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National Inaugural Conference [Miami, Fla.]. 1955-1956.

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UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

1956 NATIONAL INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

Sunday, February 26th, 1956

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

THE SAXONY

Pagoda Room

Miami Beach, Florida

1:00 P. M.

Hemlock

PAG CONTENT

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The United Jewish Appeal 1956 National
 Inaugural Conference held at the Saxony,
 Pagoda Room, Miami Beach, Florida, on
 the 26th day of February 1956 at 1:00 P.M.,
 WILLIAM ROSENWALD, GENERAL CHAIRMAN.

 AMERICAN JEWISH

CHAIRMAN WILLIAM ROSENWALD: Honored guests, ladies
 and gentlemen. Thank you very much indeed for your continuous
 interest in the United Jewish Appeal, which is manifested by
 your presence here today. This is what has become the tradi-
 tional Miami opening of our Annual United Jewish Appeal Campaign.

With increasing success year after year, the sums
 which have been raised at these meetings have served as a
 challenge and an inspiration to the men and women throughout
 this land and throughout the world. In this way, indirectly as
 well as directly, the good will and succor which we generate
 spreads throughout the world, and we just make it possible for
 us to carry on our regular program of rehabilitation, relief
 and rescue.

This year we break with tradition, for this year at
 this meeting we launch a double-barreled campaign. Of course,

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we launch our regular United Jewish Appeal Campaign; but in addition to that, we are launching our special survival fund. This is the United Jewish Appeal's answer to the twin emergencies which confront the Jews of North Africa and the people of Israel.

Our guest speaker today is a man who, for the past two years, has been in charge of our very great work of rescuing people by bringing them to Israel. He did this work both before and after the second World War. Since the creation of the Jewish state in Israel, he has been responsible for such programs as our operation "Magic Carpet," in which we brought Jews from Yemen to Israel on the wings of an eagle; for our practically overnight rescue of Jews from Iraq; Jews who came from countries that were worse than Nazi Germany.

He conducted our "Now or Never" Emigration from the countries behind the Iron Curtain, and he is handling our emigration of Jews from North Africa today.

Since the creation of the state, we, with his help, have brought over 800,000 people into Israel. And now, all those people and all those who were in Israel before then stand in mortal danger. We have given them the materials with which they have built their homes. We have provided them with tools with which they have built productive lives. And we have made available the facilities with which they have built some wonderful communal institutions. And today, these homes and these lives

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and these institutions stand in danger of destruction.

I think we could be justifiably proud in having brought that many people to a new land, and of having given them a new chance. But we have done much more than that. We have taken them - refugees from oppression - and we have brought them to a country where there is no anti-Semitism. It is hard for us in America to appreciate what this means. Perhaps we can visualize it a little bit if we think back to the days when Father Coughlin and the German-American Bund were in their ascendancy; of our terrific fears and discomfiture and our tension during those days.

The people whom we have rescued are people who suffered not the threat, but they suffered what Father Coughlin and the German-American Bund were threatening, and they suffered in many cases not just for a few years. Many of them suffered for their entire lives. Now, we have given these people the chance to lead their lives, to bring up their children in dignity. And now this opportunity to do so is threatened with extinction. So much for the past. Let us look to the future.

We have met here today so that we, each of us, may decide what is to happen in the future. Are these homes, these lives, these institutions, these people and these rescue operations to continue by the gift of each of us to the Special Survival Fund? We are determined not only that, but a great

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deal more. It may well be that the fate of Israel itself will hang in the balance. And this means the hopes of the many millions of people who are trapped today, and whose only hope is that they may eventually get to that much needed haven of refuge. And let us not forget that having such a haven of refuge is the realization of an age-old dream of the Jews. Who can tell when or where people may become in need of just such a haven?

Now, this realization of our age-old idea is similarly threatened with extinction. The United Jewish Appeal has invented a new and ingenious weapon with which to make this threat. It is the Special Survival Fund.

Before I call on our next speaker, I am going to ask our Executive Vice Chairman to tell you about this new invention of ours. He is a man who has been with us a scant eight months. He started with us by going abroad at considerable personal hardship and sacrifice, visiting all of our operations throughout Europe, North Africa and Israel. He spent his entire summer doing it. He brought back a message that is something special that had to be done. Doing it has meant working 26 hours a day despite the strain of such arduous work, and he somehow manages to give characteristic sympathetic understanding and an extraordinary ability and wisdom to every problem, big and small, that we bring to him. I can tell you that all of the people in the

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United Jewish Appeal have found it - and I especially have found it - a treat to work with Herb Friedman.

RAEBI HERBERT FRIEDMAN: Mr. Rosenwald, ladies and gentlemen. We are sitting here on a cake of ice. This platform last night and tonight will be an ice show. There is no feeling of iciness in this room. There is a warmth and a love and an understanding of a problem which has brought you here despite the fact that outside there are blue skies. ^{We meet today under} These blue skies under which we meet in other parts of the world might contain gathering clouds of war. The news is depressing. That makes the challenge to us all the sharper. How do we answer this challenge? How have we answered it year after year when it has been flung at us?

The United Jewish Appeal is the collective answer of American Jews to all of the surging tides of trouble and all of the demands of history as events ebb and flow. We are the collective answer of the American Jewish population. The United Jewish Appeal is yours. It is what you have fashioned as your response. ^{It} This meeting happens to come at ^{the} a time of Purim.

^{110 H} You all remember what Mordecai recommended to Esther when she hesitated to accept the responsibility of going in to the king. He told her that perhaps she had been born at just such a time as she was in order that she might be able to rescue her people. I think that perhaps our generation in America was

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blessed with all of its riches and all of its freedom so that we would be available at just such a time as this. Whether it be destiny or whether it be luck, we are here at this time to support the birth of Israel and to maintain her in life. This is our historic burden, and each year we summon new strength with which to discharge the responsibility.

This year, as Bill Rosenwald said, in addition to the annual recharging of the battery, the annual re-assumption of the task, we are being asked to support a special survival fund, which is a special instrument designed to meet the special needs of the year 1956. This special fund will terminate at the end of 1956. Gifts to this special fund are kept in a separate category from other gifts, and they are applied totally, without diminution and without division, toward the solution of the present emergency.

I think it is clear to all of you that when we talk about the present emergency, we are talking about two things - immigration and security. They are linked.

The Special Survival Fund was conceived at a time very shortly after the ugly rioting started in Morocco, ^{last summer} when it became apparent that ever larger numbers of Jews would be seeking to leave that troubled area to find a new life in Israel.

Due to the circumstances which I think are well known to you by now, circumstances of mob violence, political upheaval,

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economic strangulation which overtook our people, there developed a flood, a surging stream representing the greatest number of Jews who were trying to get to Israel in the past five years, and who would pay for this? It became apparent to us, when this thing started in Morocco, that the regular campaign of the United Jewish Appeal would not in any measure be able to cope with that flood. You all know that the regular annual appeal of the United Jewish Appeal must continue to take care of the ongoing needs of the people, the agencies, the programs that we all already support. The entire revenue of the annual regular appeal must be devoted to the continuous and uninterrupted absorption, colonization, settlement, and development of the hundreds of thousands of people who come to Israel over the past few years, and who are not yet fully absorbed. The regular campaign could not begin, by the wildest stretch of anybody's imagination, to take care of the new immigration when it could hardly take care of the colonization of the old.

Please, let us not misunderstand each other. We Jews on the outside world have been generous in the years that have gone by; but we have not, and for the past several years we simply have not provided anywhere near enough money to take care of the full absorption of those who kept coming in. Thank God they came in. We wanted them. We didn't pay the bill in full. There is still temporary housing, transit camps, work camps.

There are ~~still~~ many settlements which we proudly established, but which are still without water or still without livestock. There are still unfinished development projects. We took in 750,000 people. We did not fully integrate those people. And I would like you to know that each year there was a slack ^{between} in the amount of money that had to be spent and ~~in~~ the amount of money that we provided. That slack was taken up, year after year after year, by whom? By the people of Israel themselves, incredible as that sounds with all the burdens that they had. They picked up the slack each year. And last year, let me say very simply, that discrepancy was \$34,000,000.00. Do you know what ^{that} means, good, good friends? It means that the largest contributors to the absorption of newcomers in Israel were the people of Israel themselves. They did more than we did. And now today it should be clear to everyone that they cannot do this any longer, not for a penny's worth. Because now they may be faced with war.

The gathering clouds of war have accumulated on the horizon since the 27th day of last September, which was the day that the deal was announced between Egypt and so-called Czechoslovakia. We all know it is Russia. From that day on, it became very apparent that rearmament (an ugly, nasty word for Jews to speak) - ^{do not} Jews don't talk about war, ^{- Jews dream of peace} But Jews are ~~preoccupied~~ ^{would occupy our attention} today with rearmament. It was obvious from that day

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on that rearmament would have the first call on every Israeli dollar that could be applied to it. Who among us would gainsay that? Should Israel continue to put \$34,000,000.00 or \$44,000,000.00 or any millions into buying houses and building settlements and doing all of the peaceful reconstruction work, and should they not buy guns? Would you and I tell her not to buy guns? So, the special fund came to acquire a double urgency. It had to be large enough to give heart and courage to those who would be rescued by it; and it had to be large enough to give adequate relief to a beleaguered Israel. We have had to step forward and say that we would now pay for the whole immigration and they would pay for the guns.

I must say that since the special fund was launched, its message, slowly but surely, ^{has} permeated the country. Person after person realized that he would have to maintain his last year's gift at least at the same level, and that he would want to make an extra contribution large enough so that these two problems of immigration and security could be adequately met. Slowly but surely, thousands of individuals and hundreds of communities began to show that understanding. Understanding is the ^{clue.} Faith and belief can move mountains. We have seen it time and again.

I simply want to say that I believe that this is terribly urgent. I believe that money in proper amounts can

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obviate disaster. I believe that the stakes are even greater now than they were in 1948. I believe that there is nothing more important to us to which the Jews of America could put themselves than to the task of survival.

Please, please: Let us not be sorry three months from now for something which we failed to do today. Everyone will watch us this year. The Arab world will take our response as a test of our solidarity with Israel. If we are weak, the Arabs will pounce more quickly. The authorities in the United States, in the State Department, and the Congress will judge the measure of our interest in Israel by the size of our campaign. If we are weak, politicians will desert Israel.

Most importantly of all, the people of Israel themselves will watch to see whether we are weak and slothful, or whether we are strong and as resolute as they are.

The gifts to the regular campaign must be maintained, so that the work of absorbing those who had come in the past may continue uninterruptedly. On the other hand, the treasury of the Special Fund must be filled to overflowing so that hard currency is available to strengthen an embattled land. Our currency has a way of finding arms to buy. ^{Hard} Clouds of war need not frighten us as they do not frighten the Jews of Israel.

The Special Survival Fund can be our answer in 1956 to any evil combination of men or nations who seek to destroy that which we love. Israel must live in strength and in honor,

and we want to hold our heads high so that we did not fail in a very crucial hour. ~~Thank you.~~

CHAIRMAN ROSENWALD: I would like to emphasize what Mr. Friedman pointed out; that gifts can be made to the Special Fund by the terms of the Resolution creating it, only to the extent that they represent increases in excess of the previous year's contributions. That is in order to be sure that we do both. And I also think it is important to us as contributors to realize that a gift to the Special Survival Fund is not a gift to any annual campaign. The Special Survival Fund started in 1955. It ends by the terms of its creation at the end of this year. It is not a continuing thing. It is a thing apart. And I think we all want to realize that when we see what must be our maximum standards of generosity for our gifts to this new and so important fund.

I told you a little bit about our guest speaker today. I think it is a lot. I want to add that he did all of this work under the rather unassuming title of "Head of the Department of Immigration and Absorption of the Jewish Agency." Except for the four years during the second World War when he served in the British Army, about four or five years ago he also became treasurer of the Jewish Agency. Now, every crisis seems to have a faculty, or every country seems to have a faculty of developing its own great leaders. And to me, one of the amazing things

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about Israel has been the number of really fine outstanding people. The Israelis have risen to unbelievable heights of ability and service and skill during the few short years since the state came into existence. It has been a pleasure to know and work with these people. I know there are many of them, and I know I can tell you there is none finer than our guest here today. He is a clear thinker, as I am sure you will see from his presentation. He puts things in a straightforward manner. He is consecrated to his work, and he means what he says, and I can tell you that it has been a privilege to have at our side in this work Doctor Giora Josephthal.

DOCTOR JOSEPH THAL: Ladies and Gentlemen: I arrived in this country fourteen days ago. The message I bring you is one of extreme urgency and emergency, not comparable to any situation we in Israel have experienced since 1948, our War of Independence.

Five months ago, we suffered the shock effect of learning about the arms deal between Egypt and the Communists. Two hundred fifty million dollars' worth of arms were sold or practically given to Egypt, fighters, bombers, tanks, submarines, and this is not a final figure. It may be only a beginning.

It is not the only source of arms to our enemies.

We protested in vain two years ago when the United States started to give arms to Iraq, when England continued to give arms to Egypt. Now the Soviet bloc rushed in with arms never before obtained in any country in the Middle East, either in quality or in quantity, and still the United States will continue to give arms to Saudi Arabia.

We are constantly warned against starting an arms race. This has nothing to do with reality.

There is a French saying, "Both the rich and the poor are forbidden to sleep under a bridge." What sense is there to tell us not to get into an arms race when the Arabs have gotten more already, perhaps more than they can swallow. Nobody accuses us of having started this arms race, not even

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our enemies. There was an Arab superiority especially in aircraft even during the deal with the Communists. It was smaller than that during our War of Independence, and, therefore, we were not afraid. Now their Air Force is roughly four times as strong as ours.

In November 1947 immediately after the United Nations decided upon the establishment of the State of Israel, I met a very good friend of ours who worked with the American Embassy in London, a gentile, and he tried to give me advice and said, "Do not start to waste the little money you have on arms. Rely on the United Nations. Keep the valor of the United Nations high and you will be protected." Well, if we had trusted that advice, I would not stand before you today. We would just have ceased to exist.

A week later, the Arabs started war. No one interfered, not even when Jerusalem was partly destroyed.

Now, the Secretary of State once more in his statement two days ago said, and I quote, "It would seem that Israel's security could be better assured in the long run through measures other than the acquisition of additional arms. These other measures include reliance on the United Nations."

What does "in the long run" mean? We are anxious about today, about tomorrow, about next week and next month.

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Are we to rely today more on the intervention of the Western Powers in case of war than we could rely in 1948? We are told the Western Powers will not let us down. The Sixth Fleet of the United States Navy is in the Mediterranean, Turkey and Athens. I don't know if they will intervene. If the question were brought to the Security Council, there would be a Russian veto.

Reaching a decision was a lengthy procedure. The United States refused to have a Security Pact with us. Even if they would intervene, which is more than doubtful, they would come late, much too late. To fly from Cairo to Tel Aviv is only a matter of minutes. Will there be decision within that time? What preventative action should take place? Would anyone in the whole world rely on outside forces to intervene and place the responsibility for the lives of our children on a foreign power? I don't think this approach is a moral one.

The Arabs will not occupy our country. We will fight for every inch of our precious pipelines which we, together with you, built.

The Arabs may bomb us in sneak hit-and-run attacks, but they cannot and will not invade Israel.

However, there is a point beyond which flesh and spirit cannot prevail against cold steel. Only by acquiring effective defense weapons can we deprive Egypt of the

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incentive to launch an attack against us. Even Mr. Dulles said last Friday, "I think if I were sitting where they are, I might entertain the same feeling."

We asked for defensive weapons. We are requesting the right to purchase fifty million dollars' worth of arms, aircraft and tanks. We have not asked for bombers and not for submarines. We should not be told that we are trying to get aggressive weapons. We have asked for interceptor fighters, for anti-aircraft guns, for tanks to stand against tanks.

Is there anyone in the world who doubts that the Arabs purchased their arms in order to attack Israel? Does anyone think that they get arms from Communists in order to fight Communists? Did they fight in the second world war against Hitler? The few Palestinian Jews gave three times as many soldiers as the whole Arab world during World War II. It is on record that the fighting they put up has been directly against us.

The tension in our part of the world has increased immensely. Egypt is arrogant and confident. They outsmarted the Western world with this arms deal with the Soviet bloc. Israel is tense and maybe sometimes desperate. Everyone in Israel knows, and you should know it, that Egypt will be ready to fight eight months after they receive the Communist's arms. Five months have since passed. We promise you we will fight,

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fight back when attacked.

We are fighting for a cause, for an unperishable ideal and for the lives of our children.

I was in the Battle of El Alamein in 1943 when the Nazis were pushed back from Egypt, and before the battle, General Montgomery said to our pilots, "Fly low to hit your targets." We will fly low, even in the face of deadly flack, and we will use our obsolete tanks, vastly inferior to those of the enemy, or even Molotov cocktails.

It's 1948 again. Then we had nothing but homemade hand grenades and we won the war. Israel shall not perish from the face of the earth.

We have no desire to bleed again, to offer up our youth to casualty lists, to see our homes reduced to rubble. We want peace. We still hope that those who gave the world the Koran will accept the hand of those who gave the world the Bible.

But for them to accept it, our hand must be strong.

As you all know, President Eisenhower declared that every country has a right to get arms for legitimate self-defense. This means that Israel too has that right. Arms as a deterrent is the declared policy of the United States. That is our policy, too. There is no other deterrent and the whole world knows that.

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There is so much lip service to democracy. In the Middle East, apart from Turkey, we are the only democracy. We believe that the only way to happiness is to educate free people, to have to make decisions of their own free-will, but during the past two years we have not found encouragement in that. Dictatorships have been helped and democracies have been left unaided.

The threat of Israel is a threat of Western civilization and standards to the Arab world, a threat of democracy in a sea of futilism and futility, and I deeply believe that if the Arab States were to become democracies, there would be peace and cooperation in the Middle East.

In 1939 when Czechoslovakia was sold down the river by the French and British in the Treaty of Munich with Hitler, the younger Masaryk said, "In a world where there is no security for small nations, there is none for big ones," and eight months later World War II started. Could not that be a warning for the entire world?

There was the first sign of softening in the last three weeks, a very small one. One of the NATO countries was allowed to give Israel some supplies of arms. It is far from being real and adequate help.

I hope if public opinion the world over, and especially in the United States, gets a true picture of our position,

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that we will be allowed at least to purchase arms for our self-defense.

We in Israel are not panic-stricken, far from it, but there is a feeling of loneliness. But for you, we are quite on our own. We turn to the Jews of the world who wanted Israel just as we wanted Israel, and we are sure there will be a response. You can't help us with arms. You can't even give us the dollars with which to buy arms. You can help us in other crucial ways: First, in urgently needed non-military preparations. We started stock piling of fuel, food, wheat, other necessities, in the event we should be cut-off from sources of supply outside Israel due to action at sea. This material has to be distributed to warehouses all over Israel and in storage places underground.

Some of you will recall that in 1948, Jerusalem was completely cut-off from the rest of our country. There was neither water nor bread, and if it were not for the heroic attitude of the civilian population of Jerusalem, we would have lost the City. This will not happen again. New towns have been created since the State was established, Beresheba and Aschkolon and others, and they have to get their local reserves. We have to build auxiliary power stations so that if our regular water supply and electric power are cut-off due to bombing, these can be in use.

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We have to build them all over the country, small ones, so that any bombing of Tel Aviv or Haifa would not affect our whole economic life, agriculture and industry.

Finally, we have to build air-shelters, more air-shelters if we don't get aircraft, and especially for our immigrants. Many of them are in border settlements. We are responsible for their safety. We brought them over with your help. There are 320 border settlements built solely by new immigrants. We have to invest roughly \$1,000.00 per family in those border settlements for shelters and fences and electricity.

These non-military preparations will cost us fifty million dollars, and you can help us to reduce the initial impact of an enemy attack. More than that, you can help us to continue our great humanitarian work, immigration.

Last year we took in 30,000.00. This year we decided upon 45,000.00.

It is not just a plan. We started its implementation immediately, and in the five months since the Jewish Year began, we took in 20,000.00.

Believe me when I tell you that we do not need this extra manpower for military services now. In some ways, it is a burden, all the moreso during this crisis.

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The new immigrant from the primitive countries does not yet have the psychological predisposition for quick adjustment to life in Israel or to the discipline of our army, and he does not know our language yet. This takes time and energy and resources. But we decided that we must help them to come over now from North Africa. The French Rule is at an end, and the French protected the Jews in North Africa. Whoever may have doubted a year ago that the French will have to leave learned during the last twelve months about Home Rule in Tunisia, and it is in the papers today that the Tunisian Government wants independence even in security and foreign-affair matters.

The Jews of North Africa cannot protect themselves even against local outbursts. There isn't a single Jew over there who was in the army, who had any military training, and there is greater poverty than ever before because there are no more investments in those countries. On the contrary, foreign investors and even American investors try to get their investments out, and nobody wants to have money invested in a permanent trouble spot like Morocco.

Today the Jew has to get his permit to work from Moslem officials. So it is just not forthcoming.

Just think for a moment what will happen over there to the Jews of Morocco, in this most primitive and uneducated

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of all Arab countries. I know that from my own experience. I lived in Arab countries for three years. What will happen to the Jews over there when a war will start between Israel and the Arab countries? The day must come when the opportunity to immigrate from North Africa will no longer exist. Those countries are Arab, Moslem, Middle Eastern countries, backed by Egypt in this battle against the French, and they must accept the policy of the Arab league sooner or later, and nobody can foresee when we will have in Jewish life another Iron Curtain coming down. There are 70,000 Jewish children left over in Morocco.

There is a saying that some people in the world have more space when they are dead than when they are alive. The Jews of Morocco fall in that category. Nothing will destroy us morally more than the reduction of immigration.

It was not just lip service that the people of Israel gave to this ideal. Every year, as Herb Friedman told you, the Israeli taxpayer pays upward of \$30,000,000.00 to \$35,000,000.00 just in order to enable us to continue the integration of immigrants. The Israeli taxpayer participated in the border settlement scheme, in the building of new areas and water lines and new schools. They helped to make the new immigrants citizens of a free country.

Over in Morocco, they are guests of the Sultan, not even citizens of Morocco.

Overburdened by our security, we cannot participate any more this year in the integration costs for new immigrants, and when in November the UJA decided to start a separate fund, it had one ideal, to allow us to continue immigration instead of stopping it. We took the immigrants in already before receiving the money from this special fund. We believe it will come along.

If you want us to live, if you want us to be self-supporting, if you want to save the Jews from North Africa, you will dedicate yourselves to this special survival fund which is the highest expression of American-Jewish solidarity with us today.

You carried the load with us in the past, but now you must bear a much greater share. Your assistance and our determination will save Israel and the Jews from North Africa.

We have a secret weapon in Israel, two words: "Ein Brara," no choice.

We are not a nation of heroes. We are the people who came out from Dachau and Auschwitz and the ghetto of Warsaw, and we know what we are fighting. We promise we will be brave. Do not leave us alone. Let us continue to feel solidarity, that we are together. We need this assurance

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now in our battle for freedom.

The dignity of every Jew is at stake, yours and ours.

In 1948, I doubt whether we really believed we could beat the Arabs, 600,000 Jews against 40,000,000 Arabs. It seemed fantastic at that time. Nevertheless, you gave us the benefit of the doubt. You stood with us and we were victorious.

You must give us this chance once more. Three months have passed since the Special Survival Fund was established. Since then the situation in Israel had deteriorated progressively. You have made a good start, but it has not kept pace with the ever-growing emergency.

I have never pleaded. Maybe it is against our nature. I beg of you today to let the facts speak for themselves. You must be convinced that this is the greatest Jewish emergency since 1948. Then you must act accordingly, and together we will demonstrate to the world our capacity to survive and to survive in freedom.

Thank you.

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December 27, 1955

NOTE FOR MIAMI CONFERENCE FILE

Rabbi Friedman is to discuss with Mr. Rosenwald "1957"



Eric
San J
Herbert Friedman

23rd December, 1955

Mr. Ehad Avriel
Park Sheraton Hotel
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Ehad,

After all the hours of meeting today, two things finally were decided upon very clearly.

For the Lehman Dinner January 21st, the group decided they wanted Josephthal. This was vigorous and unanimous. They want you to try to get an affirmative answer just as quickly as possible. Privately, for your information, they will invite Eban if Josephthal cannot come. If he can come, good use can be made of every moment he is here, both before and after the 21st.

The second thing is that for the meeting in Miami on February 26th the group wants either Mr. Ben Gurion or Mr. Ben Zvi. There is no need to elaborate the reasons for this. If Ben Gurion or Ben Zvi can come to one meeting or other, the group prefers the February meeting.

As for yourself, the only thing I can say is that your visit to the United States for the Special Fund was extremely important, but even more than that, your presence during these past crucial days was a blessing. All the men feel terribly grateful to you and you have established a relationship with them which will make you tremendously useful any time in the future that you come again.

For myself, all I can say is, thanks.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Executive Vice-Chairman

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ADDRESS OF RABBI HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN

We meet today under blue skies which in other parts of the world might contain gathering clouds of war. The news is depressing. That makes the challenge to us all the sharper. How do we answer this challenge? How have we answered it year after year when it has been flung at us?

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Address of Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
February 26, 1956 2.

The Special Survival Fund was conceived at a time very shortly after the ugly rioting started in Morocco last summer when it became apparent that ever larger numbers of Jews would be seeking to leave that troubled area to find a new life in Israel.

Due to the circumstances which I think are well known to you by now, circumstances of mob violence, political upheaval, economic strangulation which overtook our people, there developed a flood, a surging stream representing the greatest number of Jews who were trying to get to Israel in the past five years. Who would pay for this? It became apparent to us, when this thing started in Morocco, that the regular annual appeal of the United Jewish Appeal must continue to take care of the ongoing needs of the people, the agencies, the programs that we all already support. The entire revenue of the annual regular appeal must be devoted to the continuous and uninterrupted absorption, colonization, settlement, and development of the hundreds of thousands of people who came to Israel over the past few years, and who are not yet fully absorbed. The regular campaign could not begin, by the wildest stretch of anybody's imagination, to take care of the new immigration when it could hardly take care of the colonization of the old.

Please, let us not misunderstand each other. We Jews on the outside world have been generous in the years that have gone by; but for the past several years we simply have not provided anywhere enough money to take care of the full absorption of those who kept coming in. Thank God they came in. We wanted them. We didn't pay the bill in full. There is still temporary housing, transit camps, work camps. There are many settlements which we proudly established, but which are still without water or still without livestock. There are still unfinished development projects. We took in 750,000 people. We did not fully integrate those people. And I would like you to know that each year there was a slack between the amount of money that had to be spent and the amount of money that we provided. That slack was taken up, year after year, by whom? By the people of Israel themselves, incredible as that sounds with all the burdens that they had. They picked up the slack each year. And last

year, let me say very simply, the discrepancy was \$34,000,000.00. Do you know what that means, good, good, friends? It means that the largest contributors to the absorption of newcomers in Israel were the people of Israel themselves. They did more than we did. And now today it should be clear to everyone that they cannot do this any longer, not for a penny's worth. Because now they may be faced with war.

The gathering clouds of war have accumulated on the horizon since the 27th day of last September, which was the day that the deal was announced between Egypt and so-called Czechoslovakia. We all know it is Russia. From that day on, it became very apparent that rearmament (an ugly, nasty word for Jews to speak - Jews do not talk about war -- Jews dream of peace) would occupy our attention. It was obvious from that day on that rearmament would have the first call on every Israeli dollar that could be applied to it. Who among us would gainsay that? Should Israel continue to put \$34,000,000.00 or \$44,000,000.00 or any millions into buying houses and building settlements and doing all of the peaceful reconstruction work, and should they not buy guns? Would you and I tell her not to buy guns? So, the special fund came to acquire a double urgency. It had to be large enough to give adequate relief to a beleaguered Israel. We have had to step forward and say that we would now pay for the whole immigration and they would pay for the guns.

I must say that since the special fund was launched, its message, slowly but surely has permeated the country. Person after person realized that he would have to maintain his last year's gift at least at the same level, and that he would want to make an extra contribution large enough so that these two problems of immigration and security could be adequately met. Slowly but surely, thousands of individuals and hundreds of communities began to show that understanding. Understanding is the clue. Faith and belief can move mountains. We have seen it time and time again.

I simply want to say that I believe that this is terribly urgent. I believe that money in proper amounts can obviate disaster. I believe that the stakes are even greater now than they were in 1948. I believe that there is nothing more important to us ~~to which~~ the Jews of America could put themselves than to the task of survival.

Please, please: Let us not be sorry three months from now for something which we failed to do today. Everyone will watch us this year. The Arab world will take our response as a test of solidarity with Israel. If we are weak, the Arabs will pounce more quickly. The authorities in the United States, in the State Department, and the Congress will judge the measure of our interest in Israel by the size of our campaign. If we are weak, politicians will desert Israel.

Most importantly of all, the people of Israel themselves will watch to see whether we are weak and slothful, or whether we are strong and as resolute as they are.

The gifts to the regular campaign must be maintained, so that the work of absorbing those who had come in the past may continue uninterruptedly. On the other hand, the treasury of the Special Fund must be filled to overflowing so that hard currency is available to strengthen an embattled land. Hard currency has a way of finding arms to buy.

Clouds of war need not frighten us as they do not frighten the Jews of Israel.

The Special Survival Fund can be our answer in 1956 to an evil combination of men or nations who seek to destroy that which we love. Israel must live in strength and in honor, and we want to hold our heads high that we did not fail in a very curcial hour.