that "the emphasis in this city is on today's Germany, its political scene, social
programs, legal and constitutional structures, exploring as well such subjects as extremism and coming to terms with the past." Personal contacts with members of the German Parliament and government have been arranged as well as a session with the Central Council of Jews in West Germany.

The participants conclude their visit in Munich, Mr. Weiss reported, a city selected as representative of a modern German city. The program includes a visit to the Dachau Memorial.

In discussing the Committee's plans for the visit of the German group in November, Mr. Wishner underscored the objective of providing an understanding of how the American Jewish community has contributed to building American society and how, in turn, this community has been shaped by America's social, economic and political challenges.

Mr. Wishner referred specifically to the immigrant experience, Jews in the Civil Rights movement, the trade union development, American Jewish communal and philanthropic history, and Jews as scientists, educators, political leaders, and workers in every walk of life. He stressed that the emphasis throughout the visit of the German group would be "on viewing the United States as a democratic pluralistic society, using the Jewish experience as a microcosm of the way in which ethnic groups have flourished in America."

Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews at home and abroad, and seeks improved human relations for all people everywhere.

Attached is the list of the American Jewish Committee group going to Germany.

6/17/80
A, EJP, REL, FOR, GER
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Los Angeles: Dr. David A. Gordis, Vice President of the University of Judaism of the Jewish Theological Seminary in Los Angeles; Mark A. Spiegel, attorney; Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles City Councilman; San Francisco: Andrew M. Colvin, attorney; Chicago: Jan Berger, medical student; Debra R. Freed, legislative analyst; Robert A. Weinberger, attorney; Atlanta: Susan J. Cohen, attorney; New York: Rabbi Yehudah Fine; Princeton, N.J.: Walter F. Gips, agricultural economist; Ellen Ring, Associate Editor, The Art World; Boston: Nancy C. Pokross, Design Director, Technology Review; Washington, D.C.: Jane B. Wishner, law student; Philadelphia: Judith Rubin, Executive Director of Hadassah in Philadelphia.