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American Christian Palestine Committee. 1954.

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*American Christian
Palestine Committee*

MW077 PD DIPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM

AR NEW YORK NY NOV 16 1954 530PME

RABBI HERBERT FRIEDMAN, TEMPLE EMANUEL BNE JESURUN

3431 NORTH LAKE DR

CONFLICTING ENGAGEMENTS ON PART OF OUR LEADERS
THROUGHOUT THE MID WEST RESULTED IN AN INADEQUATE
RESPONSE AND THUS IMPELLED CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO
POSTPONE CHICAGO MEETING UNTIL A LATER DATE. DEEPLY
REGRET THIS INCONVENIENCE TO YOU AND DISRUPTION OF YOUR
SCHEDULE. WILL PHONE YOU WEDNESDAY. BOTH OF US THANK YOU
FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE. KIND REGARDS

KARL BAEHR CARL HERMANN VOSS

548P

Tentative Program

Mid-West ~~CHICAGO~~ Conference

American Christian Palestine Committee

Friday, November 19th and Saturday, November 20th, 1954

Hotel Morrison, Chicago

Theme: ISRAEL: BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

Friday Morning Sessions

- 8:45 - 10:45 Breakfast
Theme: "The Spiritual Significance of Israel Reborn"
Chairman: Dr. John Coert Rylaarsdam, Associate Professor of Old Testament Theology, The Federated Theological Faculty, University of Chicago
Invocation: Rev. William K. Russell, St. Louis
Speakers: Dr. Thomas Kepler, Professor of New Testament, Graduate School of Theology, Oberlin College
Rabbi Herbert Friedman, Temple Emam-El B'ne Jeshurun, Milwaukee
Discussion
- 11:00 - 12:15 Theme: "By What Right? -- An Historical Review"
Chairman: Dr. James Luther Adams, Professor of Religious Ethics, The Federated Theological Faculty, University of Chicago
Speaker: Dr. Carl J. Friedrich, Professor of Government, Harvard University
Discussion

Friday Afternoon Sessions

- 2:00 - 3:00 A Symposium
Theme: "The Near East Today: The Arab Lands and Israel"
Chairman: Dr. Victor Obenhaus, Associate Professor of the Church in Agricultural and Industrial Life, The Chicago Theological Seminary
Discussants: William Bender, U.S. Soil Conservation Service
Roy Siemiller, General Vice-President, AF of L International Association of Machinists
Virgil Van Street, formerly prosecutor at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial, General Counsel of ECA in Shanghai, and Legal Counsel and Policy Advisor of the U.S. Operations Mission in Israel
(Others to be announced)
- 3:00 - 4:00 A Symposium
Theme: "The Unresolved Issues"
Chairman: Prof. Albert N. Williams, Executive Director, Associate Colleges of Illinois
Discussants: Rev. Karl Baehr, Executive Director, ACP
Robert A. Grant, lawyer and ex-Congressman, South Bend
Jack Harr, formerly with Information Service of the U.S. Embassy in Israel
(Others to be announced)
- 4:00 - 5:00 Film Review --
"Israel, Land Reborn" an A. Tyler Hull production
"Report From the Near East - Point Four .. a Julian Bryan production

Dinner Meeting

- 6:45 Chairman: Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, Chairman, Executive Council, ACP
Theme: "The Prospects"
Invocation: Rev. Sumner Martin, Indianapolis
Speakers: Rev. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Virgil Van Street
Rev. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Karl Baehr
Dr. Sherwood Eddy, writer and lecturer
* * * *

Saturday Morning Workshop Session

- 9:00 Breakfast
Chairman: Elsie Jensen, Director, Field Operations, ACP
Invocation: Rev. David Cole, Chicago
- 11:30 Adjournment

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

342 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

• Murray Hill 2-4917 •

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November 4, 1954

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
Temple Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Herb:

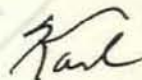
We are all looking forward to our Mid-West Conference to be held in Chicago at the Hotel Morrison, November 19 and 20.

In order to prepare for the Conference, we need to have 200 to 300 words, as soon as possible, -- quotable quotes as it were -- for publicity releases. Should you have your speech completely typed by the time of the Conference, obviously we would appreciate a copy at that time. However, you need not feel that you must have your speech completed before sending us the 200 to 300 words.

Enclosed is a copy of our tentative program.

With all good wishes, in which Carl Voss joins, I am,

Cordially yours,



Karl Baehr
Executive Director

KB:hh
Enc.

SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ISRAEL REBORN

Nothing is more difficult for man to find today than a sense of the meaning of his life. New philosophies have arisen which exploit his despair and even further reduce his rapidly dwindling stock of individual hope. The world appears to be a thoroughly hostile place, unyielding, and even the religious disciplines are developing a mystical, neo-orthodox approach which casts the eye to the beyond, skipping the here and now. All of this leads to the conclusion that the spiritual crisis of our age is to give meaning once more to the value of individual effort and the worthwhileness of individual aspiration. The greatest task of religion and philosophy is to reassure individual man that his life can be spent with dignity and purposiveness.

Within the framework of this, the general moral problem of our day, can be discovered the true and abiding spiritual significance of Israel's rebirth. For if Israel has done nothing else, it has remade and refashioned thousands upon thousands of human beings, giving them full depth and dimensions as free human personalities. Cringing and fearful creatures, beaten down by centuries of persecution in Moslem lands, have now learned the full meaning of the dignity of free human existence. European Jews, whose values and faith were subjected to awful testing in Hitler's crucibles, are now slowly recovering confidence, love and hope in Israel reborn. If one man is saved from confusion or despair, a spiritual gain is registered.

This achievement is not confined only to Jews who live in Israel, or yearn to go there. Even for the Jew in the free western world, who is not likely to emigrate, Israel's rebirth has spiritual significance. It means for him that he is provided with an altruism which can compete

with and reduce the excessive materialism of our age. In helping Israel from afar, this free western Jew is serving a cause which can consume his energies, channelize his thoughts, exploit his noblest instincts. Any cause capable of inducing a man to live according to his highest potentialities is certainly of supreme spiritual significance. And Israel has been just that to the western Jew.

Lastly, it would appear that Israel's rebirth has spiritual significance for the non-Jewish world as well. For all men can be enheartened by a victory of the spirit wherever they see it occur. Israel's rebirth is not merely the vindication of Biblical or religious idealism. It is also an indication that the human heart and soul can bear tragedy for long periods without breaking, can sustain an ideal for a long time without losing patience, can overcome material obstacles of the strongest magnitude, and can ultimately bring a dream to reality by sheer force of will. If the human heart and soul are capable of this, and the rebirth of Israel is a modern miracle which seems to indicate they are, then man can have hope for other cherished goals. Democracy can be spread, war can be avoided, social justice can bring its blessings to the multitudes, religion can become a real force in the life of people. The spiritual significance of Israel's rebirth, as far as the general world of men is concerned, is to strengthen the belief that man's soul can give wings to his deepest yearnings and enable them to soar freely toward accomplishment. This is a tremendously important message for today.

SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ISRAEL REBORN

~~The greatest problem in the world today is for man to find meaning for his life! ^{He is} ~~and he is~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} world is filled with the clang and clamor of sword beating upon shield, of huge gears grinding on~~

Nothing is more difficult for man to find today than a sense of the meaning of his life. New philosophies have arisen which exploit his despair and even further reduce his rapidly dwindling stock of individual hope. The world appears to be a thoroughly hostile place, unyielding, and even the religious disciplines are developing a mystical, neo-orthodox approach which casts the eye to the beyond, skipping the here & now. All of this leads to the conclusion that the spiritual crisis of our age is to give meaning once more to the value of individual effort and the worthwhileness of individual aspiration. The greatest task of religion and philosophy is to reassure individual man that his life can be ~~spent~~ ^{spent} with dignity and ~~meaning~~ ^{purposefulness}.

Within the framework of this, the general moral problem of our day, can be discovered the true and abiding spiritual significance of Israel's rebirth. For if Israel has done nothing else, it has remade and refashioned thousands upon thousands of ~~poor~~ human beings, giving them full depth and dimensions as free human personalities. Cowering and fearful creatures, beaten down by centuries of persecution in Moslem

lands, have now learned the full meaning of the dignity of free human existence. European Jews, whose values and faith were subjected to awful testing in Hitler's crucibles, are now slowly recovering confidence, love and hope in Israel reborn. If one man is saved from confusion or despair, a spiritual gain is ^{registered} achieved.

This achievement is not confined only to Jews who live in Israel, or yearn to go there. Even for the Jew in the free western world, who ~~is~~ ^{is likely to} not emigrate, Israel's rebirth has spiritual significance. It means for him that he is provided with an altruism which can compete with and reduce the excessive materialism of our age. In helping ~~and saving~~ Israel from afar, this free western Jew is ^{serving} ~~giving~~ a ^{cause} ~~goal~~ which can consume his energies, channelize his thoughts, exploit his noblest instincts. Any cause capable of inducing a man to live according to his highest potentialities is certainly of supreme spiritual significance. And Israel has been given that to the western Jew.

Lastly, it would ~~seem~~ appear that Israel's rebirth has spiritual significance for the non-Jewish world as well. For all men can be enthralled by a victory of the spirit whenever they see it occur. Israel's rebirth is not merely the vindication of Biblical or religious idealism. It is also an indication that the human heart ^{& soul} can bear tragedy for long periods without breaking, can sustain an ideal for a long time without losing patience, can overcome material obstacles of the sturgesst magnitude, and can ultimately bring a ~~fantasy~~ dream to reality by sheer force of will. If the human heart and soul are capable of this, and the rebirth of Israel

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AMERICAN JEWISH
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וְכָל אֱלֹהִים יִעֲקֹב וְיִשְׂרָאֵל

Spiritual significance of Israel Religion

1. For the Jew in Israel

remakes him from cringing person into free
full human personality

2. For the Jew in rest of world

side-tracks him away from materialism
gives him altruistic goal to serve

3. For ~~the~~ ~~the~~ mankind in general
all men can be enlightened
by the activity of the spirit

