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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
for the organization of the
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 FIFTH AVENUE

New York City

BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES
AND
DIGEST OF THE PRESS

No. 7

(six pages)

July 16, 1943

POST-ELECTION REACTIONS

As was to be expected, the results of the elections to the American Jewish Conference are being energetically discussed in the Jewish press throughout the country. The methods employed, the manner in which the elections were conducted, the delegates chosen and the issues facing the Conference are the subjects of numerous editorials and special articles.

While the majority of the Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish press evaluates the elections as a significant event in Jewish life and lauds the effort to give expression to the will of the Jewish public, some publications allege that the elections were conducted in many districts on a partisan basis and have caused bitterness, strife and disunity. The defeat of some distinguished local leaders who have for years headed community affairs, has been ascribed in part to the operation of cumulative voting and in part to the operation of "pressure groups," meaning well-organized Jewish political and social bodies which obviously had at their disposal adequate machinery.

Some commentators go so far as to predict the failure and doom of the Conference because of the sharp division of views and the absence among the delegates of local leaders who have for years rendered invaluable service. The latter extreme view is not shared by the great majority of Jewish periodicals, which emphasize that for the first time since the last war an opportunity has been given to the organized Jewry of American and to all those who are willing to associate themselves with the Jewish effort to solve post-war Jewish problems, to take part in the election of representatives who will be sovereign in adopting historic decisions affecting the lives of millions of Jews. Nor do the majority of periodicals share the view expressed in some quarters that the Conference should not be held at all on the ground that such a convocation would be untimely and harmful. As hundreds of articles and editorials have pointed out, it is now that the Jews of the world are facing the most serious crisis that has confronted them in their long history.

The fact that almost 25,000 electors, representing a multitude of Jewish organizations, political, cultural and social, participated in the balloting serves as the best evidence that the communities whole-heartedly responded to the call issued by the Committee for the Organization of the Conference. Whatever bitterness was caused by some election upsets was less noticeable in the larger Jewish centers where preliminary discussions and considerations of problems took place.

Examination of the designation of electors sent in to the Board of Elections by the local election districts and regions clearly evidences that most of the elections were definitely conducted in the spirit of unity, and that a fair opportunity was given to all groups and shades of opinion in American Jewry, and that all did participate.

Examination of the returns shows that every shade of opinion and every organized group will be represented in the Conference. The circumstance that some local leaders may be absent in no way supports the allegation that the Conference when assembled will not represent the entire American Jewry as far as it finds expression in organized Jewish bodies.

That delegates belonging to various parties or groups will unite on the basis of a definite program does not necessarily mean that the deliberations of the Conference will be conducted on strict party lines, or that more strife and friction will be the result. To judge by the various statements issued by the members of the Executive Committee, representing different and even opposing views, it is the wish of everybody concerned to conduct the Conference in a spirit of fair play and the free exchange of views, with unity as the ultimate goal.

It should not be overlooked that the election machinery was set up in record time, and represents the first attempt in 25 years to introduce a democratic principle in the conduct of Jewish affairs. While shortcomings were inevitable the results are, to a great degree, gratifying and the experience gained will no doubt serve to improve the procedure when the next opportunity arises.

When the full list of the elected delegates and their organizational affiliations, as well as the number of groups that have participated in their elections are made public, many of the objections raised will appear to be baseless and unfounded.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING; SEATS TO NATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS ALLOCATED; PROGRAM COMMITTEE SET UP.

During a session which commenced on July 14th and was concluded in the late afternoon of July 15th, the Executive Committee for the Organization of the Conference received reports of the result of the elections, discussed arrangements for the Conference, which is to convene on August 29th to September 2nd, and allocated to national membership organizations the 125 seats which were reserved for them.

It was decided to appoint an Organization Committee which, in consultation with a Committee to be composed of the representatives of various groupings as reflected in the results of the elections, should prepare and recommend to the Conference a plan of organization for the Conference when it meets. The Committee consists of Messrs. Louis Lipsky, Allen Stroeck (alternate - Morris D. Waldman), Henry Minsky (alternate - Maurice Bisgyer), Herman Shulman and Louis Segal.

It was unanimously agreed that as soon as the Conference convenes the authority of the Executive Committee is to be considered as concluded and any further governing bodies shall be selected by the delegates at the Conference, in accordance with the principle governing the American Jewish Conference.

The report of the National Election Board, by Louis Lipsky, revealed that approximately 25,000 electors, chosen by organizations and groups representing more than 1,500,000 members of more than 6,000 local Jewish organizations, cast their ballots in the elections of delegates. Of the 375 delegates to be chosen by the electors, 374 were elected, the remaining delegate still to be chosen at an election in Worcester, Mass., delayed because of local conditions.

The report on allocation of delegates to the national membership organizations was the subject of a lengthy discussion, as a result of a desire to apply, as far as possible, the principle of parity in the allocation of seats to national membership organizations. In consequence, organizations which were previously, tentatively granted four seats will now receive only three. A number of new organizations were allocated seats to the Conference on the basis of size of membership and program of Jewish life. All of the 125 seats reserved for national membership organizations were allocated. (The complete list is to be found on page 3 of this Bulletin).

Rabbi Milton Steinberg reported on the activities of the Preliminary Studies Committee and gave an outline of the proposed survey of the problems facing European Jewry. After a thorough analysis it was proposed by the Committee that the work of the Research Staff cover the following seven distinct areas:

1. Rescue in Territories under Axis Domination.
2. Relief in Transitional Period.
3. Political and Social Status.
4. Economic Reconstruction.
5. Migration and Colonization.
6. Jewish Rights to Palestine.
7. Jewish Representation in the Post-war World.

There will be another meeting of the Executive Committee prior to the convening of the Conference early in August.

LATEST ELECTION RETURNS

(Sixth Report)

Plainfield, N.J. (Morris-Somerset-Union) Region
Edward Sachar

New Haven, Conn. Election District
Louis Sachs
Rabbi Louis Greenberg
Max Livingston

Oakland, Calif. Election District
Harry J. Sapper

ALLOCATION OF DELEGATES TO NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

At a full session of the Executive Committee for the Organization of the Conference, the allocation of 125 delegates was made among the national membership organizations participating in the Conference. The allocation is as follows:

| <u>ORGANIZATION</u> | <u>NUMBER OF DELEGATES</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| American Federation for Polish Jews, Inc. | 1 |
| American Federation of Jews from Central Europe | 1 |
| American Jewish Committee | 3 |
| American Jewish Congress | 3 |
| American Jewish Congress - Women's Division | 3 |
| B'nai B'rith | 3 |
| B'nai B'rith - Women's Supreme Council | 3 |
| Central Conference of American Rabbis | 2 |
| Council of Jewish Fraternal Federations | 1 |
| Free Sons of Israel | 3 |
| Hadassah | 3 |
| Hapoel Hamizרחי of America | 2 |
| Hashomir Hatzair | 1 |
| Histadruth Ivrih, Inc. | 1 |
| Independent Order Brith Abraham | 3 |
| Independent Order Brith Sholom | 3 |
| Independent Order Brith Sholom of Baltimore | 1 |
| Jewish Educational Organizations (3 groups) | 1 |
| Jewish Labor Committee and Affiliates | 16 |
| Jewish National Workers' Alliance | 3 |
| Jewish War Veterans | 3 |
| Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary | 2 |
| Jewish Writers and Journalists (2 organizations) | 1 |
| League for Labor Palestine | 1 |
| Mizrachi Organization of America | 3 |
| Mizrachi Women's Organization of America | 3 |
| National Council of Jewish Women | 3 |
| National Council of Young Israel | 3 |
| National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs of the United Synagogue of America | 1 |
| National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods | 3 |
| National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods | 3 |
| New Zionist Organization (Revisionist) | 1 |
| Order Sons of Zion | 3 |
| Pioneer Women's Organization | 3 |
| Posle-Zion - Zeire-Zion | 3 |
| Progressive Order of the West | 2 |
| Rabbinical Assembly of America | 2 |
| Rabbinical Council of America | 2 |
| Union of American Hebrew Congregations | 3 |
| Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations | 3 |
| Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations-Women's Branch | 2 |
| Union of Orthodox Rabbis | 2 |
| Union of Sephardic Congregations, Inc. | 1 |
| United Galician Jews of America | 1 |
| United Roumanian Jews of America | 1 |
| United Synagogue of America | 3 |
| United Synagogue of America - National Women's League | 3 |
| Youth Organizations (13) | 4 |
| Zionist Organization of America | 3 |

D I G E S T O F P R E S S C O M M E N T S

DELEGATES TRUE CHOICE OF COMMUNITIES

"It is eminently fortunate that the elections to the American Jewish Conference resulted in most communities in a landslide for those devoted and capable servants of the Jewish public who heretofore had been pushed into the background by certain vested interests. Scanning the latest election results as we go to press, we feel confident that the American Jewish Conference will have a liberal infusion of the "new blood" of leadership for which we have been clamoring all too long.... Although the elections to the American Jewish Conference were conducted in a manner that did not assure 100% participation of the Jewish community at large, still the method employed left room for a fair amount of independent choice and expression. The result is that we shall have in the Conference some 375 men and women who have been truly chosen by their communities and not nominated, as it were, by a handful of those who have all too long managed to dominate Jewish community life by all and anything but democratic procedures."

Jewish Spectator, July 1943.

CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT MEET

"The American Jewish Conference should not meet. The plan of a national representative Jewish congress, assembly or conference is foredoomed to failure because by its very nature it misses the mark. Its goal is ostensibly a representative body for American Jewry; all it succeeds in being is a pressure group which succeeds in capturing its votes. For purposes of propaganda it assumes a noble aspiration; for practical purposes it is the extension of selfishly motivated interests. The interests may be altruistic in their ultimate goals, but the ultimate remains a distant achievement....

A second observation is that the elections to the American Jewish Conference were untimely and harmful. Intended as a move for unity within the American Jewish community, they have caused no end of controversy. Their repercussions are still reverberating in the largest centers of Jewish population. Men whose service to Jewry could be measured in years of selfless devotion were publicly rebuked through defeat at the polls. Unknowns and upstarts, with campaigns well managed by ordinary politicians were the victors. Intra-organizational quarrels and defections added to the bitterness."

Rabbi Maurice Goldblatt, Jewish Post, July 2, 1943.

CHICAGO ELECTIONS; EXCELLENCE OF DELEGATES STRESSED

"Of most importance is the fact that so many were elected who possess the highest qualifications and who are to be congratulated all the more because they did not withdraw their names as some were impelled to do because they feared they might be defeated. There is regret, of course, that a number of candidates of like character and standing in the community were not chosen as they should have been but their experience is not unlike that of outstanding leaders in other cities. The excellence of a candidate is in itself, unfortunately, no assurance of success at a popular election where those who are skilled in lining up votes have the advantage but it must be remembered that the criterion of worth is not necessarily the total vote cast in each case....

Continuing criticism of an election is justified only if it can be shown that it was fraudulent or grossly irregular. This was certainly not the case in the election which has just been held here.

It is to the credit of the Jews of Chicago that their duly elected delegation to the American Jewish Conference is of such varied character, representing every element in the community. Because some of its members are not as widely known as others does not mean that they are any less capable and zealous in helping to bring about a marked change for the better in the Jewish situation in all lands at present and in the future....

Attention must now be given to fostering genuine friendliness and the fullest co-operation of those who have been chosen to speak for the Jews of Chicago at the American Jewish Conference. Frequent meetings of the entire delegation, not merely sections of it, should be held, providing an opportunity to become better acquainted and adjust differences as much as possible. There is little chance of removing difficulties and ending discord in Jewish life if individuals and groups continue to go their separate ways with little or no regard for others who are also earnestly endeavoring to the best of their ability to aid millions of their suffering brethren and strengthen the Jewish position the world over."

A.A. Freedlander, The Sentinel, July 1, 1943.

INITIAL ERRORS

"The American Jewish Conference was conceived for the purpose of uniting all classes and factions, all existing organizations, including those who function to realize some special objective only; and to weld the thought and effort of the various groups and individuals into an intelligent program, under a representative super-leadership. Wisely, it thought, the executive committee which assumed the task of bringing about this organization, prescribed a "democratic" set of rules for the election of delegates; but it failed to foresee that--having chosen to copy political election methods--politics would play a large and decisive role in the undertaking. Politics played that role--played it to the finish....

It is quite plain to us that the men who conceived the idea and fashioned the machinery for the Conference do not ask for "suggestions from the sticks"--nor will accept them. Withal, a word of warning: Let us beware lest American Jewry become pitifully divided--and weak, rather than united in its purposes and collectively strong and powerful. Let us be statesmen--of sound and far-flung vision; not politicians--walking a straight party line."

Nashville Observer July 2, 1943.

THE WOMEN AMONG THE DELEGATES

"A token of the progress registered by Jewish women in the United States since the last war will be the participation of several score women in the American Jewish Conference. While the allegation seems to be general that some of the men delegates are not the foremost personalities in American Jewish life, it is evident that the women are those who, in the main, have demonstrated their leadership. If these women are not majorized in the Conference, they are likely to bring to it the qualities manifest in their own organizations: patience, skill, moderation. All three virtues will be greatly needed if the American Jewish Conference is not to crash on the personal or organizational rivalries of which some promise has already been given....

They will not be a feminine bloc, since they represent many interests and many points of view. But it is safe to say that, person for person, they constitute greater strength for the American Jewish Conference than an equal number of men from the very same communities. They are women who, in the main, have balance, perspective and a sense of responsibility. If any one wants to cast doubt on the representative character of the American Jewish Conference, he had better inquire into the composition of the women's section first."

Martha Neumark, Independent Jewish Press Service, July 16, 1943.

WHAT THE ELECTIONS REVEAL

"The elections to the American Jewish Conference in the United States and to the Board of Deputies in England clearly show the opinions and the sympathies which prevail in both English-speaking countries among those Jews who have a more or less active interest in Jewish life and in the Jewish future. In neither country were "democratic" elections held in the strictest meaning of the term, but nobody can doubt that these manifestations of Jewish opinion were conducted in a democratic atmosphere under the eyes of a free public opinion. The anti-Zionist element in England has in recent times been unusually active and energetic. There too, as in the United States, the battle against Zionism was conducted chiefly in the name of "Patriotism" and "loyalty," and in the name of military necessity and confidence in the democracies. Nevertheless, Professor Brodsky was again elected as the president of the Board of Deputies, and the anti-Zionist Sir Waley Cohen, whose re-election was at stake, was defeated.

The elections to the American Jewish Conference can also be considered as a barometer of Jewish opinions and sympathies in the United States. No anti-Zionist tickets were put up at the elections.... This is a victory for the democratic Jewish public opinion, for it must not be forgotten that the chief argument against the Conference was that the "extremist Zionists" would capture it. As a matter of fact official Zionists did not play an energetic part in the inception of the Conference idea; only representatives of the Jewish masses and mass-organizations. We are sure that the Conference will, with all seriousness and responsibility, consider all questions on which there is a difference of opinion. Those who are opposed to or skeptical in regard to the Palestine demands which have been put forward by the Zionist organizations, will undoubtedly be able to express their criticisms and exert their influence on the other delegates to the Conference. And let us hope that at last we will find a common speech in regard to the Jewish postwar demands, and that we will emerge from it as a Jewish community. Such a development is by no means ruled out."

Yiddisher Kempfer, N.Y.C. July 9, 1943.

AMERICAN JEWRY STANDS BEHIND ZIONISM

"One great and important fact has been revealed by the elections to the American Jewish Conference -- and we wish that the Zionist groups would take advantage of it. It is that the great majority of Jewry is not only inclined towards Zionism but that its Zionist demands revolve around the axis of a Jewish Commonwealth.

This fact is revealed not only by the delegates elected by the various Zionist parties, but by the election of those delegates who only yesterday clung to a non-Zionist philosophy. These delegates have realized that our Jewish population is Zionist and have forgotten the limited aims regarding Palestine that have been propounded as part of the agenda of the coming Conference, and have promised to demand the creation of a Jewish commonwealth....

The delegates will come to the Conference with the full conviction that American Jewry stands behind them and that its whole soul and desire is centered around the fulfillment of Jewish national aspirations in the land of our ancestors."

Hadoar, N.Y., July 4, 1943.

THE AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE

"In the first place, this Conference must insist upon the creation of a Jewish autonomous state on both shores of the Jordan River. Secondly, the Conference must demand at the Peace Conference, the reimbursement to the Jewish people of the wealth which the Germans have stolen and plundered from the Jews in German-occupied Europe. Thirdly, the Conference must find a way to win over the U.S.S.R. and China.... (Prof. J. Stenberg)

"The time for minimum programs, compromises, and appeasements is passed. They have been proven ineffective and are discredited. The time has come for the Jew to fight with all his power for a maximum program that will fulfill his age-long dreams and prayers, and regain for him that respected place in the world which has been so long overdue.... (S. Mizrahi)

"The American Jewish Conference, over and above all other issues, should be given a status of permanency. The huge historic task lying ahead of the American Jews requires that the Conference does not end merely with voicing demands....

(William J. Cohen) Jewish Fellowship News, Duluth, July 1943.

INDEPENDENCE FROM PARTY POLITICS

"The elections are a finished chapter, but not the issues on which the delegates were elected. If the lessons of the elections are not learned and if the proper conclusions are not drawn from them, then all the excitement and energy which pertains to the idea of "democratic procedure" will amount to a storm in a teacup.

The elections have taught vital lessons which are highly constructive and extremely timely. They have emphasized the serious mistakes of Jewish leadership and demonstrated a strong tendency among the Jewish masses to be independent of party lines and party politics. It cannot be said that the elections demonstrated much confidence in the parties as such, or to the political lines of their leadership. Where the so-called electors were not pledged to particular candidates, the parties showed no independent strength. And even where parties did win, the electors probably voted not for the party candidates but for the issues which they represented -- and also because they had no alternative."

David Eidelsberg, Jewish Morning Journal, July 8, 1943.

THE FIRST DUTY OF THE CONFERENCE

"Out of the Conference must first of all come an endorsement of the Dickstein-Lynch bill which is pending in Congress and which is intended to bar the mails to all sorts of literature tending to spread race-hatred, anti-Semitism and similar discriminatory propaganda. But barring the mails to such material is insufficient. Such action cannot strangle the poisonous snake which winds its way from hidden alleys to meetings, and from meetings to army camps. The Conference must prepare the way for even more far-reaching legislation, which must attack all forms of race hatred and racial discrimination....

This is the clear duty of the Conference. It should not be difficult to demand from a municipality or a state legislature, laws against anti-Semitism."

B. Rivkin, the Day, July 10, 1943.

The Conference Record

Issued by the AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

Vol. I, No. 15

521 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

November, 1944

The Program of the Second Session

THE SECOND session of the American Jewish Conference will convene on Sunday, Dec. 3rd, at 2 p.m. at the William Penn Hotel, in Pittsburgh. The session will continue through Dec. 4th and 5th.

The delegates to the session will receive reports from the Interim Committee and the three Commissions created by that body to implement the decisions of the first session and will decide on the course of action to be pursued by the Conference in the future.

On the basis of reports from the organizations and the communities, it is expected that close to 500 delegates and alternates will be present.

Attendance

As of Nov. 20th, 318 of the original 379 community delegates have declared their intention to attend the session. Of the remainder, deaths and resignations account for 10 and successors have been named. Another 26 have selected alternates in accordance with the rules for filling vacancies, while only 25 have not yet acted.

The 63 national organizations, which are represented by 120 delegates, have designated 100 delegates as their spokesmen. There have been 26 substitutions.

The Program

The General Committee will meet in advance of the session, beginning on Friday, Dec. 1st, at 10 a.m. to perfect arrangements for the three-day meeting. The second session is a continuation of the first and, unless the delegates vote otherwise, the standing committees, rules and procedures of the first session will remain unchanged. A number of changes, however, are being recommended by the Interim Committee and these will be considered by the General Committee.

Registration of delegates will begin Saturday, Dec. 2nd, at 7 p.m. and will continue the following day. A number of the groups formed at the first session will meet Saturday evening.

The first plenary meeting will be held Sunday afternoon and will be devoted to the presentation of the report of the Interim Committee by the Co-Chairmen. In the evening, the Chairmen of the three Commis-

sions, the Commission on Rescue, the Commission on Palestine and the Commission on Post-War, will submit their reports.

The second day, Monday, Dec. 4th, is set aside for general debate in which the delegates may participate. It will begin, if possible, on the previous evening, and it will continue Monday afternoon and evening.

The standing committees will meet Monday and Tuesday mornings and will bring in their reports to the plenum on Tuesday afternoon and evening. Provision is made for minority reports. These sessions are reserved for action on the committee reports and the transaction of such business as may arise from these reports.

That is the outline of the tentative agenda to be submitted to the General Committee by the Interim Committee. No provision is made for any formal functions and there is a minimum of official addresses from the platform, for it is intended that a maximum opportunity will be afforded to the delegates to present their views and to engage in the fullest possible debate.

The Question of Relevancy

The Interim Committee, at its last meeting on Oct. 24th, voted to recommend a change in procedure which will enable the plenum to pass upon the relevancy of resolutions.

The General Committee will assign all resolutions that are introduced by the delegates or submitted by the Commissions to the appropriate standing committee of the Conference. As at the first session, it will have the authority to rule whether resolutions are outside the scope of the Conference.

However, under the proposal of the Interim Committee, the General Committee will report to the plenum if it should withhold its approval from any resolution on the ground that it is outside of the agenda. The question then before the delegates will be upon the acceptance of the report of the General Committee.

All existing standing committees of the Conference will remain unchanged, except that the General Com-

mittee will fill vacancies and act on recommendations for substitutions to be submitted by the various groups in the Conference. There may be some changes, however, growing out of the fact that the relative strength of the groups has been altered within the last few weeks.

The Groups

The Interim Committee voted earlier this year to permit delegates to change their group affiliation if they so desired, but placed a Nov. 10th deadline on changes, so that the business of the Conference would not be delayed by last-minute shifts in group membership.

Few delegates availed themselves of the opportunity. Up to Nov. 10th, only 21 had transferred their allegiance. However, one new group, the "Independent Bloc" was formed, led by Alex Stanton and Arnold R. Ginsburg of Philadelphia, and consisting of 14 delegates.

Subsequent to Nov. 10th, several delegates informed the Administrative Committee of their desire to join the "Assembly Bloc" which was formed on the initiative of Gus Kaplan of Harrisburg, Pa. and Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg, of Easton, Pa.

Inasmuch as registration was to close on Nov. 10th, it will be up to the General Committee to determine the status of these delegates and of such other delegates who wish to change on the eve of the session.

As a result of the changes registered prior to Nov. 10th, the standing of the groups was as follows:

| | 1943 | 1944 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|
| American Jewish Congress..... | 111 | 98 |
| B'nai B'rith | 63 | 60 |
| Conservative Religious..... | 19 | 20 |
| General Zionist | 116 | 114 |
| Jewish Labor Committee..... | 16 | 16 |
| Labor Zionist | 49 | 48 |
| Non-Partisan | 42 | 40 |
| Reform Religious | 21 | 22 |
| Religious National Orthodox.. | 61 | 62 |
| Independent | — | 14 |
| No designation | 3 | 4 |
| | 501 | 498 |

However, this does not take into account the fact that alternates and new delegates have the right, under the rule, to change up to the eve of the session. These figures will thus be affected, both by that consideration and by the fact that there will be a small number of delegates absent and unrepresented by alternates.

The committee in charge of arrangements at Pittsburgh is headed by Edgar J. Kaufmann, member of the Praesidium at the first session. Samuel L. Fuss is secretary.

The Plight of Rumania's Jews

FOLLOWING REPORTS from Rumania that the economic and political disabilities forced upon the Jews of that country continue in effect and that the overwhelming majority of the Jews of Rumania suffer deeply from lack of food and clothing, the American Jewish Conference has appealed for the immediate implementation of the terms of the armistice between the Allies and Rumania and has taken action to alleviate the precarious condition to which Rumanian Jews have been reduced.

The Conference acted in concert with the World Jewish Congress and in consultation with one of the Conference affiliates, the United Roumanian Jews of America. The first meeting of the new Joint Planning Committee of the Conference and the Congress was devoted to the problem and among the steps that have been taken are the following:

At a meeting with Director General Herbert H. Lehman of UNRRA on Wednesday, Nov. 1st, Jane Evans and Dr. Arich Tartakower, representing the Conference and the Congress respectively, urged that the Jews in Rumania be regarded as displaced persons in ex-enemy territory and that they be given relief by UNRRA under the new powers of that body.

Officials of the State Department in charge of Rumanian and South-Eastern European affairs were interviewed by Dr. A. S. Kohanski of the Conference with a view to ascertaining the possibility of adequate action by the authorities in charge of the execution of the armistice terms.

At a meeting with the Joint Distribution Committee, Herman Shulman of the Conference and Dr. Tartakower sought to ascertain steps taken and contemplated by the JDC to aid Rumanian Jews.

A joint statement, issued by the Conference and the Congress, declared in part:

The terms of the armistice between the Allies and Rumania affecting the status of the Jews in that country will remain an empty gesture unless immediate steps are taken for their implementation. Economic and political disabilities forced upon the Jews in Rumania continue in effect. Confiscated Jewish property has not yet been returned. The overwhelming majority of Jews in Rumania suffer deeply from lack of food and clothing.

Though the Rumanian Government has obligated itself to abolish all Nazi vestiges of discrimination—political, social and economic—the administration, controlled by the Nazi-minded generals and officials associated with the pro-German Iron Guard, continue to govern the country in the very same spirit preceding the armistice. The only measure thus far indicating equality before the law was a decree drafting Jews

(Continued on Page 8)

Tentative Agenda^{*}

of the American Jewish Conference

(Second Session)

DEC. 1-5, 1944

WILLIAM PENN HOTEL, PITTSBURGH, PA.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1ST

10.00 a.m.—Meeting of General Committee

- 1—To establish the registry of the General Committee.
- 2—To act on the final agenda of the session.
- 3—To receive and validate recommendations from the groups for the filling of vacancies on standing committees.
- 4—To agree on the list of the members of the Praesidium.
- 5—To consider for reference to the appropriate standing committees the resolutions received from the Interim Committee and its Commissions and from groups; and to agree on procedure in regard to the introduction of all subsequent resolutions.
- 6—To consider the rules of procedure to be submitted for adoption by the Conference; and to establish rules to govern the general debate.
- 7—Such other business as may arise.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2ND

7.00 p.m.—Registration of Delegates

8.00 p.m.—Meeting of Groups

SUNDAY, DEC. 3RD

10.00 a.m.—Registration of Delegates (cont'd)

—Meeting of General Committee

2.00 p.m.—First Plenary Session

- 1—Opening Ceremonies.
- 2—Proposals of the General Committee as to the Praesidium.
- 3—Election of Praesidium.
- 4—Report of Committee on Elections and Admissions.
- 5—Report of the Interim Committee by the Co-Chairmen.
- 6—Proposals of the General Committee on Changes in standing committees.

5.30 p.m.—Meetings of Committees for Purposes of Organization

8.30 p.m.—Second Plenary Session

- 1—Proposals of the General Committee on rules of procedure.
- 2—Report of the Credentials Committee.
- 3—Report of the Commission on Rescue.
- 4—Report of the Commission on Post-War.
- 5—Report of the Commission on Palestine.
- 6—Opening of General Debate on all reports and the Conference.

MONDAY, DEC. 4TH

10.00 a.m.—Meetings of Standing Committees

2.00 p.m.—Third Plenary Session

- 1—Continuation of the General Debate.

8.30 p.m.—Fourth Plenary Session

- 1—Continuation of the General Debate.
- 2—Report of the General Committee on disposition of resolutions rejected on constitutional grounds.

TUESDAY, DEC. 5TH

10.00 a.m.—Meetings of Standing Committees

2.00 p.m.—Fifth Plenary Session

- 1—Resolutions reported by the standing Committee on Rescue.
- 2—Resolutions reported by the standing Committee on Post-War.
- 3—Resolutions reported by the standing Committee on Palestine.
- 4—Resolutions reported by the standing Committee on Organization.

8.00 p.m.—Sixth Plenary Session

- 1—Resolutions reported by the standing General Resolutions Committee.
- 2—Resolutions reported by the standing Finance Committee.
- 3—Elections.
- 4—Unfinished business.
- 5—Final addresses.

The above agenda is submitted by the Administrative Committee to the General Committee, and is subject to revision; the issues will be disclosed through the resolutions reported by the committees.

New Delegates

Organizations

New Delegate
 Arthur Gilbert
 Sam Berke
 Rabbi J. X. Cohen
 Mrs. A. H. Vixman
 Maurice Bisgyer
 N. Ben Dov Waldman
 Mrs. Robert Szold
 Frank A. Simons
 Joseph F. Barr
 Abraham Kraditor
 Mrs. Jessie C. Gneshtin
 Mrs. Bessie Kronberg
 Mrs. Lionel Golub
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 American Jewish Congress, Women's Division
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 B'nai Zion
 Hadassah
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 Jewish War Veterans of the United States
 Jewish War Veterans of the United States
 Jewish War Veterans, National Ladies' Auxiliary
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 Mizrahi Women's Organization
 National Council of Jewish Women
 National Council of Young Israel
 National Council of Young Israel
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 Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations
 Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations
 United Galician Jews of America
 United Synagogue of America

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Organizations

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 Ferdinand T. Weil

Alternate For
 Meyer W. Weisgal
 Roger W. Straus

Organization
 Jewish National Workers' Alliance
 National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods

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The Interim Committee Report

THE REPORTS of the Interim Committee and the three Commissions of the American Jewish Conference, detailing the work that has been carried on up until November 1st, have been published and are being sent to the delegates of the Conference in advance of the second session.

The reports are confined to a review of past action. Recommendations for the future will be presented by the Commissions to the session.

The Interim Committee report refers briefly to the internal organization of the Conference and the organization of the three Commissions. The report of the Interim Committee concludes:

The Interim Committee, during the past year, has been a forum at which Jewish problems on the world scene were considered and discussed. It has received reports continuously from the three Commissions on the progress of their work and it has formulated policies and given directives as new developments in the world scene called for new decisions.

Because of its representative character and the procedures it adopted, the Interim Committee has served as the Conference in miniature, continuing the democratic and unifying process in American Jewish life begun so auspiciously with the establishment of the American Jewish Conference in 1943.

The Reports of the Commissions

The reports of the Commissions are detailed. The Commission on Rescue records the major activities in the unequal battle to rescue the Jews of Europe from the Nazi terror: the establishment of the War Refugee Board; efforts to break through the Nazi wall and

transmit assistance to beleaguered Jews with the cooperation of the underground; the establishment of a refugee rescue shelter in this country; the series of warnings initiated in the psychological warfare against the Nazis and their satellites; the evacuation of Jews to Palestine; the mobilization of public opinion; and the efforts the Commission made to achieve unity.

The report of the Commission on Palestine relates the steady progress during the fourteen months since the Conference adjourned, to win acceptance for the Palestine Resolution adopted at the Conference. It details the political work at Washington, and the public relations activities carried forward on a large scale throughout the country by the American Zionist Emergency Council, which worked in close cooperation with the Palestine Commission, and the culmination of these efforts in the statement by President Roosevelt on October 15th.

The report also deals with developments inside Palestine during the year.

The report of the Commission on Post-War analyzes the issues involved in the promulgation of an International Bill of Rights, the restoration of rights to Jews, the punishment of war criminals, and the problems of re-settlement and repatriation. The report details the activities of the Commission to project the Conference viewpoint in advance of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference and the second session of the Council of UNRRA.

The volume, consisting of 128 pages, contains the major statements issued by the Conference agencies during the year.

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Mrs. Mary Greenberg
Albert Hurwitz
Samson Krupnick
Mrs. Ann Lebow
Mrs. Elsa Levinson
Philip Meyers
Alexander Pfeiffer
Edward Raff
Aaron Riche
Charles H. Roemer
Rabbi Herman H. Rubenovitz
Dr. Maxwell L. Sacks
Mrs. Irving Sands
Rabbi Irving Silman
Mrs. Raphael Tourover
Samuel Z. Troy
Abram S. Turteltaub
Mrs. Louis Wald
Robert Weksler
Dr. David Weiner

Alternate For

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Joseph Ominsky
Joseph I. Seifert
Dr. David Sacks
Dr. Nathan S. Saltzman
Morris A. Robbins
Herbert R. Bloch
Harry N. Wessel
Samuel Goldstein
David Blumberg
Abe J. Greene
Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman
Morris A. Zeldin
Mrs. Benjamin Spitzer
Howard Mack
Edmund I. Kaufmann
Israel November
Edward Berman
Mrs. Abraham Shapiro
Dr. Bernard Rodin
Rabbi Judah Washer

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Brooklyn, N. Y.
Bergen, N. J.
Washington, D. C.
Richmond, Va.
Bayonne, N. J.
Brooklyn, N. Y.
Chicago, Ill.
Western, Pa.

REPORTS

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Meeting on October 24th

The Interim Committee met on Oct. 24th in New York with Dr. Israel Goldstein, Co-Chairman, presiding. Henry Monsky, Co-Chairman, later took the chair. Present were the following members and alternates: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Co-Chairman, *Rabbi Abba Abrams, Maurice Bisgyer, *Max Bressler, Samuel Caplan, Rabbi William Drazin, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, *Mrs. Ida Cook Farber, Rabbi Simon Federbusch, J. George Fredman, Daniel Frisch, *William Gerber, Frank Goldman, *Mrs. L. Golub, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Dr. James G. Heller, Charles P. Kramer, Sidney G. Kusworm, Louis Lipsky, *Mrs. Albert J. May, Mrs. David De Sola Pool, *Herman Z. Quittman, Dvorah Rothbard, Hon. Morris Rothenberg, Samuel Rothstein, Herman Shulman, *Mrs. Herman Shulman, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Hon. Meier Steinbrink, Hermann Stern, Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, *Mrs. A. H. Vixman, Meyer W. Weisgal, *William Weiss, David Wertheim, *Rabbi David Wice, Barnuch Zuckerman and members of the staff, I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Dr. A. S. Kohanski and Mrs. Ann Jarcho. Guest, Bernard Postal.

* Alternates

On behalf of the Administrative Committee, Mr. Lipsky, chairman, reported on arrangements for the second session, the attendance of delegates, the participation of organizations, the preparation of reports, and rules for the second session.

It was agreed to recommend to the next session the admission of a delegate from the National Association of Jewish Center Workers.

It was agreed to recommend the following rules to the second session:

Committees—All Committees in existence at the first session shall continue in the second session unchanged, except that the General Committee shall be authorized to make appointments required to fill vacancies and to make such changes as are necessary to reflect the proportionate strength of the groups.

(The right of the groups to submit substitutes will continue as in the past.)

Appeals from Decisions of the Chair—The existing rule providing for appeals from the chair to the Praesidium is to be repealed, and Roberts Rules of Order will apply to this and all other matters of procedure not governed by rules adopted by the Conference.

Disposition of Resolutions—The General Committee shall act as the administrative agency for the distribution of all resolutions to the appropriate standing committees, except that if the General Committee shall find that a resolution is irrelevant to the call of the Conference, it shall report such decision to the plenum and the question before the plenum shall be on the adoption of the General Committee's report.

Minority Reports—Any 10 members in any committee may bring up a minority report for consideration in the plenum of the Conference and any 50 members, not members of a committee, may bring up out of committee a resolution defeated there and have it placed before the plenum of the Conference.

It was reported that a joint planning committee and a working committee had been established to implement the agreement for collaboration with the World Jewish Congress. The Conference representatives on this committee are Rabbi Eisendrath, Miss Evans, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Shulman, Rabbi Trachtenberg and Dr. Kohanski. The Conference members of the working committee are Mr. Grossman and Mr. Kenen.

It was agreed that the members of these committees act as observers from the Conference to the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress.

On behalf of the Palestine Commission, Dr. Silver, chairman, submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted:

The Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference hails the historic declaration by President Roosevelt on Oct. 15th, favoring the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth and pledging his efforts to achieve its realization. The President's statement attests the widespread sympathy and support of the American people for Jewish aspirations in Palestine, as voiced in behalf of American Jewry by the American Jewish Conference on Sept. 1, 1943. With this declaration, we look forward confidently to the complete realization of the age-old aims of the Jewish people in relation to Palestine.

The Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference records its appreciation of the statement by Governor Thomas E. Dewey favoring the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. With this statement, Governor Dewey joins the distinguished group of American statesmen who have given their wholehearted support to the fulfillment of the promise made to the Jewish people by 52 nations of the world following the last conflict.

On behalf of the Post-War Commission, Rabbi Eisendrath, Co-Chairman, reported on the Conference delegation to UNRRA in Montreal.

The Commission, he stated, was now studying a proposal looking to the establishment of a Council of Jewish Delegations which would unify delegations from all countries in presentations to international conferences concerned with problems of the peace.

The proposal was informally discussed and was referred back to the Post-War Commission with a view to its submission to the second session.

The Interim Committee adjourned until Nov. 27th.

COMMISSION ON PALESTINE

Meeting on October 24th

The Commission met on October 24th, with Dr. Abba Hillel Silver presiding. Present were: Dr. Abba Abrams, Jacob Alson, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Isaac Hamlin, Rabbi James G. Heller, Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Max J. Schneider, Mrs. Albert P. Schoolman, Herman Shulman, Dr. Benjamin Shwadran, David Wertheim, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, and I. L. Kenen.

The commission recommended to the Interim Committee the adoption of resolutions welcoming the statements by President Roosevelt and Governor Dewey on Palestine. (See Interim Committee report.)

The statement of President Roosevelt, which was in the form of a message to the 47th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America on Oct. 15th, follows:

Please express my satisfaction that in accord with traditional American policy, and in keeping with the spirit of the four freedoms, the Democratic party at its July convention this year included the following plank in its platform: "We favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth."

Efforts will be made to find appropriate ways and means of effectuating this policy as soon as practicable. I know how long and ardently the Jewish people have worked and prayed for the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth. I am convinced that the American people give their support to this aim; and if re-elected, I shall help to bring about its realization.

On October 12th, Governor Dewey issued the following statement:

I heartily endorse the Palestine plank in the Republican party platform. Again I repeat what I previously stated to the great leader of the American Zionist movement and distinguished American, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, that I am for the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth in accordance with the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the Resolution of the Republican Congress in 1922. I have also stated to Dr. Silver that in order to give refuge to millions of distressed Jews driven from their homes by tyranny, I favor the opening of Palestine to their unlimited immigration and land ownership.

The American people have time and again declared themselves in favor of these principles. The Republican party has at all times been the traditional friend of the movement.

As President, I would use my best offices to have our Government working together with Great Britain to achieve this great objective for a people that have suffered so much and deserve so much at the hands of mankind.

The Commission considered and took action on its report to the second session.

COMMISSION ON POST-WAR

Meeting on October 23rd

The Commission met on October 23rd with Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Co-Chairman, presiding. Present were Hayim Greenberg, Co-Chairman, and Nathan H. Brodsky, Meyer Brown, Jane Evans, Isaac Kornfeld, Louis Lipsky, Mrs. Albert J. May, Herman Muller, Dr. Joseph Schechtman, Dr. Joshua Trachtenberg, Z. Warhaftig, Rabbi David Wice, Leo Wolfson, and Meir Grossman, I. L. Kenen, and Dr. A. S. Kohanski.

Rabbi Eisendrath reported on a meeting with representatives of peace-planning organizations, at which the Conference position on an International Bill of Rights and the punishment of war criminals was discussed.

Miss Evans, Chairman of the sub-committee on UNRRA, reported on the work of the Conference delegation, which included Dr. Kohanski and herself, to the second session of the Council of UNRRA in Montreal. (See CONFERENCE RECORD, October.)

Dr. Trachtenberg, Chairman of the sub-committee on Political Status, submitted a proposal for the formation of a Jewish Representation. This was referred to the Interim Committee for consideration of the principle.

On motion of Mr. Wolfson, the chair was authorized to appoint a sub-committee on Rumanian affairs, in view of the situation of the Jews in that country.

Immigration to Palestine

The Palestine Administration has liberalized its immigration policy in Palestine to the extent that it will make available a number of certificates for Jewish refugees who are now in liberated territory, it was announced in October.

It will allot 10,300 certificates to the Jewish Agency for Palestine, at the rate of 1500 a month, retroactive to Oct 1st.

In recent months immigration into Palestine had come to a virtual standstill because the Administration insisted on reserving certificates for persons in Axis-occupied territory. This policy was protested by the Jewish Agency.

On Sept. 25th, the American Jewish Conference submitted a memorandum to the British Embassy, charging that the Administration was "hoarding" the certificates and seeking to perpetuate the White Paper policy. It appealed for a revision of the policy asking that certificates be granted for refugees both in Axis-occupied and liberated territories.

The Conference memorandum also protested against recent statements by British officials seeking to discourage Jews from seeking admission to Palestine and against the continued detention of some 1500 Jews deported to Mauritius more than three years ago.

THE PLIGHT OF RUMANIAN JEWS

(Continued from Page 2)

into the combat service of the army from which they had previously been barred. The majority of Jews are still unable to re-occupy the homes from which they were driven, or to resume their former occupations both in the government service and private industry.

The Allied military commission, created to supervise the execution of the armistice terms, has a moral obligation to insure that justice is done to the Jewish population. Unless immediate and energetic steps are taken by the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia, the liberation of the Jews in Rumania, brought about by the victory of the Allied armies, will be nullified.

Of the pre-war Jewish population of about 850,000, no more than 290,000 remain there now, partly because of the annexation of certain Rumanian territories by Hungary, but mainly because of the terrible process of persecution, starvation and extermination to which Rumanian Jewry had been subjected since the affiliation of Rumania with the Axis in 1940. The number of Rumanian Jews who had died by the end of 1943 as a result of persecution is estimated at a quarter of a million, of whom 125,000 were murdered and the remainder died in the course of deportation and as a result of starvation. Rumanian Jews were ousted from their economic positions by discriminatory laws and practices; their property was looted. Actually, the overwhelming majority of Rumanian Jews can be regarded as consisting of displaced persons; 185,000 of them were deported to the Rumanian-occupied part of Russia (so-called Transnistria) in the middle of 1942; of this number, almost 100,000 perished, whereas about 15,000 may have been repatriated to Rumania at the beginning of 1944 and left there without any protection or assistance.

According to authentic information, out of approx-

imately 290,000 Jewish survivors in Rumania, the following categories are almost completely destitute: 90,000 returned from forced labor service; 17,000 repatriated deportees; 20,000 returning from outlying districts; 10,000 evacuees from war-stricken regions and 20,000 persons who had been bombed out of their homes in Bucharest.

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August 29—September 2, 1943

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UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
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MEMORANDUM

Date December 21, 1944

From Rabbi Eisendrath

To Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

I know that you will be interested in the attached statement by Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, President of the Union, made at the second session of the American Jewish Conference, which clearly and unambiguously defines the Union's relationship with the American Jewish Conference.

American Jewish Conference

REMARKS BY ADOLPH ROSENBERG, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, PRESIDENT
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

* * * *

Speaking as the President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, I say to you that the Union is earnestly committed to the success of the American Jewish Conference. The resolutions which were adopted by the first session of the Conference, with a single exception, were unanimously endorsed and approved by our Executive Committee. The exception was the resolution on Palestine.

In considering this resolution the Board of the U.A.H.C., sensing the division of opinion among its membership, and the membership of its constituent congregations, decided not to take any action either for or against the resolution. This action has precluded us from participating in the implementation of the Palestine resolution. But it has not prevented us from joining wholeheartedly and enthusiastically in the work of implementing all of the other resolutions of the Conference.

Just a few days ago, the Executive Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, meeting in New York, heard that an effort would be made here to enlarge the scope of the American Jewish Conference by including the entire American scene. Those members of our Executive Committee, responsible community leaders in many parts of the country, felt that the American Jewish Conference has neither the moral nor the legal right to broaden its scope beyond the terms of the Pittsburgh Charter.

All of you here will recall that it was on the explicit basis of the Pittsburgh Charter that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, as well as other national Jewish bodies, consented to join the Conference. Therefore, the delegation of the Union cannot

but regard any attempt by this Conference to trespass upon other areas of Jewish life, particularly the American scene, as an unwarranted arrogation of power.

It is our conviction, supported by the position of our Executive Committee, that the original purposes for which the Conference was formed--namely to find a common program of action for post-war rehabilitation in Europe and in Palestine, to which, by unanimous consent, was added the responsibility of rescue--are in themselves more than sufficient tasks to test to the utmost the devotion, resourcefulness and ability of those who constitute the American Jewish Conference.

Let us remember the violent reaction to the Palestine resolution which threatened the first sessions of the Conference in the summer of 1943. That the Conference managed to weather the storm resulting from that conflict was due to the profound wish and determination of most of the dissenting organizations to make a success of the Conference for the largeness of all Israel. To urge now that the Conference engage itself in an undertaking which would inevitably cast reflection upon and challenge the functioning of existing reputable local and national organizations, will again strain the ties which now hold us together and jeopardize the Conference itself.

Moreover, the attempt to encroach upon the Jewish institutional scene of America would serve to alienate the support of organizations without which the Conference cannot possibly realize its program of post-war relief, rescue and rehabilitation in Europe and in Palestine. It is the opinion of our delegation that the Conference must apply itself wholeheartedly to mending existing

breaches, to healing old wounds, to the adoption of measures that will lead to cooperation rather than to indulge the hazardous ambition of invading the councils of agencies that are operating at an all-time high degree of efficiency for vital service at home and abroad.

We think it is clear that no such authority as is contemplated can be gained without a struggle. Certainly this is no time for revolutionary and radical changes in the structure of American Jewish institutional life.

Mindful of the explicit terms of the mandate imposed by the original Pittsburgh Charter, and of the views recently endorsed by our Executive Committee, the delegation of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations will be obliged to vote against any attempt to extend the authority of this Conference beyond its present mandate.

The earlier shocks of disagreement have happily subsided since the first sessions were held. Let us not create another storm which may delay the achievements of the goals already set for ourselves.

The Conference Record

Issued by the AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

Vol. II, No. 2

521 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

January, 1945

A Letter to the President

January 19, 1945.

The President of the United States,
White House,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

We ask you to accept our greetings and our best wishes on the occasion of your inauguration. We join with millions of Americans everywhere in praying that you may be granted the strength to lead the American people and the peoples of the world to victory and the establishment of an enduring peace that will assure freedom for all men and for all peoples.

Under your leadership, the American people have united in an irresistible army which today sweeps forward pledged to the defeat of the forces of tyranny and dedicated to victory. We are confident that this unity will be continued and that the inevitable successes of our armies will not long be delayed.

It is with gratification that we note that one of your first undertakings will be a meeting with the leaders of our great Allies, at which basic decisions vital to the prosecution of the war and the building of the foundations of the peace will be discussed.

We address you with the plea that you place on your agenda the urgent problem which now confronts the war-shattered Jewish people of the world, and which presses for a solution.

We speak to you of the plight of more than half a million Jews who still remain in Axis-occupied Europe and who are threatened with destruction at the hands of the Nazis. It is our conviction that many can be saved if action is taken by the United Nations in concert with neutral powers.

We speak to you of the homeless Jewish survivors in liberated territory, who have emerged from hiding. Their hold on life is tenuous; their status insecure; their future dim and uncertain. We ask that the United Nations take steps to insure their rehabilitation and resettlement.

And finally, Mr. President, we renew our plea to you that you help us open the doors to Palestine, the land where the hope of the Jewish people resides, and which for hundreds of thousands of homeless Jews holds the only promise for an early rehabilitation.

We speak in the name of the millions of Jews who are represented in the American Jewish Conference when we plead with you to assist us in rebuilding Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

The hopes of humanity rest upon your mission.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Israel Goldstein

Louis Lipsky

Henry Monsky

Co-Chairmen of the Interim Committee
American Jewish Conference

Organization of the Interim Committee

THE NEW INTERIM COMMITTEE of the American Jewish Conference, established at the second session in Pittsburgh, convened in New York on January 12th, elected Dr. Israel Goldstein, Louis Lipsky and Henry Monsky as its co-chairmen, and considered plans for the future program of the Conference.

Almost all forty-seven members of the Interim Committee were present or represented at the first meeting. The roster included thirty-four members and eleven alternates.

An Executive Committee of twenty, headed by Mr. Lipsky and including the co-chairmen of the Interim Committee and the chairmen of the Standing Committees, was elected with full power to act on behalf of the Conference.

The Interim Committee voted to establish five major committees: Committees on Rescue, Palestine, Post-War, Finance, and United Jewish Representation. Thirteen delegates were coopted to membership on the Interim Committee and the Executive Committee was authorized to coopt an additional two members. (See page six for list of coopted members.)

Dr. Wise declined re-election as a co-chairman of the Interim Committee because other responsibilities, which he has assumed as chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, will require his full attention. He accepted membership on the Executive Committee.

The Interim Committee adopted a statement in reference to the Jewish Labor Committee's announcement of its withdrawal from the Conference. (See page four for text.)

Professor Hayim Fineman was elected chairman of the Committee on Rescue; Rabbi Maurice N. Eisen-drath, chairman of the Committee on Post-War; Judge Morris Rothenberg, chairman of the Committee on United Jewish Representation; and Max J. Schneider, chairman of the Committee on Finance. The chairman of the Committee on Palestine is to be named by the Executive Committee.

In addition to the Committee chairmen and the co-chairmen of the Interim Committee, the Executive Committee consists of Maurice Bisgyer, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, J. George Fredman, Leon Gellman, Charles P. Kramer, Judge Nathan D. Perlman, Samuel Rothstein, Herman Shulman, Alex F. Stanton, David Wertheim and Dr. Stephen S. Wise. The Executive Committee will organize the Standing Committees and define their duties and responsibilities.

In an address to the Committee, Professor Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, reviewed the present situation in England, expressed the hope that Jewish representatives of all countries would act together, referred to the American Jewish Conference as an "extraordinarily vital contribution to the solution of the Jewish problem," and advocated the establishment of a co-partnership in dealing with current problems.

Sydney S. Silverman, member of the House of Commons, and Alexander Easterman, representatives of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress, conveyed greetings from British Jews to the Interim Committee.

Jews Must Unite

THE JEWS OF THE WORLD are living through the most serious time in their history and they must unite for the purpose of putting before the world the desires, needs and the demands of the Jewish people in order to insure the safety of the Jewish people, Professor Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews declared at a meeting of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference on January 12th in New York.

Asserting that he had come to the United States to establish contact with the American Jewish community, Dr. Brodetsky said: "What I am interested in is that we should be able to work together. It seems to me to be of vital importance that what we say to our Government should be the same as what you say to your

Government, and that the different views of Jewish bodies should be parallel; we should consult with one another from time to time, not only about details of policy but also the methods of carrying them out.

"I believe that the time has come when the Jews of different countries must consider the various problems that we have to deal with more collectively than we have in the past," he continued. "... I have felt that there ought to be a contact between our community and yours ... I have the impression that the views of American Jews are not very different from those of the English Jews. ...

"The really important thing is that we make sure that the formulation of all the policies, and also the practical carrying out of any approaches, should take

place as between a co-partnership of the Jews in different countries of the world. I would like to say at once, I have not in my mind anything that would take the form of establishing a new world organization. . . . I believe that the duty of the Jews in 1944 and now in 1945 is not to discuss organization or constitution with one another, but to save Jews who can be saved and settle them in such a way that they shall be able to live happily in the future."

Dr. Brodetsky described the structure of the Board in England and its functions in the field of domestic and external problems and its place as the "constant

forum whereby the Anglo-Jewish community can express its views."

He referred to the recent action of the Board supporting the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, by a vote of 159 to 18.

"There were people who said that if such a decision were adopted, anti-Zionists would leave the Board . . . but I am glad to say that up to the present time I have heard nothing further. The Board still represents people who are for the Jewish Commonwealth and those who are against it which, I think, is greatly in favor of the Board's position," he said.

Rescue Is Still Possible

ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN by the American Jewish Conference since the second session to press the rescue program adopted by the delegates at Pittsburgh.

The resolutions on rescue were submitted to the members of the War Refugee Board on December 18th and on December 21st. John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the Board, acknowledging their receipt, stated in part: "I assure you that this Government will continue its efforts to save the Jews and other victims of Nazi oppression remaining in enemy Europe."

In the meantime, representatives of the Conference met with Anselm Reiss and Dr. Abraham Silberschein, both formerly of Poland, who came to this country to attend the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress and who presented to the Conference salient facts demonstrating that rescue work can be carried on effectively inside Europe. On January 4th, representatives of the Conference met with officials of the War Refugee Board to review the proposals embodied in the rescue resolutions and were assured that action is being taken on every possible front.

In order to acquaint the public with the facts, the Conference and the World Jewish Congress joined in sponsoring a press conference on January 10th, at which Mr. Reiss who was introduced to the press by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, pointed out that there are still 550,000 Jews under Nazi domination in Axis Europe, whose future is extremely precarious unless immediate action is taken by the United Nations and neutral countries. He sought to dispel the impression current in some quarters that rescue cannot be carried on and he emphasized that many can be saved and that tens of thousands are doomed unless action is undertaken.

The following proposals were discussed in detail:

1. The evacuation of Jews from occupied countries
 - a. through cooperation with the underground;
 - b. through cooperation with neutral countries, which are ready to admit Jewish refugees if

they are assured special shipments of food for their care;

- c. by means of exchange of Jews in occupied countries for German citizens held in Allied and neutral countries.

2. Relief must be extended to Jews in occupied countries

- a. by according them the status of civilian internees;
- b. by supplying them with documents of neutral states;
- c. by sending them food and other supplies;
- d. by the supervision of their condition in the concentration camps by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of National Red Cross Societies;
- e. by measures to aid those who are in hiding and to organize their escape.

In addition to the 550,000 Jews in Europe who are still under Nazi domination, it is estimated that another 650,000 are in liberated territory. These 1,200,000 are all that survive of the 5,600,000 who were in European countries, outside the Soviet Union, prior to the inception of the Nazi extermination program.

There are about 100,000 Jews in concentration camps such as Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia, Belzen-Bergen and other camps in Germany and Austria. Many are citizens of Central and South American countries or have immigration certificates to Palestine. They could be considered civilian internees, but they do not enjoy the rights of internees accorded to non-Jews of the same category. Authoritative international organizations and the Allied governments have not succeeded in changing this situation.

Two years ago, due to the efforts of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria were willing to allow Jews to emigrate, but this op-

portunity to save Jewish lives was lost because of difficulties encountered from neutral and Allied governments. There was also a possibility of saving Jewish children from Poland. Neutral countries were ready to accept them provided Allied governments would guarantee to feed them during their stay and to remove them after the war. Such guarantees could not be obtained. Action taken to relieve and rescue Jews in Nazi-occupied territories in Rumania and Hungary was effected primarily through Jewish organizations. It was not until the establishment of the War Refugee Board in January, 1944 that Allied governments became helpful in this undertaking.

While Jews in liberated areas are not in imminent danger, their plight, resulting from Nazi persecution and despoliation, makes it impossible for them to rehabilitate themselves.

Jewish populations in liberated areas are in immediate need of clothing and medical aid, which must be provided without delay if they are to survive.

Attention must be directed to the status of Jewish

children—90% of them are orphans—now scattered and housed in institutions and private homes. These children should be restored to the Jewish community so that they may be rehabilitated and educated as Jews. In many cases, their parents committed suicide to avert the deportation of their children. Their return to the Jewish people is an elementary demand of justice. Funds must be provided for the re-establishment of Jewish children's institutions.

The condition of Jews in liberated areas is aggravated by the fact that many of them are refugees and do not have any status or rights. Many of them cannot be expected to return to their places of origin and are desirous of emigrating to Palestine, where they can be integrated and speedily made self-supporting. Their transfer to Palestine would lighten the burden of relief in the liberated territories and would end the mental torture these people suffer by reason of uncertainty as to their future. It is urged that ships be made available to transport these refugees, particularly children, to Palestine.

The Withdrawal of the Jewish Labor Committee

Statement Issued by the Interim Committee, January 12th, 1945

THE JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE has withdrawn from the American Jewish Conference, giving as its reason the decision of the second session of the Conference to admit the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the I.W.O., which was granted three seats.

The record will show that the issue upon which the Jewish Labor Committee sees fit to withdraw was reviewed fully by four bodies of the Conference, the Administrative Committee, the Interim Committee, the General Committee and finally, the delegates in plenary session. All four acted favorably on the application of the Order and in each instance by a large majority.

Prior to the first session of the Conference, the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, at that time known as the American-Jewish Section of the I.W.O., applied for admission and was rejected because it was not then considered a national Jewish membership organization as understood by the Conference. Subsequently, the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order removed the disabilities which, in the opinion of the first session, disqualified it and re-applied for admission. The application was approved by the Administrative Committee and then by the Interim Committee, which, on August 1st, 1944, by a vote of 20 to 5, recommended to the second session that the organization be admitted. Since the Jewish Labor Committee had refused to participate in

the Interim Committee, it was not present to argue its case or to record its objections.

In November, the Jewish Labor Committee announced in the press that it was withdrawing from the Conference because of the decision of the Interim Committee. This was clearly an attempt by the Jewish Labor Committee to compel the Interim Committee to reconsider its position.

The Interim Committee notified the Jewish Labor Committee that its decision was a recommendation to the second session, that the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order had not yet been admitted, and that it would be up to the delegates to decide the issue. The Interim Committee urged the Jewish Labor Committee to send representatives to the second session, so that its viewpoint could be fairly and fully presented to the delegates. The Jewish Labor Committee sent four representatives to Pittsburgh. They were accorded a lengthy hearing before the General Committee, which, after a thorough debate, voted 36 to 10 to sustain the recommendation of the Interim Committee.

Although the representatives of the Jewish Labor Committee did not register as delegates to the second session, they participated in the meeting of the General Committee and were granted two seats on that body,

the same number they had at the first session. Their representatives voted when the question was called.

The question was then brought to the plenum, where the recommendation of the General Committee was approved by an overwhelming majority. Dissenting delegates were granted the privilege of recording their opposition and thirteen did so.

The American Jewish Conference was established as a representative and democratic instrumentality to express the viewpoint of American Jewry and to implement its decisions on matters affecting the rescue of the Jewish people of Europe, their post-war rehabilitation and the rights of the Jewish people to Palestine. It includes delegates from all major national Jewish membership organizations and communities throughout the country. Its doors are open to all Jews, irrespective of views and differences on ideological matters. Those who have entered include Zionists, non-Zionists and anti-Zionists. There are delegates of every shade of opinion—orthodox, conservative and reform. The organizations include fraternal groups, religious organizations, patriotic societies; the delegates are drawn from every professional and economic stratum. The Conference cannot enter into a debate with the ideological viewpoint of any of its constituency and cannot permit such considerations to be invoked as a ground for disqualification in the Conference. To take another course would destroy the principle of all-inclusiveness which is the source of its strength and the condition of its integrity.

We are constrained to take issue with the Jewish Labor Committee's statement that "the Committee had joined the Conference with the fullest determination to work and cooperate."

The fact is that long before the decision to admit the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, the Jewish Labor Committee adopted an attitude towards the Conference which did not signify any great "willingness to cooperate." From the very beginning, the Jewish Labor Committee's participation in the Conference was qualified and during the last year, it was virtually out of the Conference.

Prior to the first session in 1943, the Committee declined to take part in the community elections and limited its participation to the designation of organization delegates. Since it represented a number of national organizations and each national organization was permitted a maximum of three delegates, the Jewish Labor Committee was granted sixteen seats.

But after the first session, the affiliation of the Jewish Labor Committee with the Conference became extremely tenuous. Without giving any reasons, it declined to participate in the Interim Committee, the

governing body created by the Conference to implement decisions. This initial breach cannot be described as "the fullest determination to work and cooperate." Later it agreed to send representatives to the Conference's Commissions on Rescue and Post-War, but abstained from sending a representative to the Commission on Palestine, although a section of the Jewish Labor Committee was in full accord with the Palestine Resolution adopted at the Conference.

Notwithstanding this attitude, the Interim Committee continued to seek the cooperation of the Jewish Labor Committee and invited it to designate a representative to the Administrative Committee of the Conference when that body was established in May, 1944 to prepare for the second session. The Jewish Labor Committee designated a representative, but when the Administrative Committee was later clothed with authority to carry out the decisions of the Interim Committee, the representative of the Jewish Labor Committee absented himself from the meetings of the Administrative Committee.

The record thus shows that long before the admission of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order was requested or considered, the Jewish Labor Committee had isolated itself from the Conference.

The Conference is a voluntary body. Its authority, therefore, rests on the democratic principle that decisions of the majority are respected and supported and are not subject to veto by constituent organizations. From the beginning, the Jewish Labor Committee has withdrawn and remained aloof when in disagreement. To threaten to withdraw in order to impose a point of view is to disregard the democratic principle and is a negation of the statement of the Jewish Labor Committee that it desires to cooperate with "Jewish national organizations in the field of general Jewish activities" and that it is "imbued with the deep idealism of the Jewish Labor movement and the ideals of freedom and democracy upon which the American-Jewish workers have built their mighty organizations."

We hope that the great majority of those who are represented by the Jewish Labor Committee will share our regret that the leadership of the Jewish Labor Committee persists in an exclusiveness which weakens American Jewry in the fulfillment of its obligations to the stricken Jewish communities of Europe.

We urge the Jewish Labor Committee to reconsider its decision so that both it and its constituent bodies may resume their place in the American Jewish Conference.

The needs of world Jewry demand united action by the American Jewish Community. This must transcend all other considerations.

REPORTS

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Meeting on January 12th, 1945

The Interim Committee met on January 12th at the Hotel Biltmore in New York with Henry Monksky, Co-Chairman, presiding.

Present were: Dr. Israel Goldstein and Louis Lipsky, Co-Chairmen; Maurice Bisgyer, Max Bressler (alternate for Sigmund W. David), Sigmund W. David, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans (alternate for Charles P. Kramer), Mrs. Ida Cook Farber (alternate for Mrs. Maurice Turner), Dr. Simon Federbusch, Prof. Hayim Fineman, Mrs. J. George Fredman (alternate for J. George Fredman), Leon Gellman, William Gerber (alternate for Benjamin Samuels), Frank Goldman, Mrs. Samuel Goldstein, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Charles P. Kramer, Israel Kramer, Sidney G. Kusworm, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Dr. Samuel Margoshes, Mrs. Albert J. May (alternate for Mrs. Joseph M. Welt), Rabbi Irving Miller, Judge Nathan D. Perlman, Herman Z. Quittman (alternate for Harry A. Pine), Adolph Rosenberg (alternate for Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath), Dvorah Rothbard, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Samuel Rothstein, Louis Segal, Herman Shulman, Mrs. Herman Shulman (alternate for Robert Szold), Edward S. Silver, Simon Sobeloff, Alex F. Stanton, Hermann Stern, Robert Szold, Mrs. A. H. Vixman (alternate for Mrs. Stephen S. Wise), Ralph Wechsler (alternate for Prof. Hayim Fineman), David Wertheim, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Mrs. Stephen S. Wise, and Baruch Zuckerman.

Also present were: Prof. Selig Brodetsky, A. G. Brotman, Sam Caplan, Alexander Easterman, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Bernard Postal, Hon. S. S. Silverman; and members of the staff, I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Dr. A. S. Kohanski and Mrs. Ann Jarcho.

The Interim Committee took the following action:

1. Received a report from the staff on activities since the second session and a memorandum embodying proposals for future organization and program.
2. Established an Executive Committee of 20 with full authority to act in behalf of the Conference and to create and define the duties of standing committees.
3. Coopted 13 additional members to the Interim Committee and delegated to the Executive Committee the authority to coopt 2 additional members. Those coopted included: Aaron Droock, Judge Lewis Goldberg, Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman, Mortimer May, Jefferson E. Peyser, Mrs. David deSola Pool, Adolph Rosenberg, Charles Sonnenreich, Justice Meier Steinbrink, Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum and Joseph Weingarten. The list was submitted by a sub-committee consisting of Mau-

rice Bisgyer, Chairman, Jane Evans, Dr. Samuel Margoshes, Hermann Stern and David Wertheim.

4. Received a report from a nominating committee which submitted the following nominations: For membership on Executive Committee: Louis Lipsky, Chairman, Maurice Bisgyer, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, J. George Fredman, Leon Gellman, Charles P. Kramer, Judge Nathan D. Perlman, Samuel Rothstein, Herman Shulman, Alex F. Stanton, David Wertheim and Dr. Stephen S. Wise; Professor Hayim Fineman, Chairman of Committee on Rescue; Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Chairman of Committee on Post-War; Judge Morris Rothenberg, Chairman of Committee on United Jewish Representation; Max J. Schneider, Chairman of Committee on Finance.

The nominating committee recommended that the chairmanship of the Palestine Committee be referred to the Executive Committee.

It also recommended that those named to the Executive Committee have the power to name alternates, but that those alternates must be named at the first meeting of the Executive Committee and must remain fixed.

The report was accepted except that Dr. Wise stated that he was unable to continue as a co-chairman in view of the pressure of other work and proposed that Mr. Lipsky's name be substituted for his, which was agreed to.

The nominating committee consisted of: Frank Goldman, Chairman, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Mrs. Ida Cook Farber, William Gerber, Mrs. Samuel Goldstein, Louis Lipsky, Rabbi Irving Miller, Adolph Rosenberg, Samuel Rothstein, Herman Shulman, Edward S. Silver and Baruch Zuckerman.

5. Approved a statement in reference to the withdrawal of the Jewish Labor Committee, accepting a report of a sub-committee consisting of Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Chairman, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Louis Segal and Simon Sobeloff.

6. Listened to an address by Professor Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and greetings from Sydney S. Silverman, M.P. and Alexander Easterman of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress.

Conveys Greetings

The fraternal greetings of the American Jewish Conference were conveyed to the Canadian Jewish Congress at its recent plenary session in Toronto by I. L. Kenen, member of the Conference staff.

Defends Refugee Official

THE ACTIVITIES OF Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, which were criticized in a memorandum submitted to the British Embassy by the American Jewish Conference on September 25th, 1944, are defended by Sir Herbert W. Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, in a communication to the Conference received this month.

In the Conference memorandum, attention was called to a report that at a meeting in Rome on August 26th, 1944, a large majority of some 150 refugees expressed their desire to go to Palestine, but were discouraged by Sir Clifford who urged the refugees to accept an offer of Italian citizenship and declared that Palestine is "very limited and could not receive all those who desire to enter it." He stated that Palestine is not larger than a "pocket handkerchief," which he produced by way of graphic illustration, and that it presented a very special problem.

In his letter to the Conference, Sir Herbert states that after an investigation by Patrick Malin, Vice-Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, and himself, they are "satisfied" that there is no reasonable basis for the "complaints." The letter from Sir Herbert continues:

We believe that they (the complaints) are due, partly to the fact that Sir Clifford's remarks were not accurately and fully reported, and partly to a lack of knowledge regarding the whole-hearted efforts he has made, and is making, on behalf of Jewish refugees. Not only did he take a very active part in organizing the embarkation of the party of refugees which left for Palestine in May last, but almost immediately after, on his own initiative, he recommended that an additional number of 800 certificates for Palestine should be granted to Jewish refugees in Italy. This proposal was supported by myself, but it was not approved at the time since, as stated in the first part of your Memorandum, priority was then being given to those who might escape from occupied countries. Recently it has become possible for 900 additional persons to enter Palestine from Italy, and the workers of the Intergovernmental Committee are actively assisting in the arrangements for their departure.

Other measures were pursued to relieve the situation in Italy, and among them, as you are no doubt aware, a number of Jewish refugees have been given temporary asylum in the United States of America. Sir Clifford himself approached the Italian Government, and obtained from it the assurance that it would give favorable consideration, subject to the examination of individual cases, to the naturalization of Jewish refugees who wish to settle in Italy. At the meeting to which reference is made in your Memorandum, Sir Clifford explained the nature of the offer, but contrary

(Continued on Page 8)

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Write to the

American Jewish Conference

521 Fifth Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

National Budgeting Opposed

OPPOSITION TO THE national budgeting plan recommended by the officers of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds was voted at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Conference on January 18th.

"The Executive Committee recognizes the value of the information which the Council provides to its membership communities to enable them to budget their funds equitably but it strongly opposes the adoption by the Council of the authority to evaluate aims, purposes and validity of program of any of the agencies applying for funds," the committee stated.

"The Executive Committee further urges that the delegates and constituent organizations of the American Jewish Conference consider the proposal on national budgeting, and advise the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds of their opposition to the national budgeting plan."

DEFENDS REFUGEE OFFICIAL

(Continued from Page 7)

to the allegations that have been made, he did not attempt to bring pressure to bear on anyone to accept it, and he made it quite clear that it was a matter for the individual to decide for himself after careful thought.

In many other ways Sir Clifford has shown the greatest solicitude for the welfare of Jewish refugees, without any distinction as to whether they are Zionists or not. This is in accordance with the policy of the Intergovernmental Committee, whose object is to find a solution of the problem of refugees, who include persons of different creeds and nationalities. Its task is humanitarian, and it endeavours to keep aloof from political controversies. For instance, the political issues relating to Palestine are entirely outside its sphere. In so far as Palestine is available for immigration, it will obviously facilitate the work of the Committee. Unfortunately, circumstances preclude the assumption that a single solution of the problem is possible. The Committee has, therefore, continuously to explore all possible methods, and in this respect it is pursuing the policy which it, and many Jewish voluntary organizations, have consistently followed.

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THE JEWISH PEOPLE
IN THE POST-WAR WORLD



a memorandum submitted by
THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
521 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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April 2, 1945

The Hon. Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In behalf of the American Jewish Conference, we respectfully submit to you the accompanying statement which expresses the views of the delegates to the American Jewish Conference on the needs and aspirations of the Jewish people at the present time and in the post-war world.

The American Jewish Conference speaks for the overwhelming majority of American Jews. It is composed of delegates representing sixty national membership organizations and the elected representatives of every major American Jewish community.

We ask the consideration and support by the American Government of the proposals contained in this statement. We respectfully request that those proposals which are relevant to the agenda of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on International Organization be submitted to and supported by the American delegation to that conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Israel Goldstein *Louis Lipsky* *Henry Monsky*
Co-Chairmen, Interim Committee

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, SEPT. 2, 1943, TO IMPLEMENT ITS RESOLUTIONS ON: THE RESCUE OF EUROPEAN JEWS; THE RIGHTS AND STATUS OF JEWS IN THE POST-WAR WORLD; THE RIGHTS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WITH RESPECT TO PALESTINE.

I. PREAMBLE

The statement which follows is respectfully submitted as an exposition of the needs and aspirations of the Jewish people at the present moment and in the post-war period. It was first articulated in resolutions adopted at the plenary session of the American Jewish Conference held in New York City August 29-September 2, 1943, and in Pittsburgh, December 3-5, 1944. The views which it expresses have had their urgency accentuated rather than diminished by the passage of time and the course of historic event. That these views, moreover, give utterance to the opinions of the great majority of American Jews is evidenced both by the representative character of the Conference, and by the democratic procedure through which the Conference moves and has its being.

2. It was for the purpose of formulating a common program of action on "problems relating to the rights and status of Jews in the post-war world" and upon all matters looking to the implementation of the rights of the Jewish people to Palestine, that the Conference was convened in 1943. To its first session, held in New York, there came 123 delegates, bearing the mandates of 64 Jewish organizations each of a national membership. In addition, there were elected 379 delegates who represented all Jewish communities in the United States. Thus, in 77 cities and 59 regions, special election conferences were held at which electors, each representing fifty members or more of a local organization, selected, by secret ballot and through a method of proportional representation, their respective community delegate. The result of this procedure was that out of a population of five million American Jews, a million and a half Jewish adults exercised this specific franchise and elected delegates who, in their totality, were truly representative of all of the varied groups which go to make up a democratic community. Upon the common objectives of the Conference, however, an unprecedented unanimity of opinion was registered by overwhelming majority vote.

3. At its first session, the American Jewish Conference, bringing to expression the most deeply cherished sentiments of American Jewry, adopted resolutions calling for the rescue of the Jewish people in Europe, their post-war rehabilitation, and the implementation of Jewish rights to Palestine. In the interval between the first and second sessions, Commissions upon designated problems were established, and these, from time

to time, submitted the viewpoint of the Conference to governmental authority. For the purpose of further particularization, the resolutions of the first session were given additional exposition in a series of statements adopted by the Commissions; the delegates who, in 1944, attended the second session of the Conference ratified these statements as constituting an expression of the essential prerequisites for the rehabilitation of the Jewish people.

4. At this important juncture in history when the leaders of the United Nations are giving thought to plans and formulae which will in large measure determine the nature of the new and better world order to emerge after these years of sacrifice, it is elementary justice that the voice of the most wronged of peoples should also be heard. A great deal of the strength of that voice has been lost; uncounted are the thousands whom Nazi tyranny has forever silenced. The duty to speak for the survivors—themselves spectres that must haunt the conscience of mankind—is therefore all the more peremptory; and upon none does that duty fall with more exacting imperativeness than upon those Jews who, living in a great democracy, have ever been free to express, and ever certain to receive a hearing for, their pleas on behalf of the wronged and the oppressed. It is in this spirit that the present memorandum, a crystallization of the sentiments and convictions of the American Jewish Conference on both the immediate urgencies and the post-war needs of the Jewish people, is herewith respectfully submitted.

5. Together with all other liberty-loving Americans, we pray that the new world order which is now being planned, will be one which will secure to all men and to all peoples the right to enjoy freedom of speech and conscience, and to live in freedom from fear and want. Certainly the fulfillment of the promise of the Atlantic Charter—the four freedoms to the four corners of the earth—constitutes the sine qua non of the further development of civilization. All the peoples of the world, therefore, look forward to the acceptance of these major premises as the basis of future peace and future progress; the inalienable right of every individual to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, a right modified only by the similar claims of his fellows; and the acknowledged right of every people to self-determination, a right qualified only by the interests and welfare of the human race as a whole. *The right to self-determination, cannot, by definition be exercised vicariously; liberty is not enjoyed by proxy. In the peaceful and orderly reconstruction of the world, all peoples must have a voice in the determination of their future. We ask that this right be granted to the Jewish people.*

6. It is not intended to preface this memorandum with a statement of either the achievements or the past sufferings of the Jewish people as constituting additional consideration for the acceptance of its present claim. That this people has suffered a martyrdom which has lasted twenty centuries constitutes one of the most tragic examples of man's inhumanity to man; that it has kindled lights by which western civilization still stands illumined is one of the truisms of history. But it is neither as reward for services rendered, nor as compensation for damages sustained, that the fundamental rights of a people are pleaded. Those rights are predicated on the elementary principle that all peoples, wherever they may be found and however few their numbers, are morally justified to speak in tomorrow's council of nations, there to defend their rights to survival and self-fulfillment. For those who have a memory, however, it is impossible to dissociate the claims of the Jewish people from the facts of immediate history. Great as has been the sorrow and tragedy which Nazi tyranny has brought to the once free peoples of Europe, greater than human speech can tell, greater than civilized man can believe, is the nightmare horror which state-organized barbarism has visited upon the Jewish people. Every cruelty that a madman's science could invent, the insane fury of the Reich has invented. Every barbarism that atrocity could devise against our people, the Nazis have devised. In the torture houses of the concentration camps, our brothers have fallen in the hundreds; before the common graves of mass-execution, they have perished in the thousands; in the tens of thousands they have fallen victim to the enforced famine and pestilence of the ghetto. The gas-chamber, the firing-squad—it is with these that the enemy has taken a census of our people. Those who survived are today wanderers upon the face of the earth, uprooted, driven from pillar to post, finding here only a temporary refuge, there, only a conditional sanctuary.

7. The ravages inflicted upon our people by the Nazi bandits do not date merely from the outbreak of hostilities. Six years before the first rifle was fired in the present war the enemy had already made the Jews his "chosen people," craftily chosen for the purpose of testing the conscience of mankind. The world did not stand up to that test; an outmoded doctrine of sovereignty tolerated a member, deemed of the Family of Nations, to perpetrate with impunity every manner of atrocity, provided it did so in its own house, though the groans of the victims were heard across a continent and an ocean. For six years, these victims of Nazism, weak and forsaken, alone and without allies, could do nothing but turn their backs to the oppressor.

8. When, at last, the enemy emerged from his experiments upon the Jewish people to his larger planning of "the New Order," the world was plunged into war. The democratic nations finally stood arrayed against the forces of fascism; and the Jewish people saw its sacrifice transformed from a senseless martyrdom to the meaningful ordeal of battle. *Today, one and a half million Jews fight in the armies of the United Nations. No Jews fight in the ranks of our enemies. On sea, on land, in the air, whether in specifically Jewish units unfurling their own banner, as in the Jewish Brigade, or shoulder to shoulder with their fellow citizens in the battalions of the democracies, or in guerrilla and partisan detachments, Jews are fighting and dying in the cause of humanity.*

9. It is these considerations which give capacity and quality to the Jewish people itself to plead its cause before the council of nations. To condemn this people to wait in the antechambers, while advocates, well-intentioned or otherwise, affect to advance its claims, is to add peril and indignity to the lot of those already too much wronged. The miscarriage of justice resulting from such a procedure already fills to overflowing the pages of Jewish history.

10. These observations, too, make it imperative that the present plight and the future position of the Jewish people be given special consideration by the United Nations. In the twelve years of Nazi aggression, Jews have suffered longer and more deeply than any other people. Even in the hour of liberation, their misery is prolonged. Stripped of their possessions, weakened by the agony of their ordeal, they are unable themselves to mend the shattered fragments of their lives. Homeless and without hope, they know not whither to turn.

II. THE AREA OF IMMEDIATE ACTION

11. Preliminary to our presentation of the post-war problems of the Jewish people, duty imposes that our first plea shall be directed to the cause of those who are still in the grasp of the Nazi forces. The history of what is called "The Rescue of Jews" is a disheartening commentary on the humanity of the United Nations. In September, 1943, when the delegates assembled at the first session of the Conference, it was estimated that more than three million Jews had been murdered by the Nazi regime. The Conference recorded its deep concern that the democracies had not instituted vigorous action to rescue those who might have been saved. Since then, large masses of Jews have been hurried to unnatural death, and today a

scattered remnant of the five million who once lived in the Europe conquered by the Germans, remain in concentration and labor camps or in hiding in Nazi territory. Their peril is great, for they are threatened with extermination in a final orgy of Nazi terror.

12. Since the creation of the War Refugee Board in January, 1944, it has been evident that measures could be taken to bring succor to these Jews. *In view of the continuing emergency and the continuing opportunity to save human lives, it is urged that the United Nations take every possible step to save those who are still in the Nazi shadow.*

III. AN INTERNATIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS

13. The declarations of the leaders of the United Nations have from the very inception of this conflict been predicated upon the realization that the overall objective of this war was not merely the re-establishment of the status quo ante. The sacrificial forties did not come merely to vindicate Europe's lawless thirties. Everywhere it is recognized that the peoples of the world will not accept a return to the anarchy which prevailed until, and was consummated by, the present world holocaust. The Jewish people, too, cannot be reconciled to an automatic restoration, even if that were possible, to the dubious position which it occupied before the war. Then, because they were unrepresented in the council of the nations, the Jews of Europe, in many places, were ever exposed to legislative discrimination and even to physical attack; everywhere, a defenseless minority, they had nowhere a national homeland, nowhere a national status. The last to be emancipated in Europe, they were, when Fascism launched its initial campaign to subjugate all free peoples, the first to be enslaved. To re-establish for them the status quo would be in many instances only to substitute the bloodless for the bloody pogrom.

14. It is true that after the last war, in many of the Central Eastern states of Europe, Jews, together with other minority groups, were guaranteed equal status by a system of treaties, declarations, and conventions. This obligation, moreover, was assumed as fundamental law, subject to neither legislative change, nor administrative abridgment, recognized as of international concern, and within the supervisory jurisdiction of the League of Nations. In many instances, the status of equality existed only in the documents which enunciated it; the governmental and popular conduct which these documents purported to shape, in no way reflected the existence of these rights. The international instrumentality for the en-

forcement of these guarantees, moreover, was defective, in some instances entirely inoperative. Thus, there were states in Europe which in their constitutions and in their international commitments could boast of the most benign and progressive principles, while the treatment of minorities in their domains was characterized by the darkest and most reactionary practice. And, without the provision of proper sanctions and adequate methods of enforcement, there was no one to say them nay.

15. The past decade, moreover, has seen the practice of racial discrimination elevated from the status of a covert vice to the altitude of a philosophy and *Weltanschauung*. Of such racial discrimination, anti-Semitism constitutes the classic example. It has served, and if not suppressed, will continue to serve, as the first tactic in the strategy of Fascism against the democracies of the world. In its immoral basis as reprehensible as the trading in slaves, as destructive in its consequences as the illegal traffic in narcotics, it has long merited international suppression.

16. *In order to secure individual human rights against arbitrary violation, the nations of the world must guarantee a Bill of Rights to be embodied in a universal covenant among the nations or to be constituted in a series of international covenants among groups of nations.* The nations of the world can no longer remain indifferent when a state deprives citizens, individually or in groups, of their basic human rights; the experience of the past years has amply demonstrated that such violations are emphatically not matters "solely of domestic concern."

17. The American Jewish Conference therefore urges that the world order which the United Nations are resolved to establish shall accept as a basic principle an International Bill of Rights, which shall embody:

a. *Full and complete protection of life and liberty for the inhabitants of all countries, without distinction of birth, nationality, language, race, or religion.*

b. *Unequivocal equality of rights in law and in fact for all the citizens of every country.*

c. *The inalienable right of all religious, ethnic, and cultural groups to maintain and foster their respective group identities on the basis of equality.*

d. *The outlawing of anti-Semitism as an instrument of internal and international policy.*

e. *The setting up of proper and adequate machinery to effect and safeguard these objectives.*

IV. PALESTINE

18. An international Bill of Rights is urged to protect Jews wherever they may be minorities. The establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth, however, is essential if universal Jewish minorityhood is to be ended, and if the problem of Jewish homelessness, a disability which has contributed to the insecurity of the Jewish people, is to be solved. It is to Palestine that the great majority of homeless Jews seek admission because it is to that land that they are bound by the ties of their history, and in that land they have demonstrated their capacity for self-development.

19. At the first session of the American Jewish Conference a resolution declarative of Jewish rights to Palestine was adopted by an overwhelming majority. The resolution in part declared:

"In the First World War, the civilized nations pointed to a solution of the Jewish problem through the reconstruction of the Jewish Homeland in Palestine with which the Jewish people has been bound up historically and religiously throughout the centuries. This was expressed in the Balfour Declaration issued by the British Government, after consultation between the Allied and Associated Powers, on November 2, 1917, and in the Mandate for Palestine accorded to Great Britain in 1922, with the consent of the fifty-one member nations of the League of Nations and with the unanimous approval of the Congress of the United States.

"On the basis of this international covenant, the Jewish people set itself to the task of recreating its historic Homeland in Palestine. In the course of twenty-five years, it has demonstrated a constructive capacity which has already had a profound effect both on the hopes and outlook of the Jewish people, and on a country which had for centuries been regarded as one of the derelict areas of the world. The progress of all sections of Palestine, Arab as well as Jewish, under the stimulus of the developing Jewish Homeland is one of the most notable phenomena of our time; the contribution of democratic Jewish Palestine to the victories of the armies of the United Nations in the Near East has been a significant vindication of the policy initiated by world

opinion and carried out in the labors and sacrifices of the Jewish people.

"This period of reconstruction, however, has coincided with a general deterioration of world order and international morality. Chief among the victims of this deterioration have been the millions of Jews in Europe. Yet despite the fact that the conditions which made imperative the re-establishment of the Jewish Homeland a quarter of a century ago have been intensified beyond the darkest forebodings, the rights internationally guaranteed to the Jewish people with respect to Palestine have been progressively whittled down on grounds of administrative and political expediency until, with the promulgation of the White Paper of May, 1939, the solemn promise made to the Jewish people was virtually nullified and the last hope of millions of homeless Jews threatened with extinction. . . .

"We call for the loyal and faithful fulfillment of the covenant entered into between the nations of the world and the Jewish people.

"We call for the fulfillment of the Balfour Declaration, and of the Mandate for Palestine whose intent and underlying purpose, based on the 'historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine,' was to reconstitute Palestine as the Jewish Commonwealth.

"We demand the immediate withdrawal in its entirety of the Palestine White Paper of May, 1939, with its unwarranted restrictions on Jewish immigration and land settlement. The White Paper is a violation of the rights accorded to the Jewish people under the Mandate for Palestine. It was characterized by Mr. Winston Churchill in the House of Commons as a 'breach and a repudiation of the Balfour Declaration.' The Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations refused to recognize its legality or its moral validity.

"We demand that the gates of Palestine be opened to Jewish immigration, and that the Jewish Agency for Palestine, recognized under the Mandate as the authorized representative of the Jewish people, be vested with authority to direct and regulate immigration into Palestine, to develop to the maximum the agricultural and industrial possibilities and the natural resources of the country, and to utilize its uncultivated and unoccupied lands for Jewish colonization and for the benefit of the country as a whole.

"The measures here urged constitute the essential prerequisites for the attainment of a Jewish majority and for the recreation of the Jewish Commonwealth.

"In the pursuit of its objective of a Jewish Commonwealth, the Jewish people has steadfastly held before it the ideals which shall integrate Jewish Palestine within the new democratic world structure. The Jewish people pledges itself to scrupulous regard for and preservation of the religious, linguistic and cultural rights of the Arab population of Palestine, and to the civil and religious equality of all its inhabitants before the law. The inviolability of the Holy Places of the various religions shall be guaranteed.

"The Jewish people reaffirms its readiness and desire for full cooperation with its Arab neighbors in Palestine, and in the work of its own national redemption, welcomes the economic and political developments of the Arab peoples of the Near East. On the basis both of the part it has played in the history of civilization, and of its present achievement in Palestine, the Jewish people believes that the Jewish Commonwealth to be established will represent another fundamental contribution to the social and political ideals of the world. It will finally answer the agonized cry of the most martyred of peoples, and enable it to take its rightful place in that progressive order of mankind which, we pray, may issue from the present struggle."

20. We note with satisfaction that in the months following the first session, the Conference resolution on Palestine won the warm and sympathetic endorsement of American public opinion. At the second session of the American Jewish Conference, the delegates hailed the declaration of the President of the United States of October 15, 1944, in which the President, in a message to the Zionist Organization of America, stated:

"Please express my satisfaction that in accord with traditional American policy, and in keeping with the spirit of the four freedoms, the Democratic Party at its July convention this year included the following plank in its platform:

" 'We favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.'

"Efforts will be made to find appropriate ways and means of effectuating this policy as soon as practicable. I know how long and ardently the Jewish people have worked and prayed for the

establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth. I am convinced that the American people give their support to this aim; and if re-elected, I shall help to bring about its realization."

21. We look to the Mandatory Power and to the United Nations for the speedy and effective fulfillment of the pledges given to our people. We call upon the United Nations in their program of reconstruction to make possible the resettlement and rehabilitation in Palestine of all who seek to rebuild their lives there, and we further urge that through the responsible intergovernmental agencies of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, all necessary financial and technical assistance be speedily provided to help meet the problems of transportation, feeding, supplies, and reconstruction.

22. *The execution of this program is an essential element in the fulfillment of the pledge of the United Nations to create a world of justice, security, and freedom.* Without it, indeed, the general intentions of the United Nations will be tragically frustrated; the people of the earth will be re-established in vain, if after all the struggle and sacrifice, the Jews still remain forgotten. Such an instance of discrimination would then constitute an encouragement and a starting point for the further disregard of the rights of the weak, a negation of the moral base upon which the new world order is to be founded, and therefore a threat and a peril also to its beneficiaries. *Without the constitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth, the provisions of the Atlantic Charter remain unfulfilled; with it there ensues an act of sublime and inspiring justice, an act whereby wrong is redressed, and the Four Freedoms at last repay the debt of the Ten Commandments.*

V. RESTORATION OF RIGHTS

23. In the transition period between war and peace, and preparatory to the establishment of the peace, the American Jewish Conference asks the United Nations for action to meet the immediate and urgent needs of the Jewish people. A survey of conditions in liberated and ex-enemy countries reveals that in addition to sharing all the disabilities suffered by their non-Jewish fellow citizens, Jews were ruthlessly singled out for special discrimination and mistreatment. The rights to equal citizenship were annulled; the right of community organization, hitherto enjoyed, was abrogated; when retained, it was used by the Nazi regime as an instrument for the imposition of collective fines or the recruitment of slave-labor

battalions. Stateless, dispossessed, without rights, and helpless, an entire population was reduced to the status of *untermenschen*.

24. Apart from the larger measures, already adverted to, for improving the status of Jews, *the American Jewish Conference believes that the immediate restoration of all rights formerly enjoyed by them is a prerequisite to the reconstruction of Jewish life in Europe.* The following measures are therefore recommended to the governments of the United Nations:

a. As soon as an area in Europe is liberated or occupied by the Allied forces, the government or governing authority in that area shall declare null and void, with retroactive effect, all discriminatory laws and measures enacted against the Jewish population by the German civil and military authorities, their allies and their satellites. The governing authorities in the liberated areas shall restore to the Jewish populations in those areas all the constitutional and treaty rights which they formerly enjoyed.

b. Citizenship shall be restored to all those who have been deprived of it. Restoration of citizenship shall also be extended to persons displaced from their former countries, unless they themselves refuse such restoration.

c. The governing authorities of the liberated areas shall restore without delay all the rights of communal, religious and cultural organization, which the Jewish populations in those areas enjoyed after the first World War. These authorities shall further facilitate the early re-establishment of Jewish community organization, which is indispensable to the rehabilitation of the uprooted Jewish population.

VI. REHABILITATION

25. Uprooted from their homes, dispossessed of the elementary necessities of even mere animal existence, deprived of medical care, subjected to an ingenious and ruthless system of organized starvation, pressed into slave-labor, great numbers of Jews have been reduced to an appalling destitution. At this very moment, unless immediate assistance is brought to them, thousands of Jews in liberated areas face death from disease and starvation. In many of these areas, UNRRA and other agencies established on behalf of displaced populations have not yet begun to operate. In many places, too, the Nazi indoctrination of race-hatred has lingered on; though the Germans fled, the German virus has gone underground and persisted.

26. The reconstruction of the mass of shattered humanity, constitutes an epic challenge to the sincerity and goodwill of the United Nations. Certainly the special plight in which the Jews of Europe find themselves calls for special remedies. These remedies will have to be effected, not only by the United Nations acting in concert; it is recognized, indeed, that the governments, as well as the general populations of the liberated countries will play an important part in the rehabilitation of the Jews in their respective lands. It is our fervent hope that the nations, freed from the shackles of tyranny, will also free themselves from the effects of that anti-Semitic propaganda which the enemy used as an instrument for their subjugation. *It would truly be a tragic misfortune—the defeat of a hard-won victory—if anti-Semitism, in whatever form, were permitted to obstruct the democratic development of the liberated countries.*

27. Special consideration, therefore, will have to be given by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and other Agencies to the special needs of the Jewish population; special, of course, only in the sense that the discrimination and suffering which has been inflicted upon them has been special and extraordinary. We are confident that in the feeding, clothing, and sheltering of these stricken populations, the checking and preventing of further spread of epidemics and disease, the caring for orphans and children who are separated from their parents, the reuniting of scattered families and the aiding of deportees in their emigration and repatriation, these agencies will deal with the Jewish population in a spirit of equity, and with due regard to the urgency of their need. We are further confident that provision will be made for such specific imperatives as the liberation of Jews from ghettos, reservations, and concentration areas, and that adequate conditions for the exercise of freedom of conscience and the observance of ritual requirements will be provided.

28. Accordingly we urge that:

a. Ample opportunity be given such Jews as may be able to return to their former occupations.

b. In the case of those who cannot resume their former occupations, measures should be provided for their economic retraining and reorientation, consideration being given to their special experience and skill.

c. Facilities should be provided for the re-establishment of Jewish religious, educational and welfare organizations.

d. There must be recognition of the right of every Jew who desires to settle in Palestine to emigrate and to take his possessions with him.

VII. DISPLACED PERSONS

29. Many of the surviving European Jews, who are now in countries of refuge or temporary asylum, will neither wish nor be able to return to their former homes; many of the survivors confined under enemy occupation in their countries of origin or residence will not desire to remain there even after liberation. In the case of many, indeed, it would be cruel to ask them to continue living in an atmosphere which has been poisoned for them forever, amidst scenes constantly evocative of their past ordeals, amidst the ubiquitous monuments to their martyrdom. For such displaced Jews, new homes in other countries will have to be provided; and while it will be possible to move most of them only after the cessation of hostilities, many, it must be recognized, can even now and without interfering with the successful prosecution of the war, be transported to other countries of settlement where they may be given an opportunity to rebuild their lives anew.

30. To help these displaced persons establish themselves in new countries of permanent settlement, we call upon the United Nations, and upon each government concerned, as well as upon governmental agencies dealing with such problems, to act as speedily as possible on the following measures:

- a. *To find new places of permanent settlement, bearing in mind that Palestine has been prepared through decades of Jewish pioneering effort to absorb large masses of returning Jews and that without excluding other countries as sanctuaries for individual resettlers, Palestine is, like no other country, best suited for Jewish mass colonization.*
- b. *To care for the preservation, maintenance, transportation and initial stages of settlement of the displaced Jews who are seeking new homes in other countries, such assistance to be accorded in the same manner as aid is given repatriates of the United Nations.*
- c. *To issue an internationally recognized identity and travel document for stateless persons, or persons not enjoying in fact the protection of any Government.*
- d. *To admit Jewish observers to the Standing Committees of UNRRA in charge of displaced persons and to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and its Executive Committee, for the purpose of consultation and advice on matters pertaining to the problems of resettlement of displaced Jews.*

31. In addition to the personal fury directed against the Jews by the Nazi sadists, European Jewry has also been the victim of the no less agonizing though impersonal effects of international law. Thus, as a result of its legal fictions, German, Austrian and Czech Jews, the first victims of Nazi outrage, would be technically considered as "enemy aliens." Such a classification, it is submitted, is unthinkable. Having already been deprived of their citizenship in the enemy countries and reduced therein to the status of pariahs, having taken their stand with the United Nations in the unrelenting struggle against the Axis, it is as allies and friendly aliens that they should be regarded and treated.

32. We also call attention to that peculiar status which runs counter to the most elementary concepts of morality—the status, if status it can be called, of "statelessness." That any human being, not guilty or even accused of any crime, should be juridically exiled from any and all parts of God's earth is an unspeakable invention, as cruel as it is blasphemous. The attention of the United Nations, therefore, is directed to the serious problem of large numbers of such individuals who, through territorial changes and the overlapping and conflicting legislation of various countries, have lost their citizenship without acquiring another. It is submitted:

a. *That measures be taken by international agreement to eliminate the condition of "statelessness."*

b. *That in approving changes of sovereignty over populations, or in establishing new boundaries, measures be taken to avoid the creation of groups of stateless individuals.*

VIII. PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMINALS

33. Since their rise to power, the leaders of the Nazi regime have proclaimed the extermination of the Jewish people as a major aim of their "policy." This aim they have pursued with scientific system and unrelenting vigor; they have brought to the Jews of Europe, death on a timetable, murder by schedule. In consort with Axis allies and associates, with the connivance of Nazi followers in their home countries and their collaborators in occupied territory, they have, with an unexampled bestiality, carried out their campaign of terror and annihilation. *These crimes cannot go unpunished without destroying the legal and moral foundations upon which our civilization rests.*

34. Aware of the manifold crimes committed by the Axis powers against the Jewish people, the United Nations have solemnly and officially affirmed as their policy the full and just punishment of all those guilty.

Thus, the Inter-Allied Declaration signed at St. James' Palace on January 13, 1942, though not making express reference to the Jews, proclaimed that the signatory powers "place among their principal war aims the punishment, through the channel of organized justice, of those guilty and responsible for these crimes (against civilians), whether they have ordered them, perpetrated them, or in any way participated in them."

35. Subsequently, in a Joint Declaration issued simultaneously at London and Washington on December 17, 1942, the United Nations took formal cognizance of the fact that "the German authorities . . . are now carrying into effect Hitler's oft-repeated intention to exterminate the Jewish people in Europe," and therefore "reaffirm their solemn resolution to ensure that those responsible for these crimes shall not escape retribution, and to press on with the necessary practical measures to this end."

36. On March 24, 1944, this policy was clearly and emphatically reiterated when President Roosevelt, with the approval of Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin, made a public pronouncement calling attention to the fact that the extermination of the Jewish people was "begun by the Nazis in the day of peace and multiplied by them a hundred times in time of war," and stating in part: "we . . . again proclaim our determination that none who participate in these acts of savagery (against Jews and other civilians) shall go unpunished. The United Nations have made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that justice be done. That warning applies not only to the leaders but also to their functionaries and subordinates in Germany and in the satellite countries. . . . All who share the guilt will share the punishment."

37. *In view of the solemn and unequivocal declaration of policy embodied in these and similar official statements, which leave no doubt as to the intention of the United Nations to visit just punishment upon those guilty of crimes against civilian populations, and notably against the Jewish people, the American Jewish Conference, urges that in carrying out this policy the United Nations take cognizance of and proper action upon the following considerations:*

- a. The crimes committed by the Axis nations and their associates against the Jewish people shall be duly specified in the indictment against the war criminals and made punishable in accordance with the policy announced by the United Nations.*
- b. Crimes committed against Jews in given territories shall be tried in the respective national courts, except those committed in Germany and in the territories of her satellites, which shall be tried in international courts.*

- c. *The United Nations shall require the surrender of the criminals by the Axis nations or by other countries to which they may escape. Provision for surrender shall be included in the terms of armistice.*
- d. *The national as well as international courts shall recognize Jewish representatives as amici curiae.*
- e. *The Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes, or a similar authority, shall give locus standi to a representation of the Jewish people.*

IX. RESTITUTION OF PROPERTY

38. Much of the havoc which has been wrought by the Nazi regime is beyond compensation or repair. No governmental edict, no international fiat can serve to resurrect the hundreds of thousands who have been martyred by the Nazi executioners, no payment in money or in things can in any measure compensate for the sufferings to which the survivors of Nazi cruelty have been subjected. Certainly it is not upon this plane that the claim for indemnification is posited; the fact is, however, that among the less irrevocable perpetrations of the Nazis, wholesale theft and robbery occupied a most prominent place. It is elementary justice that the victims of these crimes be entitled to restitution. The American Jewish Conference, therefore, urges recognition of the right to indemnification for all who have suffered loss of property and livelihood as a result of a calculated Nazi program which began with discrimination and ended with destruction.

39. *In view of the unique situation of the Jewish victims of Axis policy in Europe, and the urgency of their need, special consideration should be given by the United Nations both individually and collectively to the problems of restitution of property and compensation for losses by Jews in life and health, communal and private property, rights, interests and occupations, and the claims of Jewish victims and their representatives should be included in the first category in any system of priorities set up by reparation agencies, national and international.*

40. *Special provision will be required to secure reparation for general damages caused by the Nazi aggressors and their satellites to the Jewish people, this reparation to serve to facilitate the rebuilding of Palestine as the Jewish National Home.*

41. The United Nations should secure the enactment of adequate rules for indemnification, including the following:

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a. Wherever confiscated or transferred Jewish property is or can be made available, immediate steps shall be taken to restore it to its rightful owner.

b. Wherever direct and full restoration is not possible, just compensation shall be provided. The Axis nations and their satellites, as well as their nationals, their quislings, and the beneficiaries of "Aryanized" property in occupied countries shall be made liable for the indemnification of losses by Jews.

c. Appropriate steps shall be taken to effect the return of property of which Jews have been deprived and which may be found in the territories of United Nations and neutral countries.

42. From such special funds as will, pending a final settlement of claims against Axis and satellite countries, be constituted out of currency reserves, commodities, raw materials, equipment, and things belonging to these nations, an appropriate part should be applied for the benefit of economically uprooted Jews and to assist such Jews to resettle elsewhere if they so desire.

43. It is urged that in all territories formerly occupied or dominated by Axis powers uniform laws be enacted guaranteeing to the Jews, irrespective of their nationality and present residence, full and speedy restoration of property, rights and positions, and compensation for losses suffered; the laws, moreover, should provide for the right of claimants to choose to be indemnified in money or kind, as may be most convenient for the claimants under the conditions prevailing at that time. These laws should be retroactive in their effect; and in those cases where the original victims are dead or missing, should avail to the advantage of their dependents and heirs. Claims against individuals should be made upon the demand of individual claimants with adequate compensation by the State in cases where these claims yield no result. An adequate period of time should be allowed in which claims can be presented, and State aid in an appropriate form should be available in all cases.

44. All the governments concerned should enact laws making possible the reconsideration of legal and administrative decisions given during the period of discrimination and enabling the reinstatement of claimants in their rights irrespective of any statute of limitations. In the case of Jews either unable or unwilling to return to their former homeland or place of residence, or residents desiring to emigrate therefrom, compensation for all losses should be made to them at their new place of residence. The United Nations should grant their respective citizens and residents en-

titled to indemnification, or their representatives, full protection and assistance in dealing with governments against whom they may establish claims.

45. The United Nations should create special tribunals to deal with cases of claims against Axis nationals and their accomplices, irrespective of their residence and the location of their property, and conclude the necessary conventions both among themselves and with neutral nations to implement these decisions and enforce their execution upon the Axis nations.

46. It is proposed that there be established an International Jewish Reconstruction Commission and Jewish national reconstruction commissions, working in cooperation with it, to be vested with all the powers necessary to procure the right to and payment of indemnification to the Jewish people, Jewish bodies and individuals. Property and rights belonging to Jewish communities, organizations, funds, trusts, and other institutions which have ceased to exist and to Jewish families considered extinguished shall be declared to belong to the International Jewish Reconstruction Commission directly or whenever and as long as an appropriate Jewish national commission exists and requests this, through such national commission. The International Jewish Reconstruction Commission shall use all the funds at its final disposal directly or through the Jewish national commissions in the respective countries for rehabilitation of European Jews and their communities, and through the Jewish Agency for Palestine for the development of its program; shall be authorized to represent ex-officio all Jewish claimants not present in the country of the location of their property and rights until such claimants shall return there, unless individual representatives have been appointed and shall, upon request by individuals present in the country, represent them; shall be declared the legal representative of all missing Jews, or Jews prevented from presenting their claims, until they or their heirs are legally restored to their rights; and shall be given the right to participate in the deliberations of the United Nations dealing with questions of compensation, restitution and reparations. The legislation of the countries concerned shall be amended so as to make the implementation of these rules mandatory.

X. JEWISH REPRESENTATION

47. We cannot but emphasize again the plea of the Jewish people for representation in the council of the United Nations. Considerations of judicial convenience and judicial right demand that the Jewish people, first victim and most loyal ally, appear in the transactions of the United

Nations, not by way of a *prete-nom*, not as a remote petitioner, but as a party in *coram curiae*, duly and fully represented.

48. It was in this spirit that the American Jewish Conference, at its first session, unanimously adopted a resolution which declared:

"This Conference requests the recognition by the United Nations of the justice of the Jewish claim for representation, for the purpose of advice and cooperation, on agencies that have been and will be set up by the United Nations to deal with the problems of relief, rehabilitation, resettlement, and other aspects of post-war reconstruction."

With the passage of time, and the imminence of decisions about to be taken by the United Nations, the urgency of that resolution has increased. Now, when those who have been so long silenced by the oppressor are to be permitted to speak, it would be gross inequity if this right were to be granted to all, and withheld only from the most oppressed; reserving for them only the dubious privilege of *ex parte* utterance.

49. It is pertinent to note, too, that every nation which has declared war against the Axis, including many who withheld that declaration until March 1, 1945, will be represented in the new international organization. We ask that right also for the first victim of Nazi aggression.

50. After twenty centuries of wandering and discrimination, climaxed by the events of the last nightmare decade, the Jewish people is burdened with the effects of countless wrongs perpetrated against it. The righting of these wrongs is today the great desideratum not only of their particular victims, but of all mankind. The council of the United Nations, therefore, constitutes the proper forum for their discussion, the proper instrument for their rectification. There, the Jewish people has a right to be heard. Heard, it can confidently feel that justice will be done.

The whole respectfully submitted.

ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN

LOUIS LIPSKY

HENRY MONSKY

*Co-Chairmen, Interim Committee,
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE*

BULLETIN

OF ACTIVITIES AND DIGEST OF THE PRESS

American JEWISH CONFERENCE
521 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

No. 134

Tishri 21, 5708

October 5, 1947

JEWISH COMMUNITIES TO CONSIDER PLAN FOR PERMANENT ORGANIZATION AT PUBLIC HEARINGS

The basic plan for the permanent organization to succeed the American Jewish Conference, at present under discussion in Jewish circles throughout the country, will be examined at public hearings in key communities during October and November.

Sponsored locally by community councils, welfare funds, leaders in Jewish endeavor, and Conference delegates, these hearings will provide an opportunity for the Jewish community at large to express its views on the plan and to suggest modifications and amendments. Thus far, hearings have been scheduled in Chicago, October 12; Cleveland, October 19; Detroit, October 12; Los Angeles, October 26; St. Paul, October 14; Philadelphia, November 2.

Dates for Boston, Nashville, Newark, New York and San Francisco will be announced shortly.

A committee or panel of prominent local Jewish leaders will preside at each hearing. Louis Lipsky, Chairman of the Conference Executive Committee, Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Chairman of the Committee on Future Organization, and other Executive Committee members will lead off the discussion by presenting and analyzing the plan. This is to be followed by comments and questions from the floor.

The Committee on Future Organization, which is to present its final report to the Fourth Session of the American Jewish Conference in Chicago, November 29 to December 1, will take cognizance of all views expressed.

The hearings on the plan are an innovation in Jewish public life. They are a bold attempt to evoke the full participation of American Jewry's entire constituency - its local and national leaders and organizations - in influencing and shaping the foundations of the permanent organization. And it is gratifying to record that the Jewish community councils are taking active part in sponsoring the hearings. This reflects a deep understanding by the local communities of the problem before us.

CONFERENCE ACTS ON UNSCOP REPORT

With the Palestine issue before the UN General Assembly, the political activities of the Conference were concentrated on presenting the reaction of American Jewry to the UNSCOP report and in urging the U. S. Government to take a firm and favorable stand on the Palestine issue before the United Nations.

Meeting in New York on September 18, the Interim Committee approved the statement issued by the Conference Executive Committee on September 2 (see Bulletin 133) and reiterated the belief that the UNSCOP majority report reflected a conscientious effort to find a workable solution for the Palestine problem. At the same time, the Interim Committee questioned the wisdom of entrusting to Great Britain the implementation of UNSCOP's majority recommendations during the proposed transition period. The Interim Committee suggested that the General Assembly set up "a neutral and impartial instrumentality" to carry out the UN decision on Palestine, and provide a shorter transition period than the two years recommended by UNSCOP.

"In view of the failure of the Mandatory Government to fulfill its obligations to the Jewish people in the past and to this very day, the Interim Committee questions the wisdom of entrusting to the United Kingdom the implementation of the recommendations during the two-year transition period as proposed in the majority report," the statement declared.

The Interim Committee welcomed Secretary of State Marshall's September 17 statement in his address to the General Assembly that the United States Government gives

"great weight" to the UNSCOP majority report and that it will do "everything in its power" to bring about a proper solution of the Palestine question.

"This gives reassurance," the statement concluded, "that the American Government will now vigorously pursue its traditional policy on Palestine in the present session of the United Nations Assembly."

Following Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones' declaration to the General Assembly of the UN that Great Britain had decided to surrender the Mandate over Palestine and withdraw its troops, the Conference released the following statement:

"The announcement by Great Britain of her decision to terminate the Mandate and to withdraw her troops and administration from Palestine is long overdue and welcome; Colonial Secretary Creech-Jones' statement before the General Assembly removes from the discussion at Lake Success a very troublesome aspect of the situation. The mandatory power must now show evidence of good faith by immediately putting an end to all repressive measures in Palestine, and stop interference with Jewish immigration. If indeed His Majesty's Government has no desire to impose a policy on Palestine by force of arms, it is in a position to remove all doubts of its intentions in the matter by doing so at once.

It is to be hoped that the British statement at the General Assembly will not have the effect of a threat aimed at intimidating the United Nations. The General Assembly has before it the well-considered majority recommendations of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, and whatever Britain's conditions for participating in the implementation of the United Nations decision, the United Nations must act with speed and determination.

The United Nations are now in a position to consider the Palestine problem free from any encumbrance of England's special interest in the matter, and the reaching of a fair and just solution should be facilitated. It is to be expected that the mandatory power will withdraw from the country in an orderly manner in order to enable the population of Palestine gradually to assume the responsibility for the government and administration of the country.

The Jews of Palestine are well able to take care of themselves and there is every reason to assume that the Arab population, in its own interests, will fully cooperate in maintaining law and order pending Britain's withdrawal."

In the opening days of the General Assembly session, which began September 16, it became evident that the U. S. Government was hesitant in supporting UNSCOP's majority recommendations and revealed an unwillingness to take a firm stand on the Palestine issue. This continuation of American "neutrality" despite Secretary Marshall's declaration that the U. S. attached "great weight" to the UNSCOP report, greatly disturbed the American Jewish community. The Conference therefore called upon its national affiliated organizations to urge President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall to secure prompt and decisive action by the U. S. Government on the Palestine issue before the General Assembly. Affiliates of the Conference were asked to consult local political and civic leaders - congressmen, senators, mayors - on the imperative need to impress upon the U. S. Government that the American people expected the U. S. to fulfill its commitments in support of Jewish national aspirations in Palestine.

THE "EXODUS 1947" TRAGEDY

State Department's Answer to a Plea; New British Attempt to Break Refugees' Morale

As the "Exodus" refugees were steaming in three British prison ships from Port du Bouc, France, to Hamburg, Germany, the American Jewish Conference on August 21 appealed to President Truman to use American influence to halt this second shameful deportation and to secure their immediate return to Palestine. It took the Department of State nearly three weeks to answer this urgent appeal. Meanwhile, the refugees were forcibly landed, under a rain of truncheon blows and pressure hoses, in the British zone of Germany and sent to machine-gun guarded, barbed wire camps.

Here is the State Department's answer, dated September 16:

"By reference from the White House, the receipt is acknowledged of your telegram to the President of August 21, 1947, expressing your grave concern over the transporting from Palestine to Hamburg, Germany, of 4,400 Jewish refugees from the Exodus 1947 by the British authorities.

"As indicated by the Secretary of State at a recent press conference, the United States Government was keenly aware of the unfortunate results which would follow a decision to send these persons to Germany for debarkation and urged the British Government to reconsider its decision. It was also indicated that the British Government had decided that the only available facilities for housing this group were in Germany and had pointed out that as the French offer of admission to that country was still open, the refugees need not remain in Germany unless that was their wish.

"It is the Department's hope that the consideration which the United Nations will shortly give to the report of the Special Committee on Palestine will result in a solution for the Palestine problem which will prevent the recurrence of incidents such as that of the Exodus 1947."

* * *

The British having failed to screen the "Exodus" refugees or to induce them to accept French "hospitality", resorted to a new scheme to break their morale. On October 1, British occupation authorities announced that the Exodus refugees would have their rations cut to 1550 calories daily unless they consented to take advantage of the French offer. The regular DP allotment is 2800 calories daily.

The Conference, in a public statement on October 2, described this British ultimatum as a "despicable form of pressure by starvation"...., a renewed attempt to break the morale of the valiant refugees who have resisted transfer to any country other than Palestine. The time limit given to the refugees to go to France or face starvation expired yesterday, and British occupation forces could not be persuaded on simple humanitarian grounds to treat these people they seized and made captive no worse than ordinary prisoners under British detention," the Conference declared.

The Conference also called upon American organizations to urge the British Government "not to carry its vindictiveness to the point where new clashes and loss of life will result."

AN URGENT REQUEST

Conference delegates have received two notices from the Executive Committee informing them that the Fourth Session of the Conference will be held in Chicago, November 29-December 1. Most of the delegates have notified the office that they will be present, but a number of delegates have failed to reply.

The rules provide that in the event a delegate cannot attend, an alternate shall be selected to take his place. Delegates who have not yet indicated their intention to attend, are requested to let the Conference office know not later than October 17 whether they plan to be present at the Session.

Inasmuch as time is growing short, the matter is very urgent and a prompt response is of the utmost importance.

THE CONFERENCE SPEAKS

*** On September 22, A.C.A. Liverhant, Research Director of the Conference, addressed The Men's Club of the Greenwich Hebrew Institute on "The Implications of a Jewish State."

*** Dr. Maurice Halperin, Conference Secretary for UN Affairs, will address the Kew Gardens Chapter of Hadassah on October 22. The subject of his talk will be "Palestine and the UN."

*** The New York Section of the National Council of Jewish Women will hear an analysis of the UNSCOP Report on October 7 by Miss Sylvia Gilman, Editor of the "Conference Record."

I N B R I E F

*** Arthur Liverhant, Research Director of the Conference, left for London, where he will act for the Conference on the presentation of the memorandum by the 11 cooperating Jewish organizations on the Austrian peace settlement during the November meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

D I G E S T O F P R E S S C O M M E N T SLAST CHANCE IN GENERATION

"...American Jewish life needs many improvements that must come in time. There is one change, however, which must be effectuated this coming year if it is to come at all in this generation. This is the substantial initiation of a reorganization of the American Jewish Community - a reorganization which will bring a semblance of order and overall planning to a community whose growth and maturation are seriously hampered by the selfish and disorderly competitive and uncoordinated activities of a multitude of national Jewish organizations.

"This last opportunity in a generation will come during Thanksgiving Day week-end in Chicago at the very important Fourth Session of the American Jewish Conference. The community delegates and representatives from some sixty-two national organizations who will be present must agree to reorganize the Conference on a permanent and meaningful basis. To be meaningful in the sphere of domestic affairs the Conference must be endowed with greater powers than those recommended by a majority of the Conference's Committee on Future Organization..."

Arnold Ginsburg, Jewish Times, Phila., 9/12/47

'CONSULTATIVE STATUS' AT UN

"While small and backward states like Yemen have been granted membership in the United Nations, only 'consultative status' has been accorded to the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, which includes the American Jewish Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies..."

"The three recognized Jewish bodies, acting for more than 6,000,000 English-speaking Jews, will be charged with the grave responsibility of watching out for the interests of the Jewish people in Europe and in Palestine.

"Problems involving human rights, the status of displaced persons, the plight of refugees and the future of Palestine will come before the UN in the coming months, and it is of utmost importance that there should be strict vigilance in efforts to secure justice for dispossessed Jews, for the existing Jewish communities in Palestine and for the hundreds of thousands seeking admission to the Jewish National Home.

"American Jews will have to carry the brunt of responsibility in the battle for human rights and for the recognition of our claims to Palestine. The American Jewish Conference, whose Fourth Session will be held in Chicago during the Thanksgiving Day week-end, must mobilize strength to be able to face all issues. Perhaps the recognition given it by the UN will serve as encouragement to those who are indifferent about the Conference to strengthen its position and to assure its perpetuation as the central organization that is to speak for all American Jews..."

Jewish News, Detroit, 9/5/47

THE ONLY JEWISH BODY WITH A TRULY DEMOCRATIC BASE

"The American Jewish Conference intends to become a permanent organization.

"I do not know how well-known the American Jewish Conference is to the broad Jewish masses, but those who know the American Jewish community have great respect and a positive attitude toward the American Jewish Conference. It is today the only Jewish body in America having a truly broad and democratic base.

"Affiliated with the Conference are all elements of American Jewry, with the exception of the famous combination of the green-bundists and the assimilated plutocracy - that is, the Jewish Labor Committee, the American Jewish Committee and the Agudas Israel, which generally does things on its own in all matters..."

"It can be said that the American Jewish Conference represents the broadest base of American Jewry; but a broad base is still not a living democracy - which includes the broad masses in its activities. The democratic base of which Dr. Eisendrath speaks (in his New Year article) should not only be a complete democracy but also an active democracy - in the matter of selecting delegates, in the matter of its activities and in the matter of its responsibility.

"That such a body is needed, no one can doubt."

B. Z. Goldberg, The Day, New York City

October 7, 1947

Mr. Meir Grossman,
American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

Dear Mr. Grossman:

As you know, I have just returned to my congregation after over two years in Germany and Austria. I would appreciate being reinstated on your mailing list for all publications of the American Jewish Conference. I do not know if you removed our name from your list during the time that I was overseas, but at any rate I would appreciate receiving all currently published material and bulletins.

Are you still publishing the old "Trend of Events" Jewish news letter which used to come from the 55 West 42nd Street address? If so, I would appreciate receiving that also.

You may bill us for any costs involved in the sending of any of this literature.

I consider the bulletins and analyses published by the American Jewish Conference to be among the most important and valuable found on the contemporary scene today, and it is because of this feeling that I am very eager to receive all of the material which you put out.

Very sincerely yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF:EW

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Phone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

Washington Office: 1706 G Street, N.W., Washington 1, D. C.

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I. L. KENEN
Executive Secretary

orig: 153

October 13, 1947

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
East 16th Avenue at Pearl Street
Denver 5, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

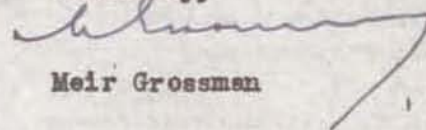
I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of October 7th in which you are kind enough to say some complimentary things about the Conference publications.

Your request to be reinstated on our mailing list for all Conference publications will, of course, be complied with at once.

I still publish the "Trend of Events" and shall arrange to include your name on our subscription list.

I join your congregation in welcoming you back, and wish to take this opportunity to wish you a long and fruitful career in the cause of the Jewish people.

Sincerely,


Meir Grossman

MG:SF

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

December 23, 1947

Mr. Robert Gamzey, Editor
Intermountain Jewish News
1951 Champa
Denver, Colorado

Dear Gamzey:

Thank you for sending me the outline of your speech. I was able to decipher it and found it interesting.

I am very glad that Denver Lodge took the action that it did. I am convinced that it will require similar action in a number of B'nai B'rith lodges throughout the country if national approval is to be obtained.

I notice that the head of the Chicago B'nai B'rith has a favorable article in the Chicago Sentinel of last week.

While he was in New York for the UJA Conference, I ran into Rabbi Herbert Friedman who has promised to help us build the Conference in some of the mid-west cities where it is weak. You might get in touch with him. I am sure that the two of you together can help us greatly.

Cordially yours,

ILK:jr

cc Rabbi Herbert Friedman

I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

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December 23, 1947

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SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
ALEX F. STANTON
HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
1595 Peach Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Herb:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I
today sent to Robert Gamzey of the Intermountain
Jewish News.

Cordially,

I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:jr
enclosure

I. L. KENEN
Executive Secretary

CONGREGATION EMANU-EL
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

FIFTH AVENUE AT SIXTY-FIFTH STREET

RHinelander 4-1400

Formed by the Consolidation of Emanu-El
Congregation and Temple Beth-El

Delivery District 21

December 29, 1947

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SAMUEL BERLINER
SAMUEL BERLINER, JR.

Congregation Emanuel
Denver, Colo.

Dear Sirs:

I am instructed by the members of Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York to advise you that, at the annual meeting of the Congregation held on December 15, 1947, the following preambles and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

The members of Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York in annual meeting assembled have noted with regret various reports in the press from which it appears that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations is about to enter a new organization which is designed to speak for and in behalf of all Americans of Jewish faith on all matters of domestic and foreign policy affecting the interests of Jews. The members of this congregation, which is affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, do not believe that a religious organization should confer any such authority as is contemplated upon any central organization.

Certainly, the proposed organization has no direct mandate to speak for this congregation or its membership, and the members of this congregation do not desire that it shall have any indirect mandate through the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations has been established and maintained as a group of communities with a common religious interest. It should have no affiliation with any continuing organization engaged in the consideration of or action upon matters of a domestic or international political character.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York request that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations do not become affiliated with the proposed organization, and that the Executive Board of the Union take steps which will assure the congregations affiliated with the Union that the Union will not become a member of such central organization.

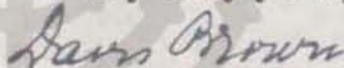
CONGREGATION EMANU-EL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees be, and it hereby is, authorized to communicate the views of this congregation to other congregations affiliated with the Union and to do all things necessary or incidental to the carrying out of the purposes of this resolution, to the end that the Union shall not become a member of the proposed organization.

The request set forth in the resolutions has been made upon The Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Executive Board of the Union.

I should appreciate it if you would acknowledge the receipt of this communication.

Very truly yours,



Davis Brown

Secretary, Congregation Emanu-El
of the City of New York

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
MEMORANDUM

TO: Rabbi Herbert Friedman

DATE: January 5, 1948

FROM: I. L. Kenen

SUBJECT:

Dear Herb:

You will hear from us shortly re Community Relations Committee.
Meanwhile, any luck with Denver for an allocation for the Conference?

Regards. . .

ILK:jr

Have talked with Gingsus. He came to see me.

January 9, 1948

Mr. I. L. Kenen,
American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

Dear Sir:

Just want to give you a short interim report on the situation.

An effort is now on foot to revive our Jewish community council in Denver, which was formerly called The Central Jewish Council, so that it will once again be an effective functioning organization. The Federated Women's Clubs of Denver (that is, Jewish clubs,) had a discussion meeting today with the officers of the Welfare Fund, suggesting that we should have a revitalization of our old policy-making Central Jewish Council. I am glad that the initiative was taken by the women's group, and I am also happy to report that the committee of the Welfare Fund was very favorably disposed.

Apparently our community council was once a flourishing organization, but gradually withered due to the fact that my own Temple Emanuel (15 years ago) would not come into the central council, which contributed to the weakness of the council. I think I can state now that our Temple will join, and that a revitalized council is very definitely a practical affair in Denver.

Should that be the case, then we will have an excellent base for joining with the American Jewish Conference. I will let you know how things develop with the revitalization of our council, and I would appreciate your keeping me posted as to when we would be expected to act on the election of delegates.

As far as a subsidy to the Conference from our local Welfare Fund is concerned, the Board and the executive director have indicated to me that a

Mr. I. L. Kenen

-2-

January 9, 1948

request from the American Jewish Conference should be made in writing. In other words, if you could send them a letter, containing essentially the same statistics with which I first brought the problem to their attention, namely the fact that Denver has not given anything in the past several years and that other cities have given certain amounts, then the Board would have an official request upon which to act, and I could support that request verbally at the next meeting of the Allocations Committee.

My own guess is that there would be a possibility of receiving some sort of an allocation, although of course I cannot guarantee that nor can I even speculate as to what the amount would be. However, the first step would be for you to write a letter to Mr. Israel Friedman, executive director, Allied Jewish Campaign of Denver, and make the formal request.

I have learned that Abe Hyman is planning to stay on in Germany until such time as Haber arrives and is broken in. Abe, right now, is tremendously tired and lonesome and has really, in my judgment, been there almost too long. If you could spare a moment to write him a heartening encouraging note, I know he would appreciate it.

Best regards, and hoping to hear from you soon, I am

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

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Cable Address: AMCONFERN

January 15, 1948

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JANE EVANS
DR. SIMON FEDERBUSCH
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
HAROLD O. N. FRANKEL
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
DANIEL FRISCH
LEON GELLMAN
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DR. ROBERT GORDIS
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN
MRS. BARNETT E. KOPPELMAN
MAX A. KOPSTEIN
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MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE
Executive Committee
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Chairman
JACOB ALSON
MAX BRESSLER
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JACOB MARRUS
RABBI IRVING MILLER
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
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HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD

I. L. KENEN
Executive Secretary

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
1595 Peach Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

You are no doubt aware that at the Fourth Session of the American Jewish Conference, held in Chicago November 29 - December 1, the delegates by a large majority approved a plan for the establishment of "an organization, democratic in structure and representative of the American Jewish community...to secure and protect the rights and to promote the general welfare of the Jewish people, here and abroad; and to enhance the contribution of the Jewish community to American democracy."

At a meeting in New York on December 29, the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference voted to establish the Preparatory Committee for the American Jewish Assembly. The activities of the American Jewish Conference will be continued pending the establishment of the Assembly, with the understanding that if elections for the new body shall not have been held by December 31, 1948, the American Jewish Conference will go out of existence.

I have accepted membership on the Preparatory Committee and the chairmanship of its Committee on Community Relations because it is my conviction that its objectives have long been sought by the majority of the Jewish people of the United States, and their attainment this year may well prove a significant milestone in the history of the American Jewish community.

I now write to enlist your cooperation.

It will be the task of the Community Relations Committee "to establish relations with all communities, determine the eligibility of local communal bodies which shall conduct the elections of delegates within the communities in accordance with the rules established by the Committee on Elections, and in the absence of such bodies, it shall designate the convenors of an ad hoc committee for that purpose." It is my view that this committee should be broadly representative

Rabbi Herbert Friedman - 2
January 15, 1948

of communities throughout the country, and I am therefore requesting you to join us in this undertaking. There is much to be done in the way of public enlightenment to ensure participation by the communities of the country in the future American Jewish Assembly. Believing that you are in a position to strengthen our work, I am counting on your acceptance.

I will be grateful to you for an early response to this invitation.

Cordially yours,

Ezra Z. Shapiro

Ezra Z. Shapiro, Chairman
Community Relations Committee
Preparatory Committee for the
American Jewish Assembly

EZS:lf



*American
Jewish
Conference*

January 21, 1948

Dr. Samuel Gringauz
117 West 96th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Gringauz:

Thank you for sending me the biographical material. I have been in touch with two agencies and am hopeful that there may be some results. I shall continue my efforts until there is a result.

With all best wishes,

Cordially yours,

I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:jr

cc Dr. Leo Srole
Rabbi Herbert Friedman

11
UABC
MARIUS RANSON, L. H. D., Rabbi
JULIAN F. FEINGOLD, Ass't Rabbi
NATHAN L. GOODMAN, President



Temple Annex
424 SOUTH HARRISON STREET
EAST ORANGE, N. J.
OR. 3-2834

Temple Sharey Tefilo

FIFTY-SEVEN PROSPECT STREET
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

ORANGE 5-0139

January 28, 1948

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
3001 Forest
Denver, Colo.

Gentlemen:

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Temple Sharey Tefilo of East Orange, New Jersey, held Tuesday, January 6, 1948, a letter dated December 29, 1947, from Congregation Emanu-el of New York, setting forth a certain resolution adopted by it December 15, 1947, was presented and discussed and resulted in the unanimous adoption of the following resolution:

"Whereas, the resolution of Congregation Emanu-el of New York, expressing its opposition to the affiliation of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations with the proposed American Jewish Conference has been brought to the attention of this Board; and

Whereas, we completely disagree with and heartily oppose the purpose and tenor of the said Congregation Emanu-el resolution; and

Whereas, we firmly believe and are of the opinion, in direct contrast to the spirit of the aforesaid resolution, that the very future of Reformed Judaism in the United States of America is jeopardized by the untimely passage of such resolution and its circulation to all member Congregations of the Union:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Temple Sharey Tefilo of East Orange, New Jersey, does herewith and hereby concur in and unqualifiedly endorse the proposals and actions of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and its Executive Board, and the steps undertaken, adopted and authorized on behalf of the Union, or proposed to be taken, to the end and purpose that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations shall adhere to, affiliate with and accept membership in the proposed American Jewish Conference, and we do further urge and recommend the authorization and implementation by and on the part of the Union of any and all such further steps, measures, resolutions and actions as may be deemed proper and advisable to effectuate fully and effectively such affiliation and membership in such Conference; and

MARIUS RANSON, L. H. D., Rabbi
JULIAN F. FEINGOLD, Ass't Rabbi
NATHAN L. GOODMAN, President



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Further, resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Temple Sharey Tefilo does hereby authorize the President to communicate the views of this Board to said Congregation Emanu-el and to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Executive Board of the Union and all Congregations affiliated with the Union, and to take such further steps and actions as said President may deem appropriate to oppose the spirit of the Emanu-el resolution and to further and facilitate the affiliation of the Union with and membership in the proposed organization tentatively referred to as the American Jewish Conference."

Very truly yours,

Nathan L. Goodman, President

NLG/cr

February 1, 1948

Mr. Ezra Z. Shapiro, Chairman,
Community Relations Committee,
American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 15th, in which you ask me to serve with you on the Community Relations Committee. I shall be delighted to join you in this undertaking, since I feel exactly as you do concerning the necessity for the American Jewish Assembly of the future. Anything I can do to assist in this work, I shall be happy to do.

As far as we, in Denver, are concerned, we are attempting now to revivify our own local community council, which is called the Central Jewish Council. It was once a flourishing organization, but for a number of reasons, mainly historical in this community, it declined in importance and function. There is quite a concerted effort now to reestablish its strength and vitality. It can serve very well as the base for election of delegates to the American Jewish Assembly. I shall keep you informed as to the progress we make in our own local community structure, and shall be delighted to do anything additional in regard to broader problems.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF:EW

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Phone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

Washington Office: 1706 G Street, N.W., Washington 1, D. C.

Phone Republic 0883

Cable Address: AMCONFERN

Interim Committee
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
Honorary Chairman

HENRY MONSKY
Chairman

COPY

for Rabbi Herbert Friedwa

April 26, 1948

JACOB ALSON
DR. MOSES BARRON
RABBI PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN
MAURICE BISGYER
MAX BRESSLER
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
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ROBERT SZOLD

I. L. KENEN
Executive Secretary

oeiu: 153

Mr. David H. Stein, President
Allied Jewish Council of Denver
226 Empire Building
Denver 2, Colorado

Dear Mr. Stein:

Your agency has already received official notification of the resolution unanimously approved at the special Interim Committee meeting of the American Jewish Conference. In line with the action taken, our 1948 budget has been reduced to \$110,000, as per the attached copy.

During 1947 we raised \$137,688.94. For the current year, by reason of the revised program and a reduction in staff, it was carefully estimated that the sum of \$110,000, or only 80% of last year's collections will meet our budgetary requirements to December 31, 1948.

It is for this reason we ask you to disregard our application for \$1500 submitted in February, and herewith request a 1948 allocation of \$1200 or 20% less than our original application.

We have no reserve fund, and in order to continue our work in behalf of Palestine, the peace treaties, restitution and the deteriorating situation of the displaced people in Europe, we are relying on prompt payments from our constituent communities and organizations.

I trust that as soon as your procedure permits, we may look forward to an initial installment on your 1948 subvention, which will be the final allocation asked of your community for the American Jewish Conference.

In appreciation of the support your community has rendered, I am

Sincerely yours,

LL:DK
Enc.

Lester Gutterman, Chairman
Budget and Finance

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

REVISED BUDGET FOR 1948

At a special meeting of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference held on March 10, 1948, the following resolution was unanimously adopted authorizing the Conference to continue its activities to December 31, 1948, in accordance with the terms of the Chicago mandate as to duration.

- 1) "The Interim Committee, having reviewed the recent Jewish developments in Palestine and Europe, records its conviction that the emergency situation which called the Conference into being continues. The dangers of jeopardizing the equitable settlement of the Palestine issue, the deteriorating position of the Jewish DP's, the need for completing negotiations designed to secure adequate safeguards for the Jewish people in peace treaties with former enemy countries and to assure restitution of confiscated property, make it imperative to continue such activities of the Conference...
- 2) "In view of the difficulties encountered in the matter of establishing a permanent American Jewish Assembly as envisaged at the Chicago session, the Interim Committee decided that the work of the Preparatory Committee and its subcommittees is to be suspended."

Since the Conference will now function with a reduced staff, the 1948 budget has been accordingly revised from the original \$300,000 figure (see attached copy of previous budget) to \$110,000 estimated as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|
| ADMINISTRATION..... | \$ 28,000 |
| OVERSEAS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS..... | 20,000 |
| UNITED NATIONS, TREATIES, RESTITUTION..... | 10,500 |
| COMMUNITY RELATIONS; FUND RAISING..... | 7,500 |
| DEPARTMENTS NOW DISCONTINUED | |
| (Washington Office, Public Relations, | |
| Research, Future Organization, etc.) | |
| which functioned from January 1st to | |
| March 15th at a cost of..... | 4,000 |
| ACCRUED DEFICIT..... | <u>40,000</u> |
| | \$110,000 |

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Phone MURray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

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Phone Republic 0883

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Interim Committee
Dr. STEPHEN S. WISE
Honorary Chairman

HENRY MONSKY
Chairman

May 5, 1948

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
East 16th Ave. at Pearl St.
Denver 5, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

Aware as I am of your interest in and concern for unity in American Jewish life (you may recall our pleasant chat when you visited Mr. Kenen here) I am taking the liberty of calling on you for your assistance.

You already have been advised of the resolution unanimously adopted at the special Interim Committee meeting of the American Jewish Conference which authorized the Conference to continue its activities to December 31, 1948, in accordance with the terms of the Chicago mandate as to duration. It was the unanimous decision that there can be no semblance of disunity in this most critical period of Jewish history.

Accordingly, while our budget has been revised and our staff reduced, we are accelerating action on our objectives with respect to Palestine, the peace treaties, restitution, and the deteriorating DP situation. Of course, having the necessary funds is a pre-requisite.

We have therefore sent applications to all the Federations and Welfare Funds throughout the country asking for decreased amounts as against previous years, since our budget is now only \$110,000. We also applied for an allocation of \$1200 to the Allied Jewish Council of Denver, copy of which is herewith attached.

I feel that if you, Rabbis Laderman and Kauvar would jointly voice your support, we might perhaps get at least a part of the \$1200. It is not only that this would be of assistance now, but it would also mean that adjacent communities which look to Denver for guidance, would follow suit.

In appreciation of any help you may be able to give us, and with kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


Mrs. J. R. Jarcho, Secretary
Budget and Finance

JRJ:FZ
Encs.

JACOB ALSON
DR. MOSES BARRON
RABBI PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN
MAURICE BISGYER
MAX BRESSLER
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
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I. L. KENEN
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Interim Committee
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
Honorary Chairman

HENRY MONSKY
Chairman

May 11, 1948

JACOB ALSON
DR. MOSES BARRON
RABBI PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN
MAURICE BISGYER
MAX BRESSLER
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
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HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD

I. L. KENEN
Executive Secretary

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
E. 16th Avenue
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

I should like to invite you to participate in the Conference Committee on Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

There is a great deal of work to be done in this connection, and we would like to call a meeting of this committee as soon as possible.

Knowing that you can contribute greatly to the success of our group, I would appreciate an early response, letting me know that you are willing to serve as a member of this committee.

Sincerely yours,

Philip S. Bernstein

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Chairman
Committee on Rehabilitation and
Resettlement

PSB:lf

May 19, 1948

American Jewish Conference,
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

Attention: Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Chairman
Committee on Rehabilitation and
Resettlement

Dear Rabbi Bernstein:

I have your letter of May 11th
in which you invite me to participate on the
Conference Committee on Rehabilitation and
Resettlement.

I appreciate this invitation very
much and will be happy to serve on the group,
contributing whatever I can.

As soon as you inform me of the
time of the next meeting of the Committee,
I shall make every effort to be present.

With many thanks, I am

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF:EW

COPY

TEMPLE B'RIITH KODESH

117 Gibbs Street

Rochester

N.Y.

May 26, 1948

Professor William Haber
Civil Affairs Division, DP Br.
Headquarters, EUCOM
APO 757, c/o Postmaster
New York City

Dear Bill:

The Committee of the Five Organizations has held two meetings to consider the reports, recommendations and requests contained in your recent communications.

In view of the fact that I presided at both of these meetings, it was suggested that I draft a reply expressing the results of our deliberations. That is the purpose of this letter.

I should like to state, before I outline our conclusions, that there is an element of tentativeness in them. Your letters were written before the proclamation of the Jewish State. Perhaps there have been some fundamental developments subsequently which might cause you to revise your view. However, it seems to us that the basic matters which I will now discuss have probably not been changed by recent developments.

The following represent our conclusions:

1. The Organizations are unanimous in their opposition to any efforts to persuade or compel the Jewish DP's to leave the camps and to work in the German economy. This opposition is based on both moral grounds and on practical considerations. We regard it as unwise to do anything at this point which will lessen the sense of need and of pressure for the resettlement of the Jewish DP's. Individuals can and undoubtedly will seep into the German economy, but, officially, the organized Jewish community is opposed to any efforts to bring this about.
2. At the same time we are aware, both through your reports and others, of the growing threats of demoralization. We know that idleness plays a large role in this deterioration. It is also our judgment that a considerable period of time must elapse before all of the Jewish displaced persons will be evacuated from the camps. It may be two years. It may even be three or four years. Continued idleness will contribute to further demoralization. It will also militate against a welcome for these people elsewhere and against their maximum usefulness when they are resettled. Under the circumstances, it is our judgment and our recommendation that the work program be re-evaluated. We feel that we are not in a position to give you concrete recommendations from this distance. However, it is our conclusion that the A.J.D.C., the J.A.F.P., the Central Committee and the Office of the Jewish Adviser should take stock of the current situation and should act vigorously, and in concert, to improve the work program and the training program among the Jewish DP's. If matters of policy are involved which will require support, either with the American Jewish community or governmental agencies, or both, you can depend upon it.

We would like to receive from you at the earliest possible date a report on the steps that have been taken.

3. With regard to the "proposed Jewish Labor battalions" discussed in your report of April 1, 1948, our reaction is, on the whole, favorable. While we would oppose enforced labor in the German economy, we feel that we have no moral or practical basis for opposing Jewish labor for the U.S. Army, even if, ultimately, some of it will rebound to the benefit of the German economy. Refusal of the Jews to work for the Army while receiving governmental support would result in a most unfavorable reaction in this country and would militate against the success of proposed DP immigration legislation. We are not in a position to advise you on details, but do authorize you to announce our support of such projects. Also, if you find it necessary to take a firm stand, you can count on our backing you up.
4. In view of recent developments affecting Palestine, the Organizations advise against any action to liquidate the camps. It is felt that through the camps the emigration process can best be handled.
5. The Organizations feel that everything possible should be done to prevent expansion of German authority over Jewish DP camps. Informal inquiries and representations will be made in Washington. However, nothing official will be done by us unless you specifically request it. Please advise us.
6. It was agreed to give you the requested assistance in press and public relations. The Five Organizations are to recommend three persons, one of whom will be selected and paid by J.D.C., in consultation with you. Dr. Joseph Schwartz, who was present at the last meeting, proposed this arrangement, which was acceptable to all.
7. Although there is some disagreement as to the ultimate effectiveness of a program to combat anti-Semitism, we agreed to attempt to assist you in this matter also as requested. Here, too, the Five Organizations will recommend three persons from whom the American Jewish Committee will select and finance one, in consultation with you. There was some uncertainty about the technical attachment of such a person. We assume you will handle this or advise us if you need our help.
8. With regard to your expressed personal need for some one with whom to consult for a period of about sixty days, it was felt that since this will involve little or no expense on the part of the Five Organizations and is largely a personal matter with you, you should feel free to do as you please.

.....

The above represents the essence of our thinking in relation to the specific matters you have brought to our attention. We are eager to learn of recent developments and hope to hear from you in the near future. We greatly appreciate your efforts and accomplishments and will give you every possible support.

With kind regards to your staff,

Cordially,

Philip S. Bernstein

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Interim Committee
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June 7, 1948

JACOB ALSON
DR. MOSES BARRON
RABBI PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN
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Rabbi Herbert Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
E. 16th Avenue
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

Thank you for your recent note indicating your willingness to participate in the work of the Conference Committee on Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

The first meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 16th, at 5 p.m., at the Conference offices, 521 Fifth Avenue. It goes without saying that much work lies ahead of us.

I look forward to seeing you on the 16th.

Sincerely yours,

Philip S. Bernstein

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Chairman
Committee on Rehabilitation and
Resettlement

PSB:lf

P.S. The Conference, I am sorry to say, is in no financial position to defray your expenses in connection with this meeting. However, if you should be in the East for any other reason, I hope you will find it possible to be with us.

I. L. KENEN
Executive Secretary

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Phone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

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June 18, 1948

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
E. 16th Avenue
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

A meeting of the Committee on Rehabilitation and Resettlement was held at the Conference office on Wednesday, June 16th. It was devoted largely to a discussion of the functions of the Committee. Agreement was reached that at the present time the committee should devote itself mainly to giving guidance to the American Jewish Conference representatives on the interorganizational committee on displaced persons, as well as to the interpretation of current rehabilitation and resettlement problems in Germany and Austria.

For this purpose, it was agreed that the Conference committee should be kept informed of current developments.

I am, therefore, enclosing a copy of a recent letter written to Professor Haber on behalf of the inter-organizational committee which deals with the major problems he has presented in his recent reports.

In addition, the Conference office has been instructed to transmit to the committee members such further information in the future as will be regarded as relevant to its purpose.

The committee will be convened at the discretion of the chairman or the Conference office, as circumstances require.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Philip S. Bernstein

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Chairman
Committee on Rehabilitation and
Resettlement

PSB:fz
Enc.