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Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

250 WEST 43RD STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

August 25, 1948

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Rabbi Herbert Friedman
Temple Emanuel
1595 Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

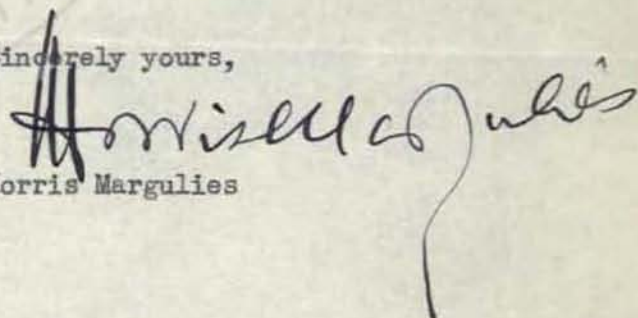
I regret that I cannot send you very much information on the differences in ideology and personalities comprising Group A and Group B of the General Zionists. I feel, however, that the attached two excerpts will be of some help. One is from a report published in the Palestine Review of May 10, 1940 (the Palestine Review is published in Jerusalem); the second consists of two dispatches released by Palcor of America, one dated June 28, 1945 and the other June 29, 1945.

The Palestine Review item is of particular interest since it lists most of the leaders of Group B.

I shall continue the research and if I find some additional pertinent material shall be glad to send it to you.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,


Morris Margulies

MM:RH
encs.

PALCOR, July 3, 1945

PROPOSAL BEFORE ZIONIST GROUP B TO JOIN REVISIONISTS IN SPLIT FROM AGENCY

Tel Aviv, June 28 (Palcor) — The conference here of the Union of General Zionism, Group B, between a proposal calling for group B's continuance as a member of the coalition, of which the Jewish Agency for Palestine is now comprised, and a proposal for joining the Revisionists in forming a new National Party to oppose the policies of the Jewish Agency.

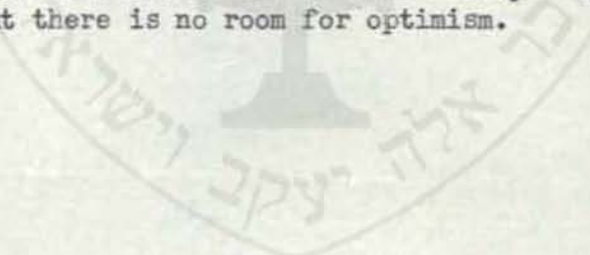
90 delegates from twenty localities in Palestine were represented at the conference which heard Fritz Bernstein, editor of the newspaper Haboker, and President of the Union of General Zionists in Palestine, call for breaking away from the Jewish Agency. Dr. Emil Schmorak, the Union's representatives on the Jewish Agency Executive Committee, opposed Bernstein's proposal, stating that while Zionism's struggle must be waged from feelings of despair, it must also be waged with wisdom, energy and courage. Isaac Greenbaum, greeting the conference in the name of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, urged maintenance of the coalition "in order to fortify our forces in the struggle for the realization of Zionism's aims."

ARCHIVES

GENERAL ZIONISTS GROUP B TO FORM NEW PARTY WITH REVISIONISTS

Jerusalem, June 29 (delayed) — The conference of the Union of General Zionists (Group B), which closed here last Thursday, decided to establish a new National Party federating all factions which boycotted the elections of the Assephath Hanivcharim, Jewish Palestine's Assembly, January 8, 1945. These factions are the Revisionists and some sections of the Sephardic population. The conference also decided to demand the resignation of the Jewish Agency's Executive Committee and the election of a new one. If the ultimatum on the Agency is not acceded to, the Union will reconsider its participation in the Agency as now constituted.

The Union of General Zionists, which met in Conference in Tel Aviv last week, is one of the two General Zionist Organisations, better known as "Group B." Little known in English speaking countries, its main strength was in Galicia and, to some extent, in Palestine. Unlike Group A, it is outspoken in its antipathy to the Jewish Labour Organisation (Histadrut) and is opposed to the present Zionist Executive (although represented on it). Both these tendencies were clearly manifested in the discussions and resolutions of the Conference. Dr. E. Shmorak, the Union's representative on the Zionist Executive, did not mince words in condemning a system which favours oneparty and one element in the Yishuv and offers little help or encouragement to private enterprise or middle-class settlement. Mr. J. Suprasky, the Party Chairman and its representative on the Vaad Leumi Executive, was even more explicit in his criticism of the latter body. It was, therefore, to be expected that the Conference should adopt strong resolutions demanding a change in the policy of the Jewish Agency Executive and a change of political leadership (the latter proposal was adopted by 48 votes to 47, the minority consisting of younger workers). It also urged that the present overgrown Vaad Leumi Executive (consisting of 18 persons) should be replaced by a smaller efficient body whose members should be chosen on personal merit and not on the basis of a party key. The Conference further demanded reforms of labour relations and distribution of employment to prevent Histadrut domination of the labour market. Another resolution dealt with education, and supported one unified school type. It is only just to point out that the Conference was almost equally critical of the state of affairs in its own ranks, which had displayed very little energy or initiative, and whose influence on the conduct of Zionist and Yishuv policy was negligible. This is the more surprising in view of the fact that such outstanding figures belong to the party as Mr. M. Ussishkin, Mr. I. Rokach (Mayor of Tel Aviv), Mr. A. Shenkar (President of the Manufacturers' Association), Mr. D. Auster (Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem), and others. Hoping that re-establishment of unity in the General Zionist camp may improve this situation, the Conference resolved that negotiations be reopened with Group A for the purpose of finding a means either of amalgamation or, at least, close cooperation. What prospects of success such negotiations have will become clearer when Group A holds its own Conference in a few weeks' time. But there is no room for optimism.



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WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1201

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RABBI HERMAN A FRIEDMAN=

DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM

TEMPLE EMANUEL 1595 PEARL ST DVR=

IN ORDER TO BRING CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR
PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION IT IS
IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE \$5,000 BEFORE END OF THE WEEK,
CONSEQUENCES OTHERWISE FOR PEACE JEOPARDIZED=

LOUIS LIPSKY RUDOLF G SONNEBORN COMMITTEE FOR

PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM 250 WEST 57TH STREET ROOM 1011

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HOTEL STATLER NEW YORK
(Formerly Hotel Pennsylvania)

QZ

630 Napoleon St

Johnstown Pa

Dear Rabbi -

5/30/49

Thought you would
interested - tho not sur-
prised - with yestr days
election results as reported
in the enclosed item from the
Herald Tribune. My
principal personal concern
is what Chaike Clath
said which I have said
& believed all along.

2 I spoke to your friend
Rudolf Sonnenborn yesterday.
he thinks a lot of you -
& expressed your disappointment
& told him that you
thought you were engaged
in a crusade. His ex-
planation - to put it bluntly -
was that they made a good
deal. Neumann & ~~adman~~ -
istrian leaders really did
not want Fried & CPZ
compromised on him because of
greater representation & the
feeling that he could be handled

3) easier because he was not
the best administration candidate.
In addition, it will be easier to
have a C.P. candidate succeed
Frisch than let us say
Mortimer May. As for as
I am concerned, I said before
that while he had knowledge,
experience & devotion, he
did not have stature - &
maybe not character. It reminds
me of Stephen Wise's character-
ization a long time ago of another
Zionist leader. Wise said then
there were two kinds of
prostitutes - those who engaged
for monetary or other benefits,

⁴ + those who really enjoy
it. Frisch enjoys it, I
think. This is not for
publication.

at any rate I hope
you will help Z.O.A. locally
& overthrow Sonneton
said to assure you that
you "were not sold out."

Best wishes

Manvy

Regards to Sam & Ruth Zion
Granison asked about you
yesterday

Committee for
PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM
within the
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

250 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET • NEW YORK 19, N. Y. • ROOM 1011 • PL 7-4725

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May 20, 1949

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Newark, N. J.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dear Friend:

You have read in the press the statement issued by Rudolf G. Sonneborn and Dr. Emanuel Neumann on behalf of the Committee for Progressive Zionism and the Zionist Organization of America respectively, announcing that considerable progress has been made toward an agreement providing for a coalition ZOA Administration to be elected at the forthcoming annual convention.

These negotiations were conducted by a sub-committee of the Committee of Fifteen chosen at the National CPZ Conference held on Sunday, April 17th, at the Hotel Commodore. From the inception of the Committee for Progressive Zionism our aim has been to achieve a unity of all forces in the ZOA in order that the ZOA, strengthened through the adherence of all elements comprising it, will prove equal to the great historic task now confronting it.

We are very happy to be in a position to inform you that this basic objective of the CPZ has been achieved.

The basis of the arrangement agreed upon is the following: The ZOA Administration, comprising all officers and members of the National Executive Committee, numbers 69 persons. Of these, 36 members of the Executive are designated by the various regions; the remaining 33, who include all of the titular officers, are elected by the convention. Of the 33, the CPZ is to name 16.

In addition, there is to be named a conjoint committee which will represent both the CPZ and the Administration forces before all of the convention committees. This conjoint committee is to take up for pre-convention consideration all convention issues with a view to arriving at mutual understanding and agreement.

We shall keep you informed of any further developments.

We have arranged for a meeting for Saturday afternoon, May 28th, at 1 P. M., at the Manhattan Center, 34th Street

and Eighth Avenue, to which all of the delegates to the convention who are sympathetic to and interested in the CPZ program will be invited, and at which time they will be informed of all details pertaining to the agreement reached.

Appreciative of your cooperation, I am, with Zionist greetings

Sincerely yours,

R. G. Sonneborn

Rudolf G. Sonneborn, Chairman
Committee of Fifteen



Administrative changes

1. closed ballot at next convention
2. democratic selection of next administrative council. Inner Committee appointed by pres. or responsible only to him is shameful.
3. new Palestine be opened to opposition.

Debate with
Tertelbaum

12 May 49

ZOA

Out of step with Israel

1. social + political philosophy
2. policy of (silently) supporting terrorists.



ZOA leadership indifferent to
UGA campaign

1. On Mon, 21 March - one day after Washington UGA conference - with campaign launched: ZOA called dinner meeting of 200 industrialists + fix attention on Israel Corp, not UGA.
2. Call ZOA convention in May, not July as customary, and divert people from heavy apig campaigning.

C
O
P
Y

April 29, 1948

Mr. Morris Margulies
Committee for Progressive Zionism
Suite 315 & 316
Hotel Dixie
250 West 43rd Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Margulies:

Your letter of April 23rd, inviting me to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Committee for Progressive Zionism within the Zionist Organization of America, has been received. I am greatly disturbed and disheartened by it.

I have read your communication carefully and with an open mind. I have sought in its lines some justification for the action of your group in now projecting this new venture upon the American Zionist scene. The times are so critical and the hand of destiny lies so heavily upon World Jewry at this moment that a step such as your group is taking seems exceedingly ill-timed and ill-advised.

Since I would not want to accuse any Jewish association of men of bad judgment under such circumstances, I have gone out of my way to give this matter a thoroughly analytical and unbiased approach. Alas, I find nothing in your platform and statement of aims that would convince me that you have a moral right to organize a so-called "Committee for Progressive Zionism with the Zionist Organization of America" not alone at this time but at any time - especially not at this time.

Let us examine your objectives:

1. Advocacy of a liberal, progressive Zionist program in the United States.

What is not liberal and what is not progressive in the policies of the Zionist Organization of America?

2. Encouragement to and support of the democratic forces in Palestine.

It seems to me that the Z.O.A. is doing that all along.

3. Insistence upon a democratic Jewish State in Palestine, in which the citizens of that State shall alone determine its policies.

I have never heard from any source that the Z.O.A. stands for anything but that, and I have good evidence that both Dr. Silver and Dr. Neumann believe that the citizens of that State shall alone determine its policies.

4. Consideration of the methods to achieve fulfillment and implementation of American and United Nations support of Jewish objectives in Palestine.

That, to my mind, is being very capably done by the present administration. Besides, the United Nations aspect of the matter seems to me a rather short term phase of the over-all program which will be settled long before your committee will be in any position to influence it.

In the light of all this I feel that your statement attacking the present administration, on the ground that its actions have not reflected its major pronouncements and activities, is a mere camouflage of verbiage, designed to conceal some other purpose which you choose not to put in writing and which, I suppose, will be divulged at the meeting that you are planning to call.

In the absence of clear and irrefutable evidence that the administration of the Z.O.A. is betraying the principles of Zionism and nascent Jewish State in Palestine, I consider your action in organizing this new opposition group, a criminal diversion from the sacred task which we should now singularly devote ourselves to in unity and sacrificial spirit. All eyes are now on Palestine and all hearts go out to Jerusalem. If ever American Zionist leadership needed to concentrate on fundamentals, the time is now.

It is a travesty and a mockery of organizational procedure and the constitution of the Zionist Organization of America to organize a committee "within" the Z.O.A. Anyone who is displeased with the actions of the administration can voice his objections on the floor of the convention and the Administrative Council, which is the interim governing body between conventions, and seek support for his views. He also has the privilege to assemble in caucus such supporters as he can get and map out an opposition program. But he has no right to sow confusion, distrust and doubt by letter, wire or any other nationwide campaign technique at a time when the Jewish people in Palestine is fighting for its life.

May I say in closing that your injection of this issue without a shred of logical justification puts you on the side of those who are giving aid and comfort to the enemy. The American Council for Judaism, the State Department, the Colonial Office and the Arab League will be delighted with your inept generalship which is opening to them the back door and which is, unwittingly, making of the home front a Trojan horse.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

S. P. Benamy

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WITHIN THE

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HOTEL DIXIE

• 250 WEST 43RD STREET •

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

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(Not for Publication)

May 25, 1948

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New York, N. Y.
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
New York, N. Y.

Mr. S. P. Benamy
334 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Benamy:

My delay in acknowledging your letter dated April 29 is due to a long hesitation as to whether I should reply to it at all. I could not believe you had written it. Having known you for many years, and respecting your normally deliberate and temperate judgments, I could not associate the bombastic and occasionally vicious language of that letter with the reasonable and considerate Benamy that I have known.

The mystery of the letter was cleared up for me, however, when members of the Z.O.A. National Executive and Administrative Council began to receive copies of your letter. The postmark was "New York". Then I understood. Recognizing now that your signature and not your spirit was embodied in that letter, I continue to regard you with the same respect and affection as always. If you permitted your signature on that letter, it is, I am convinced, because you are not aware of what has been happening in the Zionist movement.

I should like to deal with some of the observations appearing under your name.

1. The Committee for Progressive Zionism actually had its origin just prior to the Z.O.A. Convention of 1947. It came into being formally in the latter part of 1947. Your letter is full of indignation about "stirring controversy". Apparently you failed to notice that the Committee for Progressive Zionism has been dormant. That was not because the activities of the Zionist leadership in this country had their uniform support -- but because they were more concerned with the fate of Palestine than with their personal views, however valid they are. The leaders of the Committee for Progressive Zionism carefully avoided any action that might have been used as a handle by the enemies of Zionism. There were many times when the Committee was stirred by what it regarded as inadequate or inept action. It refrained from criticism -- not out of fear of offending the Zionist leaders responsible but out of anxiety to avoid hurt to Palestine.

What the Committee for Progressive Zionism has done is unique in the annals of American Zionism. You know that is not how previous oppositions have operated.

It was only a few years ago when discussion on the competence of American Zionist leadership was not only public but violent. There was no hesitation in the airing of internal Zionist problems and policies that resulted in holding up the whole Zionist position to ridicule. And at that time the fate of Palestine was at stake. At that time there was an American Zionist Policy Committee. I remind you that the Chairman of that Committee was Charles J. Rosenbloom. Its objective was to bring Dr. Abba Hillel Silver into the Zionist leadership. It succeeded. I was among those who was strongly in support of that activity. It is my recollection that you were on the other side of that question.

Today, Charles J. Rosenbloom is Chairman of the Committee for Progressive Zionism. Was Charles Rosenbloom entitled to express his views in 1945 but not in 1948?

During the campaign of the American Zionist Policy Committee, there was no sparing of Zionist personalities. When anybody associated with Dr. Stephen S. Wise suggested that this endangered the Zionist position at Washington, alienated the State Department, undermined the relations between the Yishuv and Britain, he was branded as a timorous weakling who cared more for dignity than for Zionist ends.

When, at the last Zionist Congress, the Zionist leaders of America felt it necessary to cast down Dr. Chaim Weizmann from the Presidency, they had no hesitancy. There was no consideration of the fact that he was one of the few names in world opinion with which to conjure.

Please remember that I do not challenge the sincerity of the persons associated with all this activity. Nor do I challenge their right to have acted as they did. I merely assert that it is hypocritical at this time to try to stop an opposition to the current leadership by suggesting it would "hurt the cause."

2. Who are the people who compose the leadership of the Committee for Progressive Zionism? Are they upstarts who have only pride of opinion on their side? Are they people who have stood on the sidelines in so far as activity for Palestine is concerned? You know the opposite to be the truth. Examine the list of names thus far associated with the Committee. The list is limited, to be sure. That is part of the effort to reduce the area of discussion. Each of the names represents a history in Zionist activity. The overwhelming majority are men who are today playing an outstanding role in arousing American Jewry to the need for funds for Palestine. Many of them have themselves set outstanding examples in generosity. But whether men with some or with limited means, they have given added effectiveness to the name of Zionist. How do you explain the fact that these men, who represent strength in their own right and in what they symbolize, feel deeply that the present Zionist Administration must revise its policies and practices? Some of the members of the Committee have held office in the Z.O.A. Most of them are not men who care for office. They have only one objective: what is best for the interests of Palestine.

3. Now, as to the basis of the opposition. There are many aspects which I would like to go into when we next meet. I touch on a few here.

It is a fact that the present Z.O.A. leadership has no access to the White House, the State Department or any other important governmental agency. Do you regard that as healthy when our Government must play so vital a role in the affairs of Palestine? You may say or believe that this leadership is responsible for the creation of the Jewish State. But I beg to remind you that the Jewish State came into being chiefly

by virtue of the force of arms of the Yishuv and not the political strategy of only the Zionists of America.

Now, we face a critical era. The new State of Israel needs support from our Government, political support and financial support. Is there a proper atmosphere for this when the Zionist movement must use a strange assortment of emissaries rather than its own leaders to be the spokesmen for the cause in Washington?

One of the charges made by our group is that the present Z.O.A. Administration has excluded everybody who might express an independent opinion. It has placed a premium on uniformity and on obedience. It is the belief of the Committee for Progressive Zionism that all persons in America who have something to contribute to benefit Palestine should be utilized. The Committee does not aim to oust anybody. Its sole aim is to use everybody for the interests of Palestine. Exclusion of anybody from service to the Zionist movement, on grounds of personal differences or independence of judgment, is a luxury we cannot afford. It is our view that the Z.O.A. must again represent, as it once did, a synthesis of all views that prevail in the organization and that it should cease to be totalitarian in its insistence on regimented thinking and voting.

4. It is the view of the Committee for Progressive Zionism that the Yishuv must be free from interference, whether by alien governments or by Zionists from outside. The creation of the State of Israel must be accompanied by a recognition of its sovereignty even on the part of Zionists.

How, you may ask, can we American Zionists violate that sovereignty, when the State of Israel will create its own laws and manage its own affairs? The answer is to be found in what use is made of the World Zionist Organization from this point on and above all how we act with regard to funds raised in this country for Palestine.

The new State is desperately in need of funds and will be for many years. It is our hope that American Jewry, in so far as voluntary funds are concerned, will do its full part. But these funds dare not be used as leverage to influence actions of the State or people in that State.

It is a known fact that money raised in this country has been used to influence parties and individuals in Palestine. It has been used to line up other factions of the Zionist movement with the party line of the Z.O.A. I do not regard that as a valid use of American Zionist money or as a proper relationship between American Zionists and the Yishuv.

5. The Zionist Organization of America was, for decades, a liberal organization. The Pittsburgh platform of 1918 was the best expression of that. The Z.O.A. was always identified with a progressive interpretation of the social and economic problems of Palestine.

Suddenly the Z.O.A., in its public expressions but, even more, in its attitudes at Congresses, became the voice of economic and social reaction as far as Palestine is concerned. The Z.O.A. has been the leading instrument in building the General Confederation of Zionists, which today expresses the spirit of the former General Zionist B group of Poland rather than the traditional spirit of American Zionism. The Z.O.A. has become linked with some of the worst reactionaries in Palestine through the General Confederation of Zionists.

May 25, 1948

Whom are we fooling? Are we really building a Palestine where men shall live on the same economic principle of dog-eat-dog that prevails in some of our less advanced economies? Or are we treating with the problem of those Jews whose requirement is merely a decent standard of living? That does not mean that the utmost encouragement should not be given either to the middle class or to the entrepreneur who has something to contribute to the economy of Palestine. But certainly we ought to recognize that Palestine's economy must be geared to embrace all elements of the population.

The peculiar thing is that some of the outstanding leaders now identified with the present Z.O.A. Administration have a liberal economic record in this country. Certainly Dr. Silver has always been identified with progressive social and economic thinking as regards the United States. It is indeed unfortunate that a handful of men, whom most of the Zionists of America do not know -- either by name or achievement -- are now twisting the Z.O.A. into an unrecognizable pattern which does injury to the whole lifetime position even of Dr. Silver. One can only assume that a distorted "party line," resulting from a contest for office, has diverted the Z.O.A. into this new and reactionary channel.

It is horrifying to hear a vice-president, and today one of the chief spokesmen for the Z.O.A., in speaking before the Administrative Council -- between conventions the highest authority in the Z.O.A. -- refer to the Yishuv as disciples of the Red Flag of Marxism. On the platform from which this statement was made was seated the President of the Z.O.A. and other leaders of the current Z.O.A. Administration, but none challenged or took exception to this defamation of the Yishuv. How does this aspersion differ from slanders of the British who disseminate news reports that immigrants entering Palestine are "Red agents"? This smear of the leadership of the Palestine labor movement within the World Zionist Organization may seem smart politics, but I think the responsible members of the Z.O.A. ought to be aware of the disastrous road along which we are being made to travel. How much real moral difference is there between members of the American Council for Judaism who brand Zionists as unpatriotic and Zionists who label Palestinian Jews as followers of the Red Flag of Marxism?

I feel certain that if you had given thorough study to the policies and actions of the present Z.O.A. Administration -- not as they are portrayed in publicity handouts in The New Palestine, which is now a house organ in the worst sense of the term, but as they truly are -- you would not have permitted your signature to your letter of April 29. I feel certain, in fact, that you would hasten to join the Committee for Progressive Zionism, which does not believe in purges of anybody who can serve Zionism.

Cordially yours,

(Signed)

Morris Margulies

P.S. In accordance with the style set by you, I am sending a copy of this letter to our Zionist friends. I would not want them to feel that you did not receive an answer.

M. M.

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Pittsburgh, Pa.

Vice-Chairmen

HAROLD J. GOLDENBERG
Minneapolis, Minn.

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New York, N. Y.

Secretary

JOEL CROSS
Newark, N. J.

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

• 250 WEST 43RD STREET •

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

May 27, 1948

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(Committee in Formation)

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New York, N. Y.

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

New York, N. Y.

Rabbi Herbert Friedman

Congregation Emunu-El

East 60th Avenue

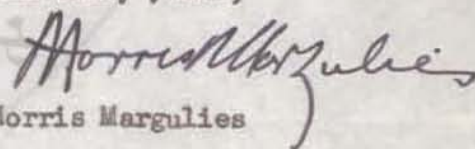
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

On behalf of Mr. Lipsky and myself, I am sending you the attached letter. It is our conviction that the aims and purposes of the Committee for Progressive Zionism have your wholehearted approval. I would appreciate your signing the copy and returning it to me at your earliest convenience.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,



Morris Margulies

MM:RK
Enc.

OFFICERS:

WISCONSIN 7-6000

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SECRETARY

JOEL GROSS

Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

TEMPORARY ADDRESS: HOTEL DIXIE

250 WEST 43RD STREET • NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

SUITE 315 & 316

PERSONAL

May 27, 1948

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

Out of deep concern for the welfare of the Zionist movement as a whole, and especially of the Zionist Organization of America, a number of us have decided to form a group to be known as the Committee for Progressive Zionism. It is to be composed of ZOA members and will function within the frame of the ZOA.

There is no question of our loyal support of constituted Zionist authority - national and international. But we recognize that to allow the present administration of the ZOA, under cover of the emergency situation, to congeal long-range policies, would result in lasting injury to the Zionist cause and impair the ZOA as an instrument of Zionist achievement.

We are passing through a critical period. New problems and issues arise in Zionism and decisions fateful for the future of our movement will have to be taken. The large membership of the ZOA should become an informed constituency. Such an informed constituency is possible only with a free Zionist press and frank discussion.

Briefly, these are the basic principles which animate the Committee for Progressive Zionism:

1. Advocacy of a liberal, progressive Zionist program in the United States;
2. Encouragement to and support of the democratic forces in Palestine;
3. Insistence upon a democratic Jewish State in Palestine, in which the citizens of that State shall alone determine its policies;
4. Consideration of the methods to achieve fulfillment and implementation of American and United Nations support of Jewish objectives in Palestine.

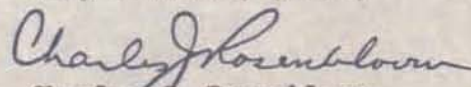
We feel that the administration of the Zionist Organization of America, in so far as its major pronouncements and activities are concerned, has not reflected the view which we hold.

It is our aim to stimulate free discussion of Zionist problems through independent publications and meetings. It is our hope to open the doors of the ZOA so that varying points of view may be given expression to in a democratic way.

The full program of the Committee will be formulated when its executive committee has been completed.

If you desire to be identified with the Committee for Progressive Zionism and will accept our invitation to serve as a member of its executive committee, please be good enough to sign and return the attached copy of this letter.

Very cordially yours,


Charles J. Rosenbloom

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM

C O P Y

WITHIN THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

250 West 57th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

February 4, 1949

MEMORANDUM

TO THE DISTRICTS AND REGIONS OF THE ZOA

Acting within its constitutional rights, the Committee for Progressive Zionism has given notice to all Zionist Districts and Regions that it intends to call for a change of regime in the ZOA at the next annual convention.

A conference of interested parties -- all ZOA members, many representatives of districts and regions -- was held at the Biltmore Hotel on January 30th, under the chairmanship of Harold J. Goldenberg. Two principal resolutions were adopted. (See attached.)

The ZOA administration, using the general funds of the ZOA to which all members contribute, has now called an "extraordinary national conference", to be held in New York on February 13th, of the officers of all Zionist districts as well as members of the Administrative and Executive Committee to consider "the present situation of the American Zionist Movement." This conference will undoubtedly be used by the administration to secure a condemnation of "all charges brought against the ZOA leadership."

No intimation is given of any desire to have both sides represented, the complainant as well as the defenders. It is expected that an attempt will be made to force a vote expressing confidence in the administration after hearing what the administration has to say. The opposition is not invited to attend. Any decision made is to be based on ex parte statements.

This is most undemocratic procedure. If it is allowed without protest, every ZOA administration could perpetuate itself in office by using administration funds and ZOA apparatus to stifle all criticism.

A government (or administration) of the ZOA represents all its members. The funds of the organization and its entire apparatus cannot fairly be used to repel criticism of the groups within the ZOA who are compelled to pay their own expenses in order to conduct a public service which their criticism represents.

Go to the conference on February 13th and speak your own mind. Tell the group that wants to use you to perpetuate their control of the ZOA what you think of the policies they have been pursuing -- the policy of destruction, the policy of recrimination and war, the policy of disregarding public opinion.

Since when has criticism and opposition become a crime in the ZOA? The right to criticize one's own organization is inalienable in the Zionist movement. Exercise your right without fear or favor.

Charles J. Rosenbloom, Chairman
Committee for Progressive Zionism

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM

WITHIN THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

250 West 57th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

REPORT ON CONFERENCE

January 30 - Hotel Biltmore, N. Y. C.

In a mood of indignation and resentment against the latest and most flagrant act of wilfull destruction by the ZOA Administration, 200 Zionist leaders from all parts of the country met on Sunday, January 30th, in New York, under the auspices of the Committee for Progressive Zionism, and moved quickly to organize a campaign to replace the present dictatorial regime of the ZOA and to restore an administrative system based on democracy.

Those present at the meeting, including some of the foremost Zionist leaders of this country, were deeply moved by the factual reports which described the present status of the Zionist movement and the steady deterioration of the relationship between the ZOA and the Government of Israel, the World Zionist movement and the United States Government.

Z.O.A. WARS ON JEWISH AGENCY

The antagonism of the present leadership of the ZOA to all other sections of the Zionist movement was climaxed during the last week by a resolution adopted, it is said, by the National Executive Committee of the ZOA, which constitutes an open declaration of war against the Executive of the Jewish Agency which is also the Executive of the World Zionist Organization representing all sections of the World Zionist movement.

It was this open attack against the authority of the Zionist movement which moved the Committee for Progressive Zionism, at its meeting on Sunday, to adopt a program whose aim is to unseat the present regime of the ZOA and to bring about a closer relationship of the ZOA with other sections of the Zionist movement and the American Jewish community.

The meeting adopted the following resolutions:

I -

GENERAL RESOLUTION

The advent of the State of Israel, its transfer from a provisional to a permanent government, its recognition by the major nations of the world led by the United States of America, its ardent support by the overwhelming majority of the Jews of this country, will inevitably and in due course bring about the transformation of American Zionism, its organization and its functions.

An enlightened leadership of the ZOA would seek to develop the kind of an organization that would draw into participation and cooperation all American Jews devoted to the upbuilding of Israel.

The present administration of the ZOA bristles with antagonisms, resents and suppresses justifiable criticism and constructive suggestions, has closed its ranks

to representative and progressive leadership, has given its support to the most reactionary political parties in Israel, and has lost contact with the Government of the United States to the detriment of Israel, and is even today in open conflict with the highest authority of the World Zionist Organization, the Executive of the Jewish Agency.

The Committee for Progressive Zionism, therefore believes that the best interests of the Zionist movement in America would be served by changing the present regime of the ZOA at its next annual convention. We express the conviction that if no such change is made, the ZOA will proceed from its present confusion to rapid disintegration. We call upon all members of the ZOA, its Districts and Regions, to join our organized effort within the ZOA to achieve the objective of strengthening the Zionist movement in America by nominating and electing an enlightened, progressive and representative leadership of the Z.O.A.

II - RESOLUTION ON RELATIONSHIP WITH THE JEWISH AGENCY

We have learned with amazement that the Executive Committee of the Zionist Organization of America at its last meeting adopted a resolution including the following:

"The Jewish Agency for Palestine be advised that the Zionist Organization of America deems any intervention by the Agency in the matter of techniques and organization of the American Zionist movement as not being within their competence and jurisdiction;

"A cablegram be sent to the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Jerusalem advising them that their contemplated meeting in New York or elsewhere for a discussion of Zionism on the American scene is both unprecedented and emphatically inopportune at this time."

We voice our strong protest against this attack on the authority of the Executive of the Jewish Agency by the present leadership of the ZOA. We welcome the Jerusalem members of the Agency Executive to this country, and express our confidence in them. We assure the Agency Executive of our loyal support in all their endeavors to achieve effective cooperation in American Zionism.

In order to enable the CPZ to carry on its activities, a fund raising effort aiming at a goal of \$250,000 was initiated. Mr. Fred Monosson, veteran Zionist leader, was elected Campaign Chairman.

Harold J. Goldenberg, of Minneapolis, presided. Among the speakers were Dr. Nahum Goldmann, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Louis Lipsky, noted leaders of American Zionism, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, (the three latter being former presidents of the Z.O.A.), Meyer Weisgal, Abraham Feinberg, Michael Stavitsky, Carl Sherman, and others.

OUT OF TUNE WITH THE WORLD ZIONIST MOVEMENT
Dr. Nahum Goldmann

Dr. Goldmann began with an analysis of the relationship of local Zionist affairs

to the international scene. The role of the ZOA must be looked at from the point of view that the establishment of the Jewish State has made it necessary to reorient the Zionist organization and reconsider its relations to Palestine. Unless there is a new interpretation of these relations the disintegration of Jewry in the Diaspora will result. However, this central problem of Zionism today, the relationship of Jews to Israel, cannot be solved in a matter of months, but must take years and must go through a number of stages and steps. The World Zionist Organization, in all its aspects, will have to undergo revision. The Basle Program, shekel, party setup outside of Israel, must be revised. But regardless of what happens, the World Zionist Organization must be the primary instrument of that change. No outside power can eliminate the Organization, which, for the next few years, must be the means to reorganize the Jews around Palestine. Otherwise, there would be chaos. The World Zionist Organization will have to be the main instrument for reshaping the relationship between Jews outside of Israel and those in Israel.

In another year or two, half of European Jewry may have left Europe. This will increase the proportionate importance of American Jewry within the framework of World Jewry outside of Israel. The Zionist movement in this country and the ZOA will play an important role. The main issue before the Zionist Congress will be just this problem of the relationship of Israel to World Jewry. It will make a big difference who represents American Zionists at the Congress, whether the group dominating the ZOA at present or groups which are not in accord with their ideas.

The ZOA as it is today is out of tune with not only a large part of the Zionist group in America and a large part of American Jewry, but also with the State of Israel and with the majority of the World Zionist movement.

The present conflict is not about Montor, despite the impression the Yiddish papers try to create. We should not allow the issue to be distorted into a personal one. In that conflict the large majority of the Executive of the Jewish Agency here and in Israel has taken one position, backed by the Government of Israel, and Dr. Silver backed by Mr. Neumann has taken another position. A resolution of the Executive of the ZOA was cabled to the Executive of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem warning them not to come to this country. But the Executive of the Jewish Agency decided to disregard the warning and come here anyway, because they feel that it is of utmost importance to establish once and for all, who is the highest authority in the Zionist movement.

The question of the autonomy of the ZOA in Zionist affairs in this country does not arise. The UPA collects money for the Agency and the World Zionist movement and not for the ZOA. A situation wherein an instrument defies its creator must be remedied.

The ZOA is also out of tune with the Government of Israel. Whoever knows the inside situation of the World Zionist Movement and its relationship with the Government of Israel knows it. The ZOA administration recognizes the State of Israel de jure but not de facto.

The ZOA is part of the Confederation of General Zionists but it is also out of tune with the General Zionist movement in the world. Whether the differences can be overcome at the next Zionist Congress will depend on the willingness of the ZOA to compromise. In Israel, one part of the General Zionist Organization tries to establish itself not as a kind of liberal central party (as it always did before) but as a right-wing bourgeois group. It is that right-wing group in Israel that is supported by the ZOA administration.

It is a Zionist duty to clean house within the Zionist movement in America. Zionism cannot tolerate a Tammany Hall machine and the rule of a small group. A voluntary movement (contrary to a State with police powers) cannot use dictatorial powers, and cannot be effective and assume responsibility if it is organized as is the ZOA today. Such rule will not do within the Zionist movement, especially today, when we have to organize the good will of Jews who are already for us.

It is an essential Zionist duty to organize properly the Zionist movement in this country so that the World Zionist movement can fulfill the purpose and task it must face in the next few years. It must be done this year.

AUTOCRATIC CONTROL SHUTS OUT OPPOSITION Louis Lipsky

In his address, Mr. Lipsky said: there is a government in the ZOA administration called the Executive. But the Executive does not make any decision of importance. It never overrode the president or the small group that controls the ZOA. When we try to change the administration, we are not attacking the ZOA which is just as dear to me as to anyone else in the movement. The present regime has continued in office for four years. It stifles opposition, and suppresses any honest expression of opinion. It seeks to control without free debate, without the scrutiny of the public. The NEW PALESTINE is closed to discussion. Control has become the objective of the Zionist Administration.

The present administration is organized for attack - attack on everyone and everything - until finally the whole psychology is attuned to attack. Why is the ZOA spending so much of their money always attacking?

All Jews are encompassed by the destiny of creating the Jewish State. Anyone who obstructs it because of arrogance or lust for power will fall because he is standing in the way of the fulfillment of Zionist aims. This is not a movement to proscribe anybody. It is a movement where everyone who works for this common good is welcome and the forces that are destroying the common good must give place to other forces. The regime of the ZOA of today must make way for a new regime. If we don't do it for love of the Jewish people and love for the cause, it will be done by others with force and anger and hatred and destruction. We are doing it in such a way as to make it possible for the ZOA to win the Jewish communities. The Jewish people have contributed as much to the success of the Zionist movement as any of the Zionists have. Everyone is entitled to a seat at the table. To do this in an orderly way we organize ourselves to change this regime.

The obstinacy of Silver was an important thing in the war against our enemies. But his obstinacy internally must not continue to the detriment of the movement. The ZOA is the most important organization in the Galuth. To abandon it would be folly. It would be stupidity to give it up to the control of those controlling it now. It would be a lack of faith of which none of us should be guilty. Therefore the resolutions we adopt are important. They should not indicate the cheapness and vulgarity of the resolutions adopted by the ZOA. We are engaged in bringing into the ZOA those principles of morality and regard for the Jewish people as a whole which reflect the old Zionist spirit - sympathy for Jews, concern for their future, interest in their rights. We are working to recover in the Zionist Organization those virtues that had been lost in the warlike struggles of the movement. The Zionist Organization has become a rendezvous for ambitious persons who want to wreck their will on the Zionists of the United States and fulfill their own personal am-

bitions. The time has come for peace. We are the instruments of peace. Those standing in its way should be removed legally and by those principles by which we are guided as Zionists.

I appeal to you therefore not only to adopt resolutions and give contributions which are essential, but your duty lies in the work within the regions, districts and among your friends. If we do this, the voice and arrogance of the present ZOA leaders will melt in the heat of our anger and indignation.

THE ZOA - AN INSTRUMENT FOR SELF-GLORIFICATION
Dr. Stephen S. Wise

I want to throw a little supplementary light on the UPA. About three months ago, I sent a telegram urging a meeting of the Board of Directors in order to pass on action which had been taken by the Executive Committee. For five months the problems of the UPA have been dealt with by a controlled executive committee and no meeting of the Board of Directors has been called - with one reason or another given.

Some day you are going to give me a medal for sitting through six or eight of the nauseating meetings of the Executive of the UPA marked by violent diatribes by Silver and Neumann and by foul and loathsome speeches by the candidates for successor to Neumann. More fawning went on in order to gain the favor of Dr. Silver and to be remembered on the day of election. But still no meeting of the Board of Directors.

Thus there are some differences which cannot be settled with Dr. Silver and Dr. Neumann. Two such differences which cannot be settled are (1) lack of democracy and what is even more serious (2) the desire to exercise control over Israel. With regard to the first, democracy has fled from the ZOA, which is an autocratic dictatorial organization that does not know democracy. How can we settle with that? I have not given my life to Zionism to have the State of Israel Silverized and Neumannized. We fought for a free progressive State in Israel. The regime here is a mortal enemy of the Government of Israel. The Government of Israel since May 15th is almost as great a miracle as the miracle of the Jewish State.

We will make up our differences with Silver and Neumann when they reaccept the democratic faith, and when they cease to deal with Ben Gurion as if he were Bevin and with the State of Israel as if it were our enemy.

If the masses in the Zionist movement today understood the intent of the resolutions passed by the ZOA Executive Committee, they would consign them to oblivion. We would not have had to hold this meeting today. If you will it, that Neumann-Silver regime will come to an end.

In conclusion, I support these resolutions. We will give and secure whatever funds are required in order to dislodge the group which disgraces the Zionist movement and which is hostile to the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Congress.

I want to see the State of Israel. But when I go I want to be able to say of American Zionism that "we are not going to tether you, to imprison you. We want a liberal progressive democratic forward-looking State." I feel that the biggest problem in my life is still before me. We are going to liberate the Zionist Organization of America and help to keep the State of Israel a great free, democratic, liberal progressive State worthy of our past.

Memo from ...

*Committee
for Progressive
Zionism*
MORRIS MARGULIES

December 13, 1948

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

For your information, I am attaching
herewith copies of two letters mailed
on December 10th to Dr. Neumann and the
Editor of the New Palestine.



December 10, 1948

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, President
Zionist Organization of America
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Neumann:

As members of the ZOA, we are constrained to register an earnest protest against the failure of the leadership of the ZOA to issue a proper and adequate statement regarding the visit to our country of Menahim Beigin.

The failure of the ZOA leadership to take any action is all the more flagrant in view of the manner in which the arrival of Beigin in this country was ballyhooed by his followers and the gross misrepresentation of his standing in Israel contained in page advertisements printed in both the Yiddish and general press.

Not only has the silence of the Zionist leadership contributed to the confusion of the public at large regarding the true character of Beigin, but it has also been responsible for the fact that many people, including Zionists, have interpreted the silence as tacit agreement with the exaggerated claims made for Beigin's role in securing the independence of the State of Israel.

It also lends credence to the charge made in the past that the ZOA leadership is not anxious, for reasons of its own, publicly to denounce Beigin and the Irgunists by name.

Even at this late hour we hope that you will present to the public at large a clear and unequivocal statement defining your position with respect to Beigin and all that he stands for.

With Zionist greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Charles J. Rosenbloom, Chairman
Committee for Progressive Zionism

December 10, 1948

Editor, New Palestine
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The New Palestine on any number of occasions has made claim to being a free and untrammelled organ of the ZOA membership. We therefore could not understand your failure to publish the text of the statement adopted by our Committee at a meeting held on November 18th.

Your omission of this statement is particularly unfair in view of the fact that much of the current issue (November 26, 1948) is devoted to the UPA controversy with which our statement deals, and especially so since in a number of places disparaging references are made to the CPZ in which are contained allegations that have no basis in fact.

I trust that you will correct the injustice to many members of the ZOA who constitute the Committee for Progressive Zionism by publishing in the next issue the full text of our statement.

Cordially yours,

Charles J. Rosenbloom, Chairman
Committee for Progressive Zionism

Published in Jewish News 4/8/49

A NEW LEAF FOR THE ZOA

by
Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Member, Executive Committee,
Committee for Progressive Zionism

The bitter struggle which has rocked the country for the past five months over the fund-raising structure of the UJA is concluded and Drs. Silver and Neumann have been defeated. It took no less an authority than the full Executive of the Jewish Agency to settle the controversy. Drs. Silver and Neumann resigned, after having challenged the right and authority of the Agency to decide the matter. Their resignation is unfortunate, but was inevitable.

Even though the struggle over funds has been finished, with a victory for the liberal elements, the remaining aspect of the controversy, namely, control over the ZOA, must also be won by the liberals, else the first victory will be meaningless.

Dr. Neumann is not eligible to run again for the presidency of the ZOA. Dr. Silver has declined to be a candidate. The name of Daniel Frisch has been mentioned prominently for the position. He

is pathetically unsuited for the job, for he is completely unsympathetic to the social objectives of the present Labor government in Israel, and his election would simply mean that the ZOA here would be totally out of step with present trends over there.

We feel that American Zionists should not interfere with internal Israeli politics in any manner, and so, theoretically, the ZOA administration could be of any political complexion; but, practically speaking, a ZOA administration antagonistic to aims in Israel would not be very enthusiastic in support of those aims and might even attempt to subvert them. Such an impasse would neutralize the effectiveness of the ZOA in its work in the future.

No, it has become clear that an opposition group must present its own candidate or candidates at the coming ZOA National Convention, in an effort to elect a progressive Administration which will work with the Jewish Agency and the State of Israel, not against them.

The Committee for Progressive Zionism, composed exclusively of members of the ZOA, some of them former presidents and officers, has launched a nationwide drive to defeat the present administration. Local and regional meetings of Zionist districts will be held all over

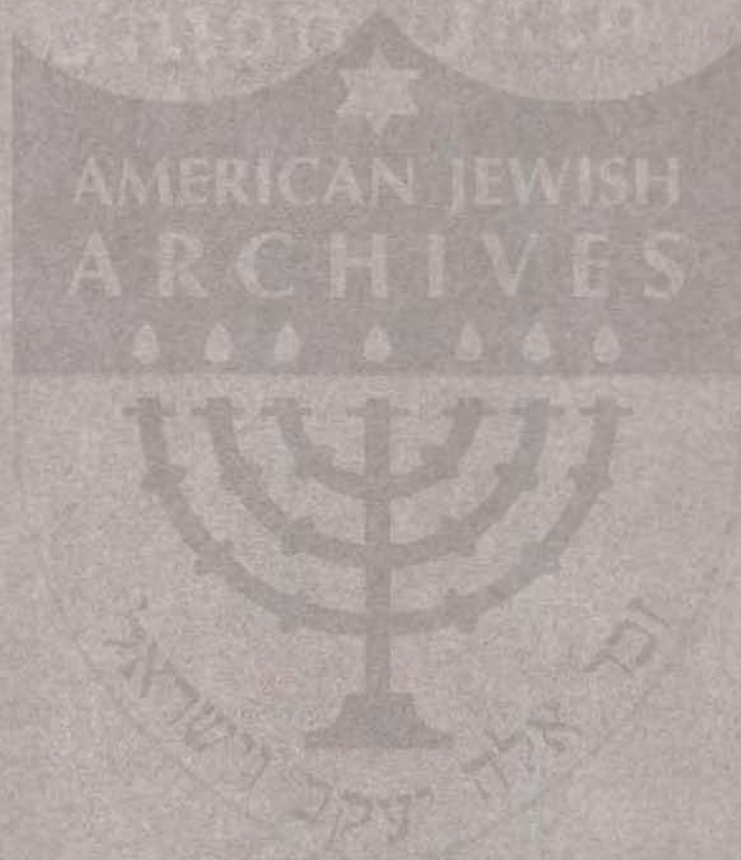
the country to acquaint the people with the specifics of the issues at stake.

I am writing this editorial in order to stimulate discussion in Denver. I suggest that this matter be debated fully and freely before the Denver District of the ZOA, so that we may become conversant with the issues which will arise at the next ZOA National Conference, May 28-30. I propose a special meeting of the District which should be ^{widely} ~~fully~~ publicized and well-attended, at which a debate be presented on the subject of the present ZOA National Administration.

I personally would urge that the present Administration be unseated, and that its candidates be defeated. Others will certainly wish to express an opposite point of view and give a vote of confidence to Dr. Neumann and his followers. Only by bringing this entire matter to the attention of our people will we be serving their interests.

I offer this challenge in the sincere hope that the Denver ZOA executive committee will make arrangements for such an open debate and discussion as outlined above, and I am certain that when the discussion is concluded the Denver District will realize that the future

strength of Zionism in America will be in direct proportion to the strength of progressivism within Zionist ranks.



JACOB SOLOTKEN
President
BERT SICANOFF
Vice-President
NATHAN REGENSTREIF
Secretary
JUDGE SAUL I. RABB
Treasurer

ROBERT B. STOLKIN
Honorary President
JULIAN FREEMAN
Honorary President
EDWARD M. DAYAN
Honorary Vice-Pres.

CONGREGATION BETHEL ZEDECK

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Asst. Rabbi and
Director of Education
HARRY FREEMAN
Executive Secretary

April 13, 1949

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
Denver, Colorado

Dear Herb:

I am dictating this note in haste, as it is Erev Pesach, and loads of work undone.

I would stress three points, mainly: 1. We have been supporting an administration in Jewish Life, which, not one of us would have supported in general American Life. It is shocking, in view of the fact that the Jew has always represented the liberal and the progressive. How could we support an administration that represents the view of 1890, or of the Liberal League.

2. As Jews, we have complained bitterly about miserable treatment by certain elements of the press, who have given us no opportunity to defend ourselves. The New Palestine, under the present administration, has been closed to tried and true Zionists. Lipsky has been unable to get an article into the New Palestine, etc. The very fact that you find it difficult to get a hearing, is, in itself indicative.

3. (a) The State of Israel must not become another Balkan State. It must express the vision of the prophets in terms of social justice. If the strongest force in Diaspora Jewry, controlling hundreds of millions of dollars, is out to break this government, only the Lord knows what type internecine strife may result. (b) This is not a question of personalities. Whether I personally admire Silver or Newman, Wise or Lipsky, has little to do with the problem. Whether I favor the policies of Weizman, Ben Gurion and Shertok, or whether I will seek an unholy alliance with the Beigins and other extreme reactionary forces is important. Cite the refusal to condemn the Sternists, etc.

The question will be asked about new-comers in the ranks. Most of us in the leadership of the progressives have dedicated at least 30 years to Zionism. The Montor question will be brought up. The answer is simple. For the good of the U.J.A. he took a belly-full for a number of years, and finally split a gut. The final point is this. Surely the State of Israel should know what is best for its interests. They are quite evidently supporting the progressives.

Yours sincerely,

William P. Greenfield

William P. Greenfield
Rabbi

CPZ NEWSLETTER

Issued By

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM

250 West 57th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

MAY, 1949

PANIC IN ZOA LEADERSHIP

Since its defeat in the UPA Board, the ZOA leadership has been drifting in rough seas without a compass. The annual convention is only six weeks off, but no program is discernible, the name of the candidate is not known, and the only rational discussion of the convention is being contributed by the CPZ and — we are glad to see — the *National Jewish Post*.

The "leaders" were confident that when they withdrew from responsibility for the UJA they would be pressured by a draft movement to return to their posts in the Jewish Agency, in order to save the campaign from anticipated collapse. That did not happen. There was no collapse and no draft. In fact, with gratifying speed and efficiency the Washington conference was organized and attended by 1,200 communal workers from all parts of the country and the campaign was launched in a spirit of exaltation and sacrifice. The resigned leaders could have helped, but the campaign had to get along without them.

To show their indifference to the responsibilities of the campaign the ZOA arranged two events for Monday, March 21st, one day after the Washington conference. One was a dinner meeting of "two hundred industrialists" called to fix attention not upon the UJA campaign, but on the fact that the ZOA had an Israel project all its own — the Israel Corporation, a private investment company. The public effect of the unsuccessful dinner meeting was to deepen the impression made by Dr. Silver that the ZOA would leave the UJA campaign exclusively to the majority that had taken over and that it was still nursing its grievance.

On the same day, the ZOA Executive made the surprise decision that the annual convention would be held not in July or later, but in May. The decision meant that the whole ZOA would be absorbed during April and May in a controversial convention, the preparations for which would arouse factional controversy and divert attention from the principal Zionist business, i.e., the UJA campaign. It also would serve as a handicap for the opposition, which would not have much time to

advance their cause except at the expense of the campaign, to which most of them are devoted. It meant that the convention itself would be a hurried affair.

(Concluded on page 3)

Dewey Stone Nominated

Dewey D. Stone of Brockton, Mass., was unanimously nominated for the Presidency of the ZOA by the Executive Committee of the New England Zionist Region at a well-attended meeting held on Sunday, April 10.

Mr. Stone has played an important role in the affairs of the present administration. He is a member of its Executive Committee and Inner Committee. He has been a consistent supporter of Dr. Silver. As chairman of the Expansion Fund of the ZOA, he made a record in results and personal devotion. He did not support the present leaders in their recent attack on the Jewish Agency Executive. On the contrary, he took a leading part in the successful struggle for the reconstitution of the UPA and UJA along democratic lines.

His supporters look upon Mr. Stone as a "compromise" candidate, who "will labor unceasingly for cooperation and harmony in Zionist ranks, and will give himself heart and soul to the urgent task of uniting all groups and all leaders under the banner of constructive work for the ZOA and the Jewish State."

Mr. Stone has just returned from Israel aboard the presidential plane, which brought President Chaim Weizmann to this country. He is Chairman of the Board of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

The nomination of the New England leader has found immediate support in the Executive Committee of the Wynnefield Zionist District of Philadelphia, the largest District in Pennsylvania, which enthusiastically seconded the proposal.

PROGRAM OF ACTION

In order to find a solution to some of the grave problems facing the ZOA today, we offer for pre-convention discussion the following program of action:

1. Develop Close Ties with Israel

The incoming administration of the ZOA should take the initiative in developing a closer and more direct interest in Israel among the Jews of America. This objective may be attained through the establishment in the United States of various institutions to heighten the interest of American Jewry in the social, cultural and economic phases of Israeli life. Among immediate steps proposed are: a) the sponsorship in American universities of special chairs for the teaching of Hebrew; b) the encouragement of Hebrew classes and clubs to promote the study of Hebrew among American Jews who may visit Israel either as settlers or visitors; c) the stimulation of "Chalutz" activities among American Jewish youth; d) the establishment in Israel of an American Jewish center for the reception and guidance of Jewish settlers and visitors from this country; e) the establishment in Israel of a special school for American Jewish youth who decide to settle permanently in the Jewish State. These brief points — by no means a complete program — are urged for consideration and action at the convention.

2. Stimulate Fund-Raising for Israel

A primary function of the ZOA is to stimulate the gathering of funds for the recognized national institutions which are supported by the United Jewish Appeal. At the same time, the ZOA, in cooperation with the appropriate economic organs of the Jewish Agency and the Government of Israel, should stimulate private investment of American capital in Israel. But under no circumstances shall the administration of the ZOA assume a direct responsibility for any private investment corporation.

3. A Federation of all American Zionist Groups

The incoming ZOA administration shall be authorized to take steps to organize a federation of all recognized American Zionist groups. This over-all body approved by the World Zionist Organization (1937) will perform in this country the broad functions which are exercised on a world basis by the World Zionist Executive (Executive of Jewish Agency). It shall cooperate wholeheartedly with the Government of the State of Israel and take a leading role in reviving the ideals of democracy and representative government in American Jewish affairs.

4. An Executive Committee to Lead ZOA

Following the democratic example of the World Zionist Congress and its Executive, the constitution of the ZOA shall be amended to permit the election by proportional representation of an executive body of seven to nine members, each heading one department. They shall be collectively responsible, together with the president, to the larger Executive Committee of seventy for the affairs of the ZOA between conventions. The present set-up of rule by an Inner Committee appointed by the president and responsible only to him shall be abandoned.

• • • • •

This brief program is submitted for discussion by districts, regions and candidates and for decision at the convention. It is by no means a complete solution for all the problems facing the ZOA, but it may serve as preliminary report on the reorganization of the ZOA.

A 'Neutral' Writes To The New Palestine

Sol B. Abrams, who presided at a Bronx, N. Y., Zionist district meeting at which Jacques Torczyner and Harry Seeve debated on the policies of the ZOA, wrote the following letter to the editor of *The New Palestine*. A copy of the letter was sent to the CPZ:

"I hasten to correct several erroneous remarks as reported in the March 31 issue of *The New Palestine*. Firstly, Mr. Torczyner did not have an 'easy time in proving the charges unfounded.' Both leaders claimed to have documents or letters in their possession, but neither produced any. There was no winner in the debate. It was an exciting, informative discussion, which opened many minds to thinking. It was a very healthy meeting — a shot in the arm to stimulate Zionist actions.

"I am not a member of the CPZ and I do not agree entirely with their views. However, I ask you to answer their charge that *The New Palestine* is closed to oppositional views. I have reason to believe that your story on the meeting was written before our meeting took place. It was definitely slanted and your reports come from shrouded sources.

"I would sincerely urge that oppositional views be granted equal space, line for line, column for column in forthcoming issues of *The New Palestine*. Newsprint is expensive. Give space to cultural, district and political news, rather than utilize it in attacks upon our brethren and fellow Zionists."

PANIC IN ZOA LEADERSHIP

(Concluded from page 1)

What is the administration line?

From observations dropped by Dr. Silver and Dr. Neumann the general idea may be gathered that the Administration comes to the convention to defy imaginary enemies who plan the liquidation of the ZOA.

In the meantime, to the surprise of the administration (and of all interested parties), Mr. Daniel Frisch, one of the vice-presidents of the ZOA, who has made known his ambitions for months, takes the field and begins to gather endorsements of his candidacy for president. He has been given the right of way as a candidate in the *New Palestine*. He has spoken very freely of programs, of his intentions, if elected as president, without waiting for any official approval. Although there are a number of other candidates in the stables of the leadership, no one else has spoken, no one else has written, nor have the leaders themselves had anything to say of any relevant importance. Mr. Frisch is very sure of himself.

But it seems that the administration which he so loyally represents and defends does not want any part of him. They seem to doubt his reliability. Meetings are held attended by administration leaders to "Stop Frisch." Stop him with what, with whom? Why should the administration want to stop him?

If this is not panic, what would you call it?

If the Zionist leadership were thinking of the future of the ZOA, they would give the Zionists time to prepare for a convention which would arrive at momentous decisions bearing upon the ZOA program, its relation to the World Zionist Organization, to the State of Israel, and to the American Jewish Community. Peace and good will would be in their hearts and in their words instead of pride of opinion, the vanity of confidence votes, the continuity of their control. They would invite all groups within the ZOA to a pre-convention conference to arrive if possible at an understanding as to how the convention is to be conducted, what common program can be agreed to, even what candidates can be jointly supported. They would cease their foolish alarms about conspiracies and realize what they should have realized long before this that most American Jews are now prepared to cooperate wholeheartedly, sacrificially, in the building of the Jewish State. It is the willingness to help which the ZOA leadership calls conspiracy and a desire to liquidate. They are not enemies of Zionism or Zionists any longer. A new Zionist organization is growing before our very eyes and the ZOA leadership refuses to see it.

* * *

We would be the first to express appreciation of the historic political services rendered by the ZOA in the past four years. It is a pity that the record should be marred by what is now going on in the ZOA leadership.

'We Do Not Need Your Political Aid' - Sharett

(Excerpt of address delivered recently in Philadelphia by Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett of Israel)

There were times when we from Palestine and we representatives of the Zionist movement here, applied to Jews throughout the United States to throw in their lot with our cause and help us politically, use their voting strength in this country, use their influence on the government, in the press, with their fellow Americans — Gentiles — in order to help us. That is over. We no longer appeal to your political help. We do not need it.

This may be a very bold statement, but that is the position. Just because there is a State of Israel there must be a certain amount of separation. We cannot claim your allegiance in any formal sense to the State of Israel. You owe your allegiance, as citizens, to your own country and to your own government.

We hope very much — in fact we feel confident — that the bond of friendship between us as the State of Israel and your government will go from strength to strength, and that there will never be any serious misunderstanding between us. But that is our relationship as a state to state.

When we go to Washington and talk to your Secretary of State we do not talk on your behalf; we talk on behalf of the State of Israel. We do not expect you to accept any political responsibility for our status in the international world. That responsibility is ours alone.

Fresh Gains for Frisch Fail to Arouse ZOA Ardor

Pre-election dopesters were startled this week by the conspicuous lack of ardor demonstrated by the ZOA administration in behalf of the presidential candidacy of Daniel Frisch, a ZOA vice-president who threw his hat into the ring several months ago, presumably with the blessings of the ZOA leadership.

While Frisch supporters continue to stump the country gathering endorsements for their choice, the ZOA administration is beginning to lose interest. In the Brooklyn, N. Y. region (25,000 members) a few days ago, the Frisch candidacy was actively opposed by four close adherents of the Neumann group.

Observers of the Zionist scene are inclined to believe that for some unknown reason Frisch has fallen out of favor with the ZOA leadership. Another possibility is that the leadership has still not given up all hope of promoting a "draft" movement for one of their more "loyal" sons.

CREDO OF THE CPZ

The organizational structure of the ZOA must be revamped to bring the vast, unorganized pro-Zionist American Jewish community directly into Zionist life. Room must be found in the ranks of the ZOA for new faces, new talents and new elements. The present administration, caught in a morass of doubt and dissatisfaction and unable to make an objective readjustment to the reality of the primacy of the Israeli government in world Jewish political affairs, has closed the organization's heart and mind to new ideas and new leadership.

The partisan tendency of the present ZOA administration in supporting right wing elements in Israel must cease. We must remain aloof from party dogma, not aligning ourselves with left or right, but supporting all creative forces in Israel.

In world councils of Zionism, the American Zionist movement must stand together with progressive and enlightened parties and foster liberal and advanced thinking on social and economic problems.

Friendly relations must be established between the ZOA administration and the authorities in Washington.

The columns of ZOA publications, including the *New Palestine*, must be opened to all members of the ZOA regardless of position. Convention issues must be presented without delay and with objectivity to Zionist Districts and Regions for general discussion by the membership at large. Convention procedure must be amended to permit free and open discussion of important issues by rank and file delegates.

The essential element of democracy — the closed ballot — must replace the standing vote for major decisions at ZOA conventions.

CPZ Bringing Issues to the Communities

The Committee for Progressive Zionism, essentially a "grass-roots" movement stemming from the dissatisfaction of Zionist communities in every section of the country with the present administration of the ZOA, continues to receive new impetus from aroused rank-and-file Zionists across the land.

A report from Peoria, Ill., states that the Zionist district there unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing the CPZ and pledging its delegation to the ZOA convention to the CPZ candidate.

In a letter from Memphis, Tenn., Abe D. Waldauer reports that "the Memphis Zionist District will line up almost unanimously with the CPZ." The Zionist District of Pittsburgh has scheduled a membership meeting for May 2 to discuss the internal problems of the ZOA. Speakers representing the administration and the CPZ have been invited to tell their respective sides of the story.

Speaking before 400 members of the Seventh Zionist District in New York — the country's largest ZOA district — Morris Margulies, a member of the CPZ Executive, emphasized that "this is the time when someone who is not closely identified with either the administration or the opposition should be chosen for the ZOA presidency — someone who will be able to rally all the groups within the ZOA and thus not only heal the breach but present to the world a powerful ZOA. . . . Everyone is not only needed, but everybody is wanted."

In community after community interest is running high. CPZ headquarters has been swamped with requests for literature, speakers and membership cards. CPZ speakers have participated recently in special meetings in Philadelphia, Bridgeport, Boston, Washington, Baltimore, Cleveland, Long Island, N. Y., and other communities.

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM

250 West 57th Street

New York 17, N. Y.

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CPZ
RABBI HERBERT FRIEDMAN
TEMPLE EMANUEL
1595 PEARL ST
DENVER COLO

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT CPZ CONFERENCE
SUNDAY, APRIL 17th
at the
HOTEL COMODORE, NEW YORK CITY

STATEMENT AND PROPOSAL

1.

The chief aim of the CPZ has been - and is - to bring about a change in the ZOA administration on the basis of coalition and proportional representation; and to further progressive Zionism.

At the Pittsburgh convention last year, when the ZOA administration expressed a willingness to negotiate for coalition and group representation even on a limited scale, the CPZ immediately took up the suggestion. In the last hours of the convention an unwarranted attack was made on our group and the door was closed to any further discussion.

In addition, throughout the year, the ZOA administration has used every propaganda device, fair and unfair, to make it appear that the CPZ is a subversive, destructive force aiming not at the legitimate purpose of changing the ZOA administration, but the liquidation of the organized Zionist movement. The CPZ had no alternative but to prepare to present its own list of candidates at the next ZOA convention.

As we approach the convention, pushed forward by the ZOA leadership from July to May, it remains our conviction that the ZOA at this time cannot afford a public display of party controversy; and that only through an all-inclusive coalition will it be possible to muster all ZOA resources for service to Zionism and to the State of Israel. In the last few months, the CPZ has taken advantage of every opportunity to further the cause of unity in discussion with all interested parties. It has had such discussions with the administration ex-officio, with independent candidates and regional groups. It was our hope to be in a position to report to this conference the success of our endeavors.

The CPZ regrets that no such favorable report can be made here today. Various candidates have been nominated whose partisans are engaged in an active developing campaign in districts and regions. The ZOA administration seem unable to present a unity front itself.

The CPZ feels, however, that there is now, for the first time, a real chance to press forward for an agreement in advance of the convention on a joint program and a joint list of candidates. As Zionists, we must not ignore that chance; - even though it was intended, at this meeting today, to nominate a slate of candidates.

Therefore, this conference decides to name a Committee of Fifteen to explore with all interested groups, the possibility for achieving the desired objective. In the event no agreement is possible, the Committee shall nominate or approve a list of candidates and announce its decision no later than May 1st. The committee shall have full and final authority in these matters.

11.

CLOSED BALLOT

The closed ballot is the essence of democratic elections. At the last Zionist Convention in Pittsburgh ZOA administration leaders promised that steps would be taken to democratize the procedure by which officers of the ZOA are elected. In line with these assurances, this meeting of three hundred representatives of Zionist districts throughout the country demands a closed written alphabetical ballot at the forthcoming ZOA Convention on May 28th-30th.

Committee for
PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM
within the
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

250 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET • NEW YORK 19, N. Y. • ROOM 1011 • PL 7-4725

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April 21, 1949

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Chairman, Exec. Comm.
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Treasurer
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New York, N. Y.

Chairman, Fin. Comm.
FRED MONOSSON
Boston, Mass.

Secretary
JOEL GROSS
Newark, N. J.

Dear Friend:

Please publicize the following facts to all interested persons within your community.

The Committee for Progressive Zionism Nominating Conference, which met on Sunday, April 17th, in New York, had been scheduled to name C.P.Z. candidates for the presidency and other officers of the Zionist Organization of America for presentation at the Z.O.A. national convention on May 28th. This conference voted to defer naming its slate of candidates until May 1st in order not to jeopardize the possibilities of peace in the Zionist movement in this country.

During the two-week interim the Committee of Fifteen will be ready to "explore with all interested groups" on ways and means of unifying the various Zionist elements in this country. Unless tangible results are achieved by May 1st, the resolution warned that "the C.P.Z. has no alternative but to prepare to present its own list of candidates at the next Z.O.A. convention."

Rudolf G. Sonneborn of New York, treasurer of the C.P.Z., was named Chairman of the Committee of Fifteen which will negotiate with "all interested groups seeking peace and unity in the Zionist movement." Other members of the Committee are: Dr. J. Leonard Azneer, Schenectady; Max Birnbaum, New York; Isadore Breslau, Washington; Mitchell M. Cohen, Philadelphia; Abraham Feinberg, New York; Harold J. Goldberg, Minneapolis; Joseph Halbert, Atlantic City; Adolf L. Hamburger, Baltimore; Benjamin R. Harris, Chicago; Isadore Lafair, Philadelphia; Sol Luckman, Cincinnati; Judge Jacob Schwolsky, Hartford; Ezra Z. Shapiro, Cleveland; and Carl Sherman, New York.

In another resolution the C.P.Z. conference demanded a closed ballot at the forthcoming Z.O.A. convention. The resolution pointed out that Z.O.A. leaders had pledged at last year's convention in Pittsburgh to institute a closed ballot but that no steps in that direction had been taken to date.

Very truly yours,

Chas Feinberg
Charles Feinberg
Field Director

CF:g
encl.

MELVYN DOUGLAS * PROFESSOR HAYIM FINEMAN * WALDO FRANK
RABBI ROBERT GORDIS * HAYIM GREENBERG * RABBI JAMES G. HELLER
PROFESSOR HORACE M. KALLEN * DR. MORDECAI M. KAPLAN * LOUIS KRAFT
JACK KROLL * DR. MAX LERNER * MAURICE SAMUEL * PROFESSOR ALBERT SOLOMON
RABBI SAMUEL WOHL * BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

1140 BROADWAY, SUITE 607, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

TEL.: MURRAY HILL 4-2940

April 18, 1949

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
Cong. Emanuel
1595 Pearl St.
Denver, Colo.

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

We, the undersigned, are planning a National Assembly for Labor Israel to be held in New York City on Monday evening, June 20th, and continuing through the 21st and 22nd at the Hotel New Yorker.

We are sending this invitation to you as one of a selected group of writers, artists, scholars and educators, rabbis, communal leaders and scientists, whom we regard as particularly qualified to give counsel and personal service, and we earnestly request that you accept sponsorship and participate in the sessions of the Assembly.

We have come to a turning point in Jewish history. Within these last momentous months our people have established the State of Israel as a free and independent republic. They have successfully defended its sovereignty upon the field of battle. They have organized a government which is capably discharging all the tasks of free government. They have drafted a constitution embodying the fundamentals of democracy. They have held a general election in which all participated on equal terms regardless of race, faith, sex, occupation or political affiliation. It will be the task of the government thus elected to establish Israel's constitution, to assimilate into Israeli society myriads of Jews from all over the world, to make firm the cultural, economic and political foundations of the Israeli republic and to establish friendly cooperation with all the countries of the earth.

This new situation brings new responsibilities to Jews everywhere. It requires from them a complete rethinking of the Jewish position. The Zionist movement has achieved its aim, as that was set forth in the Basle Program. Now the new State of Israel presents the world and us with new tasks, new problems and new frontiers. What sort of community shall Israel grow into? The proposed constitution provides the expected articles on civil rights, on full religious and political equality of all citizens and on the duties of government to establish and maintain justice and security.

But, as you well know, proposal is not achievement. We urgently invite you to join with us in helping to convert proposal into achievement. The recent elections have retained Mapai in the position of responsible leadership. We urgently invite you to help keep this leadership the effective instrument of democratic realization it has always endeavored to be. We know that you are among those who see clearly that Israel must not serve as a refuge merely for the stateless, the suffering, the uprooted sons and daughters of our people but that the State must likewise embody for mankind a democracy which is a way of life as well as a form of government; which, as a free society assuring individual initiative without social injustice, serves and is served by the ideals of international cooperation and international peace expressed in the charters of UNO and UNESCO.

We urgently invite you to meet with us, therefore, these three days in June. We are calling this Assembly in order that we may explore together alternatives of cooperative action in support of these ends and to lay before our fellow-citizens the conclusions we have reached.

This invitation is extended to you with the cordial endorsement of the Central Committee of the Labor Zionist Organization of America and has the approval of the Mapai in Israel.

Cordially yours,

Melvyn Douglas
Melvyn Douglas

Mordecai M. Kaplan
Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan

Hayim Fineman
Professor Hayim Fineman

Louis Kraft
Louis Kraft

Waldo Frank
Waldo Frank

Jack Kroll
Jack Kroll

Robert Gordis
Rabbi Robert Gordis

Max Lerner
Dr. Max Lerner

Hayim Greenberg
Hayim Greenberg

Maurice Samuel
Maurice Samuel

James G. Heller
Rabbi James G. Heller

Albert Solomon
Professor Albert Solomon

H. M. Kallen
Professor Horace M. Kallen

Samuel Wohl
Rabbi Samuel Wohl

Baruch Zuckerman
Baruch Zuckerman.

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New York, N. Y.

Chairman, Fin. Comm.

FRED MONOSSON
Boston, Mass.

Secretary

JOEL GROSS
Newark, N. J.

March 25, 1949

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
1595 Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

We are sending under separate cover copies of the Progressive Zionist program which we hope you will help bring to the Zionist membership of your community. Perhaps they can be distributed at local meetings or sent through the mails to selected key people whom you believe helpful to the CPZ. If additional copies are desirable, please write us.

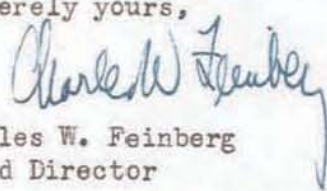
If possible, we would like seeing an article by you in the local Anglo-Jewish press as well as letters to the editor from other friends in your area who can bring the issues closer to the community.

We would like some objective picture of what is happening in Denver in terms of the election machinery for the convention in May. Any report of ZOA activity or projected action by the local CPZ adherents would be helpful.

The Executive Board is anxious to see more local activity and discussion take place throughout the country. Denver is one such place to start a forum or debate and obtain fair representation to the convention.

May we hear from you soon? The convention is around the corner.

Sincerely yours,


Charles W. Feinberg
Field Director

CWF:rh

INTERMOUNTAIN

JEWISH NEWS

ROBERT S. GAMSEY, Editor

MAX GOLDBERG, Publisher

March 24, 1949

Rabbi H. A. Friedman
1595 Pearl St.
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman,

During my visit to Israel March 24 to April 24, I would like to have you substitute for me with one guest editorial.

You may write on any subject you desire under your name.

Please make your editorial 500 words in length or thereabouts, but no longer.

Your guest editorial will run in our issue of April 7th, the deadline for which is Monday, April 4th.

Please have it typewritten, double spaced on one side of the sheet. I appreciate your part in making my trip possible....and Shalom'.

Sincerely,

Bob Gamzey
Bob Gamzey, editor

BG/aj

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New York, N. Y.

Chairman, Fin. Comm.

FRED MONOSSON
Boston, Mass.

Secretary

JOEL GROSS
Newark, N. J.

April 11, 1949

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

In order that the aims and purposes of our Committee may be adequately presented to the Z.O.A. Convention (New York, May 28-30), it is imperative that all those in sympathy with our program be elected as delegates to the Convention. I urge you, therefore, to please see to it that you and your friends be among the delegates chosen by your district and that, if elected, you make arrangements to attend.

I would appreciate your filling out and returning the enclosed post card at your earliest convenience as I am eager to know whether we can count upon your presence as a delegate to the next Z.O.A. Convention.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Charles J. Rosenbloom
Chairman

CJR:gb

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April 13, 1949

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman,
Temple Emanuel,
1595 Pearl Street,
Denver, Colo

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

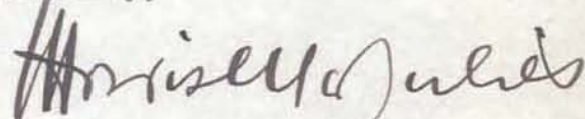
My purpose in writing to you now is to enlist your support in connection with the question of delegates to the next ZOA convention. I hope that Denver will be able to send as many delegates as its membership entitles it to have. On the other hand, because of the distance, I doubt whether you will be able to send your full representation. In that event, I would urge you to please make use of some of our people to represent your district.

On the back of this letterhead you will find a list of our Executive Committee members, any of whom would be delighted to serve as a delegate from your district and many of whom are known to you and would lend distinction, you will admit, to any district that they might represent.

You understand, of course, that this kind of selection is absolutely within the law and within your right.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I am, with kind personal regards.

Sincerely,



Morris Margulies

MM:rh

A NEW LEAF FOR THE ZOA

by
Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Member, Executive Committee,
Committee for Progressive Zionism

The bitter struggle which has rocked the country for the past five months over the fund-raising structure of the UJA is concluded and Drs. Silver and Neumann have been defeated. It took no less an authority than the full Executive of the Jewish Agency to settle the controversy. Drs. Silver and Neumann resigned, after having challenged the right and authority of the Agency to decide the matter. Their resignation is unfortunate, but was inevitable.

Even though the struggle over funds has been finished, with a victory for the liberal elements, the remaining aspect of the controversy, namely, control over the ZOA, must also be won by the liberals, else the first victory will be meaningless.

Dr. Neumann is not eligible to run again for the presidency of the ZOA. Dr. Silver has declined to be a candidate. The name of Daniel Frisch has been mentioned prominently for the position. He

is pathetically unsuited for the job, for he is completely unsympathetic to the social objectives of the present Labor government in Israel, and his election would simply mean that the ZOA here would be totally out of step with present trends over there.

We feel that American Zionists should not interfere with internal Israeli politics in any manner, and so, theoretically, the ZOA administration could be of any political complexion; but, practically speaking, a ZOA administration antagonistic to aims in Israel would not be very enthusiastic in support of those aims and might even attempt to subvert them. Such an impasse would neutralize the effectiveness of the ZOA in its work in the future.

No, it has become clear that an opposition group must present its own candidate or candidates at the coming ZOA National Convention, in an effort to elect a progressive Administration which will work with the Jewish Agency and the State of Israel, not against them.

The Committee for Progressive Zionism, composed exclusively of members of the ZOA, some of them former presidents and officers, has launched a nationwide drive to defeat the present administration. Local and regional meetings of Zionist districts will be held all over

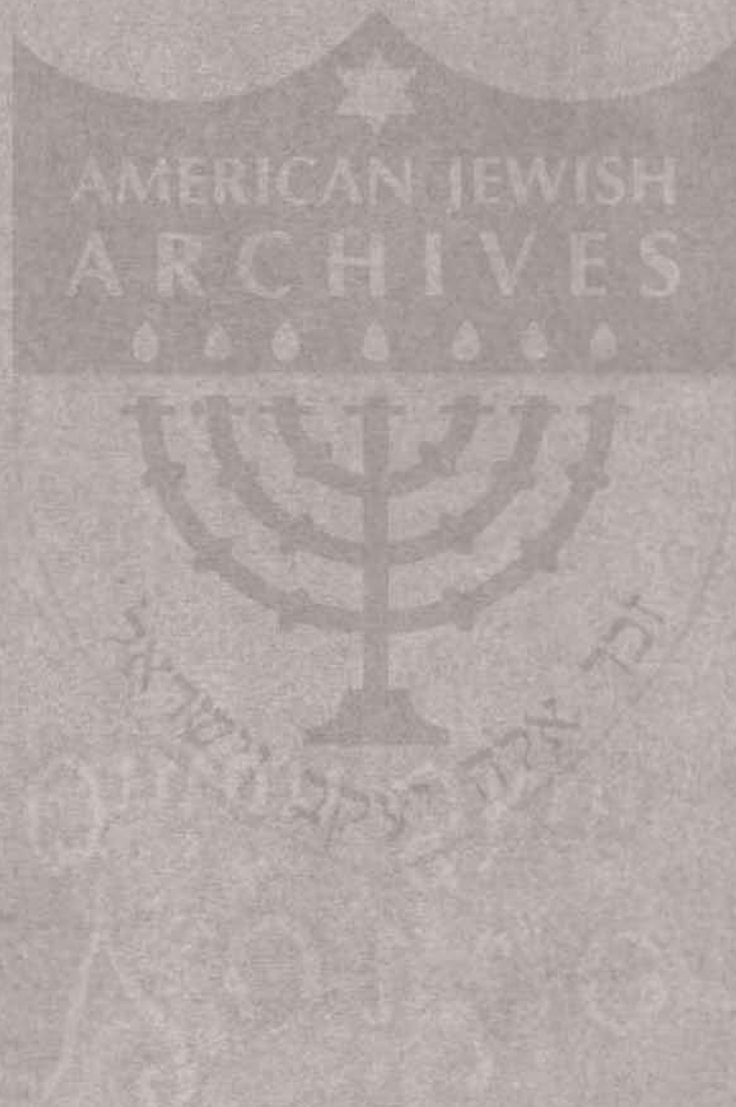
the country to acquaint the people with the specifics of the issues at stake.

I am writing this editorial in order to stimulate discussion in Denver. I suggest that this matter be debated fully and freely before the Denver District of the ZOA, so that we may become conversant with the issues which will arise at the next ZOA National Conference, May 28-30. I propose a special meeting of the District which should be ^{widely} ~~fully~~ publicized and well-attended, at which a debate be presented on the subject of the present ZOA National Administration.

I personally would urge that the present Administration be unseated, and that its candidates be defeated. Others will certainly wish to express an opposite point of view and give a vote of confidence to Dr. Neumann and his followers. Only by bringing this entire matter to the attention of our people will we be serving their interests.

I offer this challenge in the sincere hope that the Denver ZOA executive committee will make arrangements for such an open debate and discussion as outlined above, and I am certain that when the discussion is concluded the Denver District will realize that the future

strength of Zionism in America will be in direct proportion to the strength of progressivism within Zionist ranks.



Committee for
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within the
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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JOEL GROSS
Newark, N. J.

April 4, 1949

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
1595 Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

May we enlist your help in bringing the enclosed CPZ messages to your community?

These releases may be sent as a "letter to the editor" or as a personal by-line article to the local Anglo-Jewish press. Additional signatures should be obtained, if possible. It would be well to release these statements within an interval of a week between first and second communications.

Statements should be sent on your stationery, rewritten if necessary to suit your style and presentation. Please send clippings when published.

With best wishes for good results,

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Feinberg
Charles W. Feinberg
Field Director

CWF:rh
encls.

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1949 APR 6 PM 2 54

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FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR NATIONAL CPZ PROGRAM. PROSPECTS GOOD. URGENT
NEED FOR PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED CONTRIBUTION. RUSH WHATEVER IS
AVAILABLE TO MAINTAIN ACCELERATED SUCCESSFUL ACTION REGARDS=

FRED MONOSSON TREASURER COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE
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TIME OF TELEPHONED CALL

TEMPLE EMANUEL 1595 PEARL ST DVR=

URGENT PUBLICIZE FRIENDS OF COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE
ZIONISM YOUR COMMUNITY ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR PARTICIPATION
NATIONAL NOMINATING CONFERENCE COMMODORE HOTEL NEW YORK
APRIL 17TH PLEASE OBTAIN AND SUBMIT IMMEDIATELY NAMES OF
LOCAL FRIENDLY DELEGATES ATTENDING MAKE DEMOCRACY LIVE IN
ZOA BY YOUR PRESENCE AND COOPERATION CPZ PROGRAM CAN BE
EFFECTIVE NOW GET A SIZEABLE DELEGATION TO COME TO THIS
DECISIVE CONFERENCE REGARDS=

JOEL GROSS SECRETARY COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE
ZIONISM 250 WEST 57TH STREET NEW YORK NEWYORK=

ZOA CPZ 250 57 ALSO 17=

AC- 2839
No. Miss Solod
By EG 1027 Mailed

Congregation Emanuel

EAST SIXTEENTH AVENUE AT PEARL STREET
DENVER 5, COLORADO

STUDY OF

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

April 8, 1949

Dear Friend:

I am sending you this statement of the aims and purposes of the CPZ, Committee for Progressive Zionism, because I know that you, as an active Zionist, are one of the people who wants to be as informed as possible about current affairs in Jewish life.

Read it carefully, for it indicates the areas of opinion on which the National Conference of the ZOA, called for May 28, will probably divide.

The Progressive Zionist group does not have as its purpose the destruction of the ZOA, but rather its liberalization along the lines suggested in the enclosed article.

I would like to stimulate discussion in Denver on these issues, and so will welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

Herbert A. Friedman

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
National Executive Committee,
Committee for Progressive Zionism

F/s

DENVER DISTRICT

Zionist Organization of America

312 E. & C. BUILDING

KEYSTONE 7300

DENVER 2, COLORADO



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*Committee
for Progressive
Zionism*

RABBI HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN
TEMPLE EMANUEL
DENVER, COLORADO

April 11, 1949

Mr. Robert Gamzey
Intermountain Jewish News
E and C Building
Denver, Colorado

Dear Editor:

Serious readers of the English-Jewish press in this country have become increasingly aware within recent months of a major rift developing between the present leadership of the Zionist Organization of America and a mass movement of rank and file Z.O.A. members known as the Committee for Progressive Zionism.

Charges and counter-charges have been heard. I am not at this moment attempting to judge the merits of the case. However, I do think that the 250,000 members of the Z.O.A., and the members of our local District, are entitled to a factual and free hearing of the issues at stake.

I recall that rumblings of the present dispute were evident at the Z.O.A. parley in Pittsburgh last year, but parliamentary tactics prevented the subject from reaching the floor. The Z.O.A. has announced that its next national convention will be held in New York City over the May 30th week-end. As a member in good standing of the Z.O.A., I ask now that representatives and spokesmen for the C.P.Z. be invited to attend the conference as a group and to present their side of the story to convention delegates.

The Israel elections demonstrated beyond a doubt that it is a democratic country. Organizations such as the Z.O.A. presumably working for the benefit of Israel, must be equally democratic. Zionist leaders from all sections of the nation will gather in New York for the Z.O.A. convention. I can think of no more appropriate time for a frank and full discussion, in which the delegates may participate, of the issues involved. Unless Dr. Silver and Dr. Neumannn have something to hide from their own membership, I am at a loss to understand why C.P.Z. spokesmen should not be given adequate time

April 11, 1949

during the conference to explain the reasons for their dissatisfaction with the way the Z.O.A. is now being run. A democratic discussion of controversial issues would do much to clear the atmosphere and to strengthen the American Zionist movement.

I suggested in an editorial in your paper last week that we adopt the same procedure locally - that we hold a general debate to put all the issues before our local Z.O.A. district. I have received no reply thus far to this suggestion. May I repeat it again, in all sincerity. The members of the Denver District are entitled to hear the reasons why the C.P.Z. is dissatisfied, and having heard, they can decide any way they wish.

But why will the Z.O.A. Executive not call a meeting so that the members may hear? Is there fear of the normal democratic process?

Sincerely yours,

Herbert A. Friedman

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Member, Executive Committee
Committee for Progressive Zionism

F/s

April 11, 1949

Mr. Charles W. Feinberg
Committee for Progressive Zionism
250 West 57th Street
Room 1011
New York 19, New York

My dear Mr. Feinberg:

I am enclosing several copies of an editorial which I wrote for our local Anglo-Jewish paper, as a result of your request of 4 April, in which you urged that we bring the message of the CPZ to our community.

I discussed the editorial with the leaders of our local ZOA District before it was published, and urged them to accept my challenge for an open debate before the entire district. I cannot say now whether they will do so. I seem to sense that they are rather reluctant. My personal relations with the local ZOA Executive Committee are excellent, and I hope they will realize that such a debate as I have proposed will be in the best interests of the future of the Zionist movement in America. I will keep you informed as to whether they accept or reject this challenge.

Further, I shall take the releases which you have sent, and will re-work them with an eye toward our local situation. I am sure the editor of the "Intermountain Jewish News" will print these releases, and I will send you copies of the newspaper when they appear.

Most sincerely yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

F/s

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

C.P.Z. LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE DRIVE TO UNSEAT PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF Z.O.A.

"Grass Roots" Movement of American Zionists Throughout The Country
Gains In Momentum As Z.O.A. Convention Draws Near; Nine
Point Program Adopted by C.P.Z. Executive Committee

A nine-point program designed to strengthen the Zionist movement in the United States and to increase sharply the volume of American Jewish assistance to Israel in "this critical hour," was adopted this week by the Executive Committee of the Committee for Progressive Zionism, composed exclusively of former officers and members of the Zionist Organization of America.

Adoption of the nine-point program was the opening gun in a growing "grass roots" movement, initiated by interested American Zionists one year ago, to unseat the present "dictatorial" leadership of the Zionist Organization of America and to bring about broad, democratic reforms within the Z.O.A.

At the same time Charles J. Rosenbloom, of Pittsburgh, Chairman of the C.P.Z., announced that regional and local meetings will be held in every section of the country between now and May 1st to "acquaint the masses of American Zionists with the issues at stake in the forthcoming convention of the Z.O.A. scheduled for the weekend of May 30th."

Noting that the Z.O.A. convention had been scheduled more than one month earlier than usual, many national Z.O.A. leaders and districts criticized the action as "harmful to the \$250,000,000 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal by calling together active Jewish community leaders at a time when they are critically needed to stimulate local U.J.A. drives in their communities."

The nine-point program of the Committee for Progressive Zionism follows:

1. The Z.O.A., as the backbone of American Zionism, must immediately recoccupy its place in the councils of the World Zionist Movement. The Silver and Neumann resignations from the Jewish Agency Executive must be repudiated by the membership, and an administration elected which will take its rightful place as a partner in the World Zionist Executive as the voice and conscience of the loyal and devoted American Zionist movement.

2. The partisan tendency of the present ZOA administration in supporting right wing and reactionary elements in Israel must cease. The great tradition of American General Zionism which, from its earliest history adopted

a non-partisan but distinctly progressive character, must be reaffirmed by an aroused membership.

We must rediscover and recover the great principles of American Zionism which always were: Full support of all creative forces in Israel regardless of party; friendship and cooperation with the Israeli labor movement and appreciation for its creative influence in Jewish affairs; sympathy for the religious tradition of the Jewish people; encouragement of friendship between capital and the labor forces of Israel united in the Histadrut; non-interference in Israeli party affairs; fostering and encouraging new cooperative as well as private enterprises in Israel.

3. In world councils of Zionism, the American Zionist movement must again stand together with progressive and enlightened parties and foster liberal and advanced thinking on social and economic problems.

The representatives of the present ZOA administration in the highest bodies of Zionism often find themselves in common cause with reactionary and rightist elements. In their frantic scramble for power the administration forges unholy alliances with the blackest forces in our Movement.

The ZOA, as a great American Jewish Movement, must never again be tolerant of terrorism, reaction and Beiginism in Jewish affairs.

4. Ways and means must be found to bring the vast, unorganized pro-Zionist American Jewish Community directly into Zionist life. Room must be found in our ranks for new faces, new talents and new elements. We must revamp our organizational structure so that all those unaffiliated and affiliated American Jews who wish to participate and cooperate in the upbuilding of Israel shall find their proper places under the all-inclusive umbrella of the World Zionist Organization.

The present administration, caught in a morass of doubt and dissatisfaction and unable to make an objective readjustment to the reality of the primacy of the Israeli government in world Jewish political affairs, has closed the organization's heart and mind to new ideas, new leadership and constructive suggestions.

5. Friendly relations between the ZOA Administration and the authorities in Washington must be reestablished. It has become common knowledge that the political representatives of the American Zionist Emergency Council and the Zionist Organization of America have found few listeners in Washington.

A condition in which Israeli authorities are on the best of terms with our government while our own leaders find no basis of friendship is an intolerable situation which must be remedied without delay.

6. The columns of ZOA publications must be opened to all members of the ZOA regardless of position. The New Palestine must fulfill the function of public clearing house for Zionism in this country and welcome contributions by all who bring new ideas, criticize old notions, object to policies of administration, etc. We have observed with alarm as the New Palestine increasingly became an organ specializing in the glorification of individuals while losing its major function as the intellectual heart and soul of a great democratic movement. The New Palestine must particularly now, prior to convention time, open its columns to free discussion of convention issues, slates, convention procedure, etc.

7. Convention issues must without delay and with fairness be presented to Districts and Regions for general discussion by the membership at large and assurance provided that the voices of critics and non-conformists shall be heard on all subjects. Not only must an alert ZOA membership insist on democratic rights of free discussion and opinion in advance of the convention but they must see to it that adequate convention representation of all elements of opinion within each district shall be assured. The ZOA has always found room for differences of opinion and belief and this great democratic tradition must now be reestablished. The flouting of minority views has no place in the Zionist movement, whose democracy has always found place as a matter of right for all dissenting views.

8. Convention procedure must be amended to permit free and open discussion of issues by rank and file delegates. Convention sessions in recent years have been packed with many long speeches, leaving little or no time for adequate general debate by rank and file delegates.

9. In accordance with time honored democratic procedure provisions must be made at the forthcoming convention of the ZOA for a closed ballot. Charges have been heard in the past that voting at ZOA conventions was carried out negligently and inaccurately and did not reflect the true state of Zionist opinion.

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3/25/49

March 23, 1949

Mr. Morris Margulies
Committee for Progressive Zionism
250 West 57th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Margulies:

I have your letter of March 14th regarding Emanuel Teitelbaum of Denver. I have been unable to answer it up to now because I have been in Washington and New York for the past week, at the UJA conference and Dr. Wise's birthday party.

You ask about the position which Mr. Teitelbaum occupies in the Denver Zionist District. He is a member of the Executive Committee, and I am not certain whether he holds any specific office. His general role in Zionist affairs in the city is that of a well-informed, intelligent person, who is very vocal. He has stirred the B'nai B'rith Lodge into putting on a series of programs about Israel; he has contributed in very fair measure to the UJA; and is helpful in our current efforts to form a Community Council. I would summarize by saying that he is an asset to the community.

However, you should know that his letter to you, requesting some sort of a statement about your attitude toward the American Zionist Fund springs from the fact that his request for an allocation of \$5,000 for the AZF from our local welfare fund has been turned down several times. He feels that the AZF should have received an allocation and the Board of the Welfare Fund did not grant one. I acted as the conduit between the Welfare Fund and the ZOA Executive, attempting to explain to the ZOA that the feeling of the Board was that the AZF should cease its activities.

Teitelbaum, in attempting to obtain a statement from you about the AZF, hopes to indicate to the Board that even the Progressive Committee, which is critical of the ZOA, supports the AZF. I would be very cautious in whatever statement I would give him if I were you. I am not implying that he would misuse or abuse it, but I have the feeling that he would employ it to strengthen his argument about the necessity of maintaining the AZF.

Mr. Morris Margulies

-2-

March 23, 1949

I do not want to leave you with an unfavorable impression of Teitelbaum. He himself is a very fine individual. He is simply a staunch and strong Silver supporter and he is fighting for the AZF on the basis of what he considers to be good discipline. The administration asked him to get \$5,000 - as a loyal follower he is carrying out that task.

I hope I have helped explain the situation, and not caused confusion. If there is anything else I can do, please let me know.

With fond regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

F/s

Committee for
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ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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Boston, Mass.

Secretary

JOEL GROSS
Newark, N. J.

March 14, 1949

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

You will recall my writing to you on November 15th and enclosing correspondence between Emanuel Teitelbaum and myself. This morning I received a reply from Teitelbaum as per copy attached.

Before answering him, I would like to know from you just what position he occupies in the Denver Zionist District. I am seeking this information so that I may know whether there is any point in my continuing this correspondence and especially in answering the questions he puts to me.

I remember Teitelbaum from his Pennsylvania community, where he was a leading and active Zionist. I don't know what he is doing in Denver, nor, as already indicated, do I know what role he plays in Zionist affairs in your city. I will withhold my reply to Teitelbaum pending receipt of your advice.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,


Morris Margulies

MM:rh
encl.

EMANUEL TEITELBAUM
711 First National Bank Building
Denver 2, Colorado

March 11, 1949.

Mr. Morris Margulies
Committee for Progressive Zionism
250 West 57th Street
New York 19, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Margulies:

I did not reply to your letter of Nov. 16 because of all that has been going on the past few months.

It is good to note very definite statements in the first issue of the Progressive Zionist and also in Israel Speaks for the need of ZOA and the refutation of claims that many supposedly powerful Zionists of the COC group are satisfied to let the ZOA disintegrate.

I have been pursuing a sort of "watchful-waiting" attitude personally, and I think the rank and file is interested primarily in the ZOA's preservation and strength and growth rather than which side emerges victoriously. The current controversy has given too many so-called card members the kind of excuses they seek to withhold membership or renewal of membership.

You indicated rather strongly in your letter of Nov. 16 the need for promotion of ZOA membership and AZF. We want to debate this whole issue locally and I would like some positive official expression at this time as to what you are doing now to promote membership in ZOA and how you feel about the AZF and its relationship to the overall Zionist program. We have tried to make a distinction between the charges made that the current administration has been dissipating membership income to propagandize its side, and the separate use of AZF funds for what should be a non-partisan program.

We are primarily interested in the strength and leadership of the ZOA as such, and the program and leadership that is most likely to succeed in doing the best job is, in my opinion, more important than the personalities on either side of the controversy. I shall therefore appreciate a carefully prepared and complete statement on the issues raised.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Manny Teitelbaum

Committee for
PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM
within the
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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New York, N. Y.

Chairman, Fin. Comm.
FRED MONOSSON
Boston, Mass.

Secretary
JOEL GROSS
Newark, N. J.

March 18, 1949

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
1595 Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

We know that you are deeply concerned with the present trends in American Zionism. The Committee for Progressive Zionism is pleased that you too recognize that within the Zionist movement there are some searching changes taking place, and these changes are dictated by the fact that the aspirations of the Zionist movement have been fulfilled in the creation of the State of Israel.

The existence of the State calls for changes in the approach and contents of Zionist work in the Diaspora. The storm and stress which we witness at the present time is related to that fact. We hope, and we are sure you do, that this storm and stress will not last too long before the American Jewish community settles down to standing behind Israel in a unified and helpful manner.

I am enclosing the most recent issue of the Progressive Zionist, which outlines in detail the program of the CPZ and the issues around which we will muster American Zionists. *

May we count on your assistance to bring this program to your community? The need to set in motion such meetings, activities, resolutions, clarifying articles to the Anglo-Jewish press locally is urgent, if the Zionist membership is to act on the facts leading to the national convention. We shall be glad to assist with materials, speakers, information and, if necessary, field staff to facilitate such organizational activity as will make for keen interest in the community.

May I have the pleasure of hearing from you real soon?

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Feinberg
Charles W. Feinberg
Field Director

CWF:rh

* encl. -- Sent under separate cover.

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New York, N. Y.

Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

SUITE 315 & 316

250 WEST 43RD STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

February 14, 1949

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
1595 Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

I deeply regret that you were unable to be present at the Sunday, January 30th meeting. Had you been with us, you would have been gratified to note the great interest shown by all those present and the genuine sincerity with which they adopted the resolutions.

In order to adequately implement the program proposed, it was voted that we raise a fund of \$250,000 at the earliest possible moment. Quotas were assigned to the various communities represented and accepted by the delegates present.

In the case of your city, the quota is \$5,000. This sum, I believe you will agree, is commensurate with the size and communal significance of Denver.

This is an appeal for you to set in motion action to realize your quota. I cannot emphasize too strongly the urgency of immediate remittance. Please therefore send us whatever amount you can in the course of the next few days.

Eagerly waiting to hear from you, I am, with kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Fred Monosson

Fred Monosson

Chairman, Finance Committee

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New York, N. Y.

Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

SUITE 315 & 316

• 250 WEST 43RD STREET

• NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

January 19, 1949

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

If you are interested in a free and democratic Zionist movement in the United States, you will accept this invitation to attend an urgent emergency meeting of the Committee for Progressive Zionism at the Hotel Biltmore on Sunday, January 30th, beginning at 10:30 A.M. and continuing throughout the day.

The Zionist Organization of America is now in the control of a small band of men, many of them unknown to American Jewry, who are using every facility of the Zionist Organization to stifle independent thinking and to choke off discussion of the significant issues that confront America and Israel today. Unless this trend is halted, it will have the most serious repercussions for the future of Israel and of American Jewish life as well.

The New Palestine bans any news, editorial or comment that does not directly glorify the current leadership or that does not reflect the "administration line." Never in the history of American Zionism has there been so ruthless a use of the facilities paid for by the membership dues of tens of thousands of Zionists.

The Z.O.A. leadership today controls the American Zionist Emergency Council and determines its policies. The Z.O.A. leadership, having used the American Section of the Jewish Agency on occasions when it suited its purposes, has now turned about and defied the American Section when the latter's directives are opposed to the Z.O.A. line. The Z.O.A. leadership today effectively controls in this country the fund-raising instruments for Israel. So strong is this control by the Z.O.A. over the American "apparatus" that even though good judgment would indicate the resignation of certain Zionist leaders from their posts because of their complete ineffectiveness with the American Government at this stage, the leaders remain fastened to their positions regardless of the hurt it is doing the State of Israel at this time.

We feel there are very few meetings which you have ever been called to attend that can be as significant to our future as the meeting at the Hotel Biltmore on Sunday, January 30th.

Sincerely yours,

Charles J. Rosenbloom
Charles J. Rosenbloom, Chairman

P. S. Please indicate on the enclosed card that we may expect you.

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Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

250 WEST 43RD STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

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December 9, 1948

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New York, N. Y.

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

New York, N. Y.

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
Denver, Colo.

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

During my visit to New York this week I met with the officers and members of the Inner Committee of our group. At the meeting, following a review of the current Zionist situation, we agreed upon a program of action which requires immediate implementation.

However, we will only be able to carry out this program if we will succeed in raising substantial funds. Therefore I earnestly appeal to you to come to our support not only with your own contribution -- and I am fully mindful of how generous you are -- but also by making a real effort to enlist the aid of your many friends. I beg you to give this matter your immediate attention as time is a most important factor.

Eagerly looking forward to hearing from you, I am,
with kind regards

Sincerely yours,

Charles J. Rosenbloom
Charles J. Rosenbloom

CJR:rh

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Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

250 WEST 43RD STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

November 15, 1948

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DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

New York, N. Y.

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanu-El
Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

It is my policy that wherever we have a key representative, he be kept informed of any correspondence which takes place in his community. Accordingly, I am sending you herewith copy of a letter that I received from Mr. Emanuel Teitelbaum and copy of my reply to him.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Morris Margulies

MM:RH
encl.

COPY

November 7, 1948.

Mr. Morris Margulies
Committee for Progressive Zionism
250 West 43rd Street
New York 18, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Margulies:

You will probably remember me from my long years of ZOA service in Johnstown, Pa. Since I came to Denver two years ago I have been active locally and am Executive Vice-President of the Denver Zionist District. In spite of my affection for my friend Charles Rosenbloom and my regard for your other officers, I have not seen fit yet to align myself with your group.

Currently, I am trying to do a job for ZOA locally for increased membership and for support of the American Zionist Fund. Since you advertise "Committee for Progressive Zionism within the Zionist Organization of America" I think you should be interested in continuing to promote ZOA membership and the AZF campaign.

However, many people, especially in a community like this that never had much of a Zionist orientation, are using the current controversy as an excuse to withhold enrollment in ZOA and support of Zionist projects.

I should therefore like to receive a definite expression from you in this regard so that if you see fit to write definitely and favorably we may use it locally, and if not we shall have to guide ourselves accordingly.

It is my sincere hope that some happy solution will be found to solve the existing differences so that maximum Zionist support can be mobilized for all deserving Zionist projects. I think this letter has given you sufficient information to indicate its purpose and I do hope that your reply will be such that we will be helped in our local efforts.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Emanuel Teitelbaum
711 First National Bank Building
Denver, Colorado

November 16, 1948

Mr. Emanuel Teitelbaum
711 First National Bank Building
Denver 2, Colorado

Dear Mr. Teitelbaum:

Of course I remember you. More than that, I recall fondly how efficiently you cooperated with me during the period that I served as National Secretary of the ZOA and the substantial contribution you made toward the building and development of an active Zionist group in Johnstown, Pa.

Let me say at the very outset that I was very glad to hear from you and I earnestly hope that before long you will write to me again to let me know how you are.

With respect to the specific queries you put to me, permit me to state that you are absolutely right in assuming that our group "should be interested in continuing to promote ZOA membership and the AZF campaign." The fact is that our people are doing exactly that. Practically all of our members and workers occupy responsible offices in their local districts and regions. If you will forgive a personal reference, I myself am a vice-president of the Seventh Zionist District, which is the largest district in Greater New York, and as an individual unit is perhaps the largest in the whole country. I am also a contributor to the AZF.

The CPZ from its very inception has advocated and worked for a stronger and enlarged ZOA, for we realized from the very beginning that our differences with respect to the policies recently pursued by the ZOA membership had no relation to the need for building up a numerically strong ZOA.

We object to the lack of information disseminated among the members of the ZOA and particularly the misinformation that is so often spread through newspaper releases and the columns of the NEW PALESTINE. To give one example, a few weeks ago the NEW PALESTINE (front page, August 31, 1948), in reporting on the proceedings of the Actions Committee, referred to Group B as the group "with which the majority of American Zionists is identified." That was an unwarranted statement. No Zionist convention, or for that matter even smaller body (Zionist Administrative Council or Executive) ever officially voted to abandon

the traditional policy of the ZOA which allied it with Group A. Of course, the ZOA leadership has been tending in that direction and that has been the chief cause for the formation of the opposition as personified by the CPZ. This "rightist tendency" is reflected in many of the policies the ZOA has been pursuing.

Nor are we in agreement with the administration's policies vis-a-vis our government -- a policy that has resulted in alienating most government officials, from President Truman down.

To go deeper into this aspect of our relationship to the current Zionist leadership would require too long a statement. However, should you be interested, I'll ask you to read the enclosed copy of a letter I wrote some time ago to Mr. S. P. Benamy of Atlanta, Georgia, wherein I discuss our differences with the ZOA administration.

But all of this has no bearing on our working for a strong ZOA, a task that Zionists should engage in.

With best wishes and kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Morris Margulies

MM:rh
encl.

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Pittsburgh, Pa.

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Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

• 250 WEST 43RD STREET

• NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

November 9, 1948

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New York, N. Y.

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

Please note that due to a number of recent developments we have been obliged to postpone the National Conference originally scheduled for November 14th. The new date is tentatively set for Sunday, December 12, 1948.

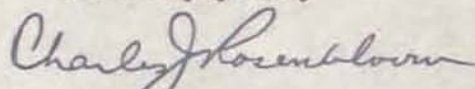
This date, however, coincides with that of the annual meeting of the UJA to be held in Atlantic City and therefore is subject to change. A number of members of our Executive Committee, who are active in the UJA, are of the opinion that it would be much more practical if our meeting were held on the preceding Friday, December 10th. This would make it possible for them to attend the two gatherings during the one weekend. This point of view is being given consideration.

Should there be a change in the UJA schedule, we will hold our National Conference in New York City on December 12th.

Within the next few days you will receive notice of the exact date and place of our Conference.

Appreciative of your cooperation, I am, with kind regards

Sincerely yours,



Charles J. Rosenbloom

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Pittsburgh, Pa.

Vice-Chairmen

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Minneapolis, Minn.

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DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

New York, N. Y.

SUITE 315 & 316

WISCONSIN 7-6000

Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

250 WEST 43RD STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

November 5, 1948

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

By now you have undoubtedly received the statement I made upon my return from Israel. My absence from this country will explain why I did not send an earlier response to your kind letter of October 22nd.

With respect to the National Conference scheduled for November 14th, I am obliged to inform you that that meeting has been postponed. This action was necessitated by a number of recent developments and by the fact that the UPA has scheduled its annual meeting for November 7th. It was therefore felt that we could not very well hold a national conference one week after the meetings, since many of our people are also active workers in the UPA and could not attend two meetings one week apart.

We have decided tentatively on December 12th, but only tentatively. In a day or two a notice will be sent out giving the exact time and place.

Should you be in New York around November 14th I hope you will get in touch with me. Looking forward to seeing you, I am

Sincerely,

Morris Margulies

MM:rh

Committee for
PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM
within the
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

250 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET • NEW YORK 19, N. Y. • ROOM 1011 • PL 7-4725

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Secretary
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Newark, N. J.

February 16, 1949

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
1595 Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

The Committee for Progressive Zionism has embarked on a comprehensive program to place issues within the Zionist movement before the membership of the Zionist Organization of America.

I know you will be gratified to know that we have made considerable progress and that many districts have evinced a strong interest in and considerable sympathy for our program.

We are now in the process of setting up a field service and establishing a regular bi-weekly newspaper in order to carry our story directly into the communities. We are, at this moment, in urgent need of setting up a speakers bureau in order to meet the growing demand for a presentation of our point of view before the districts and regions. You can readily understand that this will constitute one of the most important services to our cause.

Would you be good enough to indicate on the enclosed card your readiness to assume some responsibility for speaking in your community and in nearby areas? We will, of course, provide you with basic material which will clearly state the issues involved and which will provide documentation for the points of view which we espouse.

I would appreciate your prompt and favorable reply.

Sincerely yours,

Charles J. Rosenbloom

Charles J. Rosenbloom
Chairman

CJR:EG
enc.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN
UNIONJOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

(220)

SYMBOLS

DL - Day Letter

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DB036

1949 FEB 11 AM 5 41

D.NA096 NL PD=SI NEWYORK NY 10=

RABBI HERBERT FRIEDMAN=

TEMPLE EMANUEL 15959 PEAL ST DVR=

EXTREMELY URGENT YOU ATTEND BREAKFAST MEETING HOTEL ASTOR
YACHT ROOM SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13 8:30 AM. OUR MEETING HELD IN
CONJUNCTION WITH EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE CALLED BY ZOA. IF
YOU CANNOT ATTEND PLEASE CONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF YOUR URGING
YOUR LOCAL ZOA REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND OUR MEETING WHICH
MAINLY INTENDED TO ASSURE THAT AT ZOA CONFERENCE BOTH SIDES
OF ISSUES BE HEARD. PLEASE WIRE YOUR DECISION.

:CHARLES J ROSENBLOOM COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM

250 WEST 57TH STREET ROOM 1011 NEWYORK NY=

13 8:30 AM ZOA ZOA 250 57 1011=..

COPY OF TELEGRAM

Denver, Colorado, Feb. 7, 1949

Jewish Agency Executive
16 East 66th Street
New York, New York

WELCOME. AM VERY HAPPY TO HEAR YOU ARE ABOUT TO STRAIGHTEN
OUT THE UJA MATTER. PLEASE REST ASSURED THAT AMERICAN
ZIONISTS AND AMERICAN FUND RAISERS ARE WITH YOU 100 PER CENT.
STICK TO YOUR GUNS. YOU HAVE WON TOUGHER BATTLES THAN THIS.

David R. Uchill, Chairman
Mountain States Region
United Jewish Appeal

~~GREETINGS~~

AS DEVOTED FRIEND OF ISRAEL, WHO SERVED
TWO YEARS IN EUROPE WITH ALIYAH BETH AND
WHO HAS CAMPAIGNED EXTENSIVELY FOR UJA SINCE
RETURN TO STATES, AM CONVINCED THAT MORGENTHAU-
MONITOR TEAM ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS OF
1949 CAMPAIGN. ~~AM HAPPY THAT AGENCY EXECUTIVE IS~~
~~IN STATES TO ASSESS~~ FEEL THAT ATTITUDE OF ZOA
IS BASED ^{DEEPLY} UPON PERSONAL ~~BIAS~~ AND ~~DO NOT THINK~~
~~THESE~~ MOTIVES INSUFFICIENT TO UPSET AUTHORITY OF AGENCY EXECUTIVE.
AM HAPPY YOU ARE IN STATES TO SETTLE THIS ONCE FOR ALL.

*Committee for
progressive Zionism*

NATIONAL REGIONAL DIVISION
UNITED JEWISH APPEAL



MOUNTAIN STATES REGION
DAVID R. UCHILL, CHAIRMAN
111 SOUTH BROADWAY
DENVER 9, COLORADO

February 7, 1949

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

I sent the enclosed telegram to the Jewish Agency Executive, which is meeting in New York in extraordinary session to try to have Mr. Morgenthau and Mr. Montor back in the leadership of the United Jewish Appeal.

I would appreciate it if you, too, would send a telegram, expressing your feelings.

Sincerely yours,

Dave

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
Temple Emanuel
1595 Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1220

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DL = Day Letter

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Ship Radiogram

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.DB302

D.NA459 DL PD=NEWYORK NY 5 422P=

1949 FEB 5 PM 2 59

RABBI HERBERT FRIEDMAN=

TEMPLE EMANUEL 1595 PEARL ST DVR=

ZOA CALLING EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE HOTEL ASTOR NEW YORK THIS SUNDAY FOR PURPOSE OF CONTINUING ATTACK ON JEWISH AGENCY AND GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL AS WELL AS OF ALL THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH ZOA LEADERSHIP. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL ZIONISTS RALLY BEHIND JEWISH AGENCY AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES OF ZIONIST MOVEMENT. YOU SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND PERSONALLY BUT IN ANY CASE MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE PRESENT AND INSIST THAT NO DECISIONS BE MADE OR STATEMENTS ISSUED WITHOUT GIVING ALL SIDES A HEARING. ALSO URGE THAT TELEGRAMS BE SENT TO JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE 16 E. 66TH ST. NEW YORK NOW MEETING PLEDGING THEM UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT OF AMERICAN ZIONISTS. PLEASE WIRE YOUR PLANS=

CHARLES J ROSENBLUM COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE
ZIONISM 250 WEST 57TH ST NEW YORK NY=

AC 2839

16 E 66 250 57=..

No.

By

La 310P

La 318PAB

✓ 328PAB

La 343PAB



WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1220

SYMBOLS

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	Ship Radiogram

NA195 PD=EB NEWYORK NY 2 431P= 1949 FEB 2 PM 4 07
RABBI HERBERT A FRIEDMAN. TEMPLE EMANUEL=
1595 PEARL ST DVR=

DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM

COMMITTEE PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM PROGRAM BEING PUT INTO ACTION AT
ONCE. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. PROGRAM WILL DEPEND ON PROMPT
FULFILLMENT OF QUOTAS AS ASSIGNED AT SUNDAYS MEETING. PLEASE
SEND WHATEVER CASH AVAILABLE AT ONCE AND CALL URGENT MEETING OF
FRIENDS IN NEXT FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO FULFILL QUOTA. SUCCESS
REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ACTION:

FRED MONOSSON COMMITTEE OF PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM 250 WEST
57 ST ROOM 1014 NEW YORK NY:

=250 1014=

AC 2839
Half
11/25/49
H. H. H. H.

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Pittsburgh, Pa.

Vice-Chairmen

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Minneapolis, Minn.

EZRA Z. SHAPIRO
Cleveland, Ohio

Treasurer

RUDOLF G. SONNEBORN
New York, N. Y.

Secretary

JOEL GROSS
Newark, N. J.

Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

SUITE 315 & 316

• 250 WEST 43RD STREET

• NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

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ROBERT SZOLD
New York, N. Y.

ABE D. WALDAUER
Memphis, Tenn.

DR. JACOB J. WEINSTEIN
Chicago, Ill.

MEYER W. WEISGAL
New York, N. Y.

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
New York, N. Y.

January 3, 1949

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

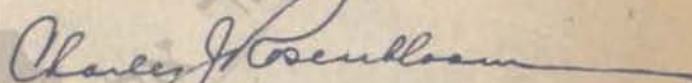
You are cordially invited to attend a meeting of the Committee on Tuesday, January 11, 1949, at 8:30 P. M., at the Astor Hotel, Broadway and 44th Street, New York City.

I am eager to have your views and opinion on a definitive program of action which we plan to adopt and therefore most earnestly urge your presence at this meeting.

That I may know whether I can count on you, would you kindly fill out and return the enclosed post card.

Keenly looking forward to seeing you at the January 11th meeting, I am, with best wishes

Sincerely yours,



Charles J. Rosenbloom
Chairman

CJR:rh
encl.

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM

250 West 43rd Street
Room 315

New York, N.Y.

November 24, 1948.

Dear Friend:

In view of the heated discussions which are now taking place with regard to the principles formulated and promoted by the Committee of Contributors, and in view of the flagrantly partial reporting which the New Palestine has been giving to these discussions, our Committee called a special meeting to consider this matter.

We discussed the problem at great length, and after a thorough examination of all the factors involved, came to the conclusion that the principles formulated by the Committee of Contributors are a logical consequence of Zionist history, and that their realization is highly to be desired in this historic moment. We are convinced that these people are motivated by a sincere desire to make our fund-raising machinery for Israel as effective as it can possibly be.

I am enclosing a copy of a statement issued by our Committee which, I hope, will serve to clarify the issues and will help to unite all elements of the American Jewish community in behalf of the support for Israel.

I shall appreciate your comments.

Sincerely yours,

Charles J. Rosenbloom
Charles J. Rosenbloom
Chairman

CJR/a.

STATEMENT ADOPTED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM

The Committee for Progressive Zionism has refrained from entering into the current controversy in the United Palestine Appeal, in the conviction that it would be soon resolved to the best interests of the Zionist Movement and of Israel.

In view, however, of continued public discussion, and of the demands for an expression of its views, the Committee states the following:

Every Zionist who has witnessed the revolutionary changes which have taken place in world Jewry -- the creation of the State of Israel -- the State at war -- the imperative need and demand for increased resources, both human and material, in order to meet the heavy responsibilities of the day, is forced to the realization that every segment of American Jewry, irrespective of past identifications must be integrated into the work for the support of Israel. Only by making the responsibilities coextensive with the resources and good will of the American Jewish community will it be possible to provide that support for Israel which it now requires to meet the historic dictates of the hour.

This progression is not unique in the Zionist Movement. It has been a cardinal principle in the extension of the Zionist Movement from its earliest days. It was one of the basic ideals of Theodor Herzl. After the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, and again upon the issuance of the Mandate, the Zionist Movement invited for participation in its work, all segments of Jewry throughout the world which had theretofore not participated in its program. The Palestine Foundation Fund, itself one of the parties in the controversy, was organized in 1921 on this principle of enlarged cooperation, as was the Jewish Agency for Palestine in 1929.

With the emergence of the State of Israel there is today, more than ever, an impelling need for the recovery of that fraternal relationship between Jews affiliated and those not hitherto affiliated with the Zionist Movement.

The Committee for Progressive Zionism approves the program of the Committee of Contributors for (1) the reconstitution of the governing boards of the U.P.A., so as to grant equal representation to the Jewish communities throughout America, charged with the responsibility for raising the funds of the U.P.A., with that of the existing Zionist organizations, and (2) the transmission of all funds thus raised in the United States directly to the beneficiary agencies in Israel, by whom these funds shall be used and disbursed.

As members of the Zionist Organization of America, we call upon the ZOA administration to abandon any further controversy in the matter and to arrive at an early understanding and amicable agreement with the Committee of Contributors so as not to imperil the success of the 1949 United Jewish Appeal Campaign.

Unanimously adopted at meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday, November 18, 1948, at the Sherry-Netherlands Hotel, New York City. Among those present were: Charles J. Rosenbloom, Pittsburgh, presiding; Isidore Breslau, Washington; Judge Louis L. Levinthal, Philadelphia; Louis Lipsky, New York; Morris Margulies, New York; Ezra Z. Shapiro, Cleveland; Hon. Carl Sherman, New York; Rudolf G. Sonneborn, New York; Robert Szold, New York; Dr. Stephen S. Wise, New York.

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CHARLES J. ROSEBLOOM
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Vice Chairmen

HAROLD J. GOLDENBERG
Minneapolis, Minn.

EZRA Z. SHAPIRO
Cleveland, Ohio

Treasurer

RUDOLF G. SONNEBORN
New York, N. Y.

Secretary

JOEL GROSS
Newark, N. J.

Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

• 250 WEST 43RD STREET •

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

June 25, 1948

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Committee in formation)

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Columbus, Ohio

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Boston, Mass.

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Memphis, Tenn.

DR. JACOB J. WEINSTEIN
Chicago, Ill.

MEYER W. WEISGAL
New York, N. Y.

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

This is to remind you of the meeting of our Committee scheduled for Friday morning, July 2, 1948, at 10 o'clock, at the Hotel Henry, Pittsburgh. The Henry is just around the corner from the William Penn.

As I informed you in my previous letter, the meeting will be devoted to the discussion and preparation of resolutions to be submitted to the Convention. We are eager to have your advice and counsel. I therefore look forward to your presence. Please do not disappoint me.

Though this meeting is confined to our associates, we should be glad to have you bring along other members of your delegation, provided they are in agreement with the aims and purposes of our group - otherwise, do not invite them. This is to be a "working" meeting and not an occasion for propaganda. For the latter purpose, we have arranged for two caucuses: one to be held late Friday evening and the other Saturday afternoon. To the caucus gatherings, all delegates are invited. The caucuses too have been scheduled at the Hotel Henry.

Looking forward to greeting you in Pittsburgh, I am,
with best wishes

Sincerely yours,

Charles J. Rosenbloom
Charles J. Rosenbloom
Chairman

20 June 1948

Mr. Morris Margulies
Committee for Progressive Zionism
250 West 43rd St., Suite 315
New York, 18, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Margulies,

I have your letter of 16 June, in which you are good enough to tell me that you shared my last letter with Mr. Lipsky. I am happy you did that, since I have a great deal of respect for him.

You also asked me to do whatever I could with our Denver delegates, since I was not attending the conference myself. I have discussed with them the aims and purpose of our group, and have found several to be sympathetic.

The delegates and/or alternates are:

Mr. Louis Gelt
2335 Monaco Parkway

Mr. Melvin Zelinger
2350 Krameria St.

Dr. Albert Prussin
1080 Logan St.,

Mr. Philip Hornbein, Jr.
1124 Steele St.

After explaining to these men the position of the Committee for Progressive Zionism, I urged them to attend the Friday morning caucus.

May I suggest that you send to each one as much explanatory material as you can, so that they may be more thoroughly briefed. And please renew the invitation to the caucus.

Sorry that I cannot be present in person, but would appreciate being kept informed of developments.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF/ew

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CHARLES J. ROSEBLOOM
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Vice Chairmen

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Minneapolis, Minn.

EZRA Z. SHAPIRO
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▲

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SUITE 315 & 316

WISCONSIN 7-6000

Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

250 WEST 43RD STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

June 24, 1948

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

It stands to reason that I am disappointed that you will not be with us in Pittsburgh. Mindful of the time you have been away with the armed forces, I can readily understand that you cannot undertake so soon the trip involved.

Do permit me, however, to thank you heartily for having discussed with your delegates and alternates the aims and purposes of our group. I've placed them on our mailing list, and under separate cover we are mailing to them the literature we have issued thus far. However, dear friend, as you fully realize, the work of a local person, especially if — as in your case — he is a rabbi, will go a great deal further than that of an outsider. Therefore, please keep up your good work.

With best wishes and kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Morris Margulies
Morris Margulies

MM:RH

Chairman

CHARLES J. ROSENBLUM
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Vice-Chairmen

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Minneapolis, Minn.

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Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

• 250 WEST 43RD STREET •

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

June 29, 1948

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(In Formation)

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Boston, Mass.
ROBERT M. BERNSTEIN
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Pittsburgh, Pa.
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New York, N. Y.
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
New York, N. Y.

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
Denver, Colorado

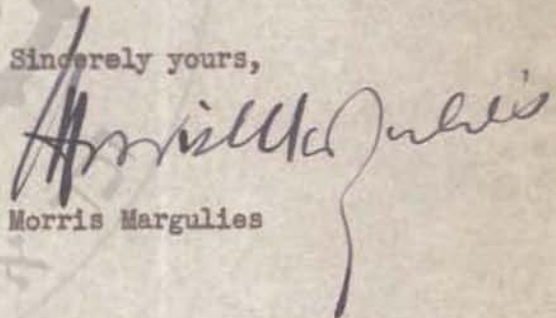
Dear Rabbi Friedman:

For your information and guidance,

I am attaching herewith copy of a letter I
received from Joseph S. Bozman and a copy of
my reply.

With kind regards

Sincerely yours,


Morris Margulies

MM:RK
Encs.



C
O
P
Y

JOSEPH S. BOZMAN

Suite 529 - Ernest & Cramer Building
Denver 2, Colorado

June 23, 1948

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Dear Mr. Margulies:

I have just received a copy of your bulletin "Zionist Issues. I also received your letter of recent date. I am deeply interested in your program. You may remember me from a few years ago when you tried to help me to get a government appointment. I am still living in Denver and am very active in the Zionist Organization. If I can be of any assistance to you, please call on me.

Very truly yours,

(signed)

JOSEPH S. BOZMAN

June 29, 1948

Mr. Joseph S. Bosman
Suite 529 - Ernest & Cramer Bldg.
Denver 2, Colorado

Dear Friend Bosman:

I received your very welcome letter just as I was about to leave for the Pittsburgh Convention. Indeed, I remember you very well. I also recall vividly your eagerness to help the Zionist cause which I always deeply appreciated.

It was a genuine pleasure to learn that the program of the group with which I am affiliated has your sympathy.

I presume you know that Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman is a member of our Executive. Would suggest that you get in touch with him and let me hear from you.

With best wishes and kind personal regards

Sincerely yours,

MM:RK

Morris Margulies

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Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

250 WEST 43RD STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

June 16, 1948

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Temple Emanuel
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

Your kind letter of June 14th afforded me great pleasure. In fact, I felt that I should share it with somebody and have therefore sent a copy to Mr. Louis Lipsky. More than that, except for the direct personal reference, I am taking the liberty of printing your letter in the next issue of our paper. It's too good a letter to be consigned to the "letter file" without the benefit of seeing the light of print.

However, there is one regrettable aspect, namely, that you will be unable to be with us at Pittsburgh. I assume that that is unavoidable. I am therefore all the more grateful to you for your assurance that you will do whatever you can to prevail on the delegates who will come from Denver to give heed and consideration to the aims and purpose of our group.

With best wishes and kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Morris Margulies

MM:RH

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Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

• 250 WEST 43RD STREET •

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

June 14, 1948

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New York, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

In order to make adequate preparations for the submission of our views to the Fifty-First Annual Z.O.A. Convention, we have decided to call a special meeting of members and friends of our group for Friday morning, July 2, 1948, at 10 o'clock.

The meeting will be held at the Hotel Henry which is around the corner from the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the Convention headquarters.

I beg you to please make every effort to be with us for, in the presentation of our plans and the working out of procedure, we are eager to have the advice and counsel of everyone associated with our group. I also appeal to you to prevail on some of your fellow delegates, who are of the same views and opinion as you, to accompany you to Pittsburgh and attend with you the Friday morning meeting.

In all likelihood, by the time this communication reaches you, you will have received a copy of our publication "Zionist Issues". It is my impression that you will be delighted with both the appearance and the contents of our paper. As many Zionists as can be reached should without delay be placed on our mailing list. I would, therefore, appreciate it if you will send me the names of Zionist friends in your as well as other cities who you feel should be added to our mailing list.

Finally, may I ask you, if you have not already notified Mr. Morris Margulies whether you have been elected a delegate and from what district, to please do so by return mail.

Keenly looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you and wishing you a pleasant journey, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles J. Rosenbloom
Charles J. Rosenbloom
Chairman

OFFICERS

SUITE 315 & 316

WISCONSIN 7-6000

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Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HOTEL DIXIE

250 WEST 43RD STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

June 11, 1948

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DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

New York, N. Y.

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

Congregation Emanu-El

East 60th Avenue

Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

In the absence of Charles J. Rosenbloom who was obliged to return to Pittsburgh, I take this opportunity to reply to your kind letter of June 8.

Permit me, at the very outset, to extend to you a most cordial welcome into our midst. It is indeed gratifying to note that we may count upon your support and cooperation.

With respect to your query about point three in the letter you received from Mr. Rosenbloom, I believe that you will find that fully covered in the letter that I wrote to S. P. Benamy, copy of which I sent you yesterday.

Awaiting your further communications and keenly looking forward to meeting you at the Pittsburgh Z.O.A. Convention, I am with kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Morris Margulies

MM:RK

June 14, 1948

Mr. Morris Margulies,
Committee For Progressive Zionism,
Hotel Dixie,
250 West 43rd Street,
New York 18, New York.

Dear Mr. Margulies:

I have your letter of June 10th, containing a copy of the communication to Mr. Benamy of Atlanta, Georgia.

May I say that I am overwhelmingly in accord with the sentiments expressed in your letter to him. I have felt for some time that a careful investigation into the present administration of the ZOA would be helpful and beneficial. The names of those on your executive committee comprise an impressive roster of loyal and devoted Jews who have given much to this cause. The fact that they are eager to help revamp policy and reshape future trends is to me a healthy sign. I would place myself squarely in accordance with the views of your Committee and will be happy to do what I can to serve on it.

As far as the question of my attendance at the Pittsburgh Convention of the ZOA, I regret to state that I will not be coming east. I will do what I can, however, to confer with the delegates from Denver and to orient them as to the background of the Committee for Progressive Zionism.

I'm happy that you have placed me on your mailing list and look forward to receiving "Zionist Issues."

With best wishes and sincerely yours, I am

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF:EW

June 8, 1948

Mr. Charles J. Rosenbloom,
Committee for Progressive Zionism,
250 West 43rd Street,
Hotel Dixie, Suite 315 & 316,
New York 18, New York.

Dear Mr. Rosenbloom:

I have just returned from out-of-town, where I have been speaking for the United Jewish Appeal, and found your letter of 27 May, inviting me to be identified with the Committee for Progressive Zionism and to serve as a member of its executive committee.

I shall be happy to accept this responsibility. I would appreciate being more completely informed about the whole program of the committee when it is formulated.

In your statement of the basic principles which animate the committee, I am particularly interested in point #3, which states that there shall be insistence upon a democratic Jewish state in Palestine in which the citizens of that state shall alone determine its policies. I feel very strongly that this must be the case, and that Zionist leaders in America must realize that the time has come when we should begin to think in terms of handing over any responsibilities which may have been ours up to this point.

Looking forward to hearing from you in greater detail, I am

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

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Committee for Progressive Zionism

WITHIN THE

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HOTEL DIXIE

• 250 WEST 43RD STREET

• NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

June 10, 1948

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
Congregation Emanu-El
East 60th Avenue
Denver, Colorado

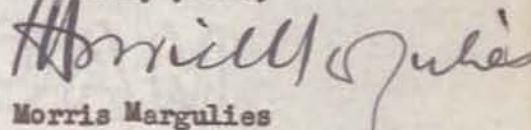
Dear Rabbi Friedman:

At the suggestion of Mr. Louis Lipsky, I am taking the liberty of sending you herewith copy of a letter I have written to S. P. Benamy of Atlanta, Georgia, which contains a fairly comprehensive statement of the aims and purposes of our Committee. We have also placed your name on the mailing list for our publication, which we are calling "Zionist Issues."

I should appreciate it very much if you would communicate with me (a) with respect to your views regarding our program and (b) as to whether you are planning to be a delegate to the Z.O.A. Pittsburgh Convention. I earnestly hope that you are.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Morris Margulies

MM:RH
Enc.

Committee for Progressive Zionism
250 West 43rd Street, R. 315
New York 18, N. Y.



October 27, 1948

From: Ezra Z. Shapiro

Herewith attached is copy of a statement written by
Mr. Margulies upon his return from Israel, which I am sure
you will find very interesting.

ISRAEL TODAY

An Eyewitness Report on Life in Israel Under War Conditions

by Morris Margulies

Member of Executive of Committee for Progressive Zionism
and Former National Secretary of the Zionist Organization
of America

War conditions were vividly recalled during my last week's stay in Israel, when the country was subjected to a complete blackout and several daytime alerts.

My most pleasant moments were the hour and a half I spent with Dr. Chaim Weizmann in his study at the Sieff Institute, Rehoboth. Dr. Weizmann's many thousands of American friends and admirers will, I am sure, be delighted to learn that the President of the Provisional Government of Israel appeared twenty years younger than when I last saw him some six or eight months ago in the United States. The stories printed in some American newspapers about his being feeble and looking very aged were based on pure conjecture.

Vibrant in health and scintillating in his expressions, Dr. Weizmann, who is the first head of a Jewish State in over two thousand years, stated clearly: "I am here to continue my work for my people. I have no intention of being just an ornament. Within the framework of the constitutional provisions I intend to exercise all the prerogatives of the office." The well-wishers of Israel, I know, will be happy to learn that Dr. Weizmann intends to bring to bear his great moral strength on the duties incumbent upon the office which he occupies. He desired that I make known to American Jewry that Israel by itself will be unable to carry the great burden of moving 125,000 to 150,000 immigrants a year into Israel, settling them on the land and integrating them into the economy of the country.

I have some idea of what is involved in this almost superhuman task. I was in Haifa when a boat load of DP's arrived. I followed them through their examination by a corps of doctors who picked out the ill and ailing, sending them to

hospitals or to recuperating centers. The children are sent to children's homes. The rest go to the reception center where they are kept for a couple of weeks. Those who have some trade are then provided with jobs; the others go to farms and factories. The quick process of integration is fantastic. Unless one sees it with his own eyes, it is impossible to believe how efficiently the process of absorption is carried out. But all this involves money, and aside from the fact that the State of Israel has just been born, it is now passing through the cauldron of war, a war that is a struggle of life and death. The sinews of war thus far have come entirely from the small young nation of Israel. In order that the burden of keeping up a steady flow of 12,000 and more a month of immigrants does not overwhelm the new State, American Jewry must help and must help quickly.

As Dr. Weizmann pointed out to me: "I hope American Jews will understand this great historical moment and unlike twenty years ago, when I appealed to them without much success, will this time not let us down." Dr. Weizmann seemed keenly disappointed at the failure of our government to make good the two promises given him by President Truman, namely, de jure recognition and a loan of one hundred million dollars. "I am afraid," said Dr. Weizmann, "that your State Department is too much under the influence of the British Foreign Office. That is regrettable, particularly in view of the present British shortsightedness."

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*

Israel is a small country, so although I only spent some twenty-four days there, I was able to see practically all of it. This was made possible through the courtesy of Brigadier General Jacob Dori, head of the Armed Forces. General Dori, on learning of my arrival in Israel, invited me to have dinner with him at his headquarters, and to my pleasant surprise I found that another dinner guest was Mr. David Ben Gurion, who in addition to being Premier is also Defense Minister. Right now he is also serving as Acting Foreign Minister while Moshe Shertok is in Paris, attending the meetings of the United Nations. Not-

withstanding his duties as premier and acting foreign secretary, Mr. Ben Gurion spends eight hours daily at his desk at Army headquarters. Defense of the country has first claim on his time and energy, he told me. The army is probably the most unique military organization in the world. I was tremendously interested in the fact that quite a number came as volunteers from overseas. They have come from every country where there is a Jewish community of any size.

They can be said to have no uniform, unless a khaki shirt and a pair of shoes can be called a uniform. They remind you of the soldiers who fought with Washington. It is not training or regimentation that counts here. Spirit dominates every action. An officer in the Army of Israel is one by virtue of his personality and not because of the braid or brass he wears. The highest ranking officer is Brigadier General Dori. They have no divisions in Israel. A brigade constitutes the largest unit and is commanded by either a lieutenant colonel or a colonel.

One of the most colorful figures is a friend of mine from Canada, who served as a Colonel with the Canadians in the last war. He occupies the same position in the Israeli Army as commander of a brigade. His unit includes a fairly powerful armored battalion. Because of the effective way in which he utilized this battalion he has come to be known as the "General Patton of the Army of Israel." I visited the headquarters of the battalion. In addition to armored cars and other military vehicles they have quite a respectable contingent of tanks. It is obvious that the exact figures cannot be revealed, but I can tell you that every one of the tanks was captured from either the Syrians, in which case the tanks are of French make, or from the Transjordan Legion and Egyptian troops, these tanks being of British make. There are also a few American-made tanks that probably came into this war via lend-lease to the British. The commander of the armored battalion is a Jewish major who was born and brought up in Kenya and served for seven years with the British Army. While on furlough from India,

where he was stationed with the British troops, he visited Palestine. He became so enamoured of the country and its people that he resigned his British commission, joined the Israeli Forces and has to his credit many victories on the field of battle.

A day or two before I left for Israel I read in some of our newspapers a story to the effect that Russian officers were aiding the Israeli Army. I asked General Dori point blank how many Russian officers were in the Israeli Forces. He was shocked to hear the question. Then very deliberately he told me that there is not a single Russian officer among his forces. This, the General added, must be another bit of British propaganda. The commanders of all brigades are Jews; in fact, with the exception of the Canadian referred to above, they are Palestinian Jews. We have a few non-Jewish officers. They are of two nationalities, French and British. These are captains and two/majors. When I appeared surprised that there were a number of non-Jewish British officers, General Dori reminded me that the famous Palmach (the Striking Force) was organized and trained by the never-to-be-forgotten Orde Wingate, who when he was in Palestine was a captain in the British Army and during the war rose to be a General. All Britishers, General Dori observed, should not be compared with Bevin and the spiritual pigmies who now constitute the British Government. There have also been Wingates and Balfours and Cecil and others.

The saddest spot right now in Israel is Jerusalem. During my brief visit to the Holy City there was constant rifle and machine gun fighting going on. You see people walking along at a normal gait, then suddenly sprinting around a corner, resuming their normal gait after they've turned it. At first I could not understand this peculiar behavior, but came to understand it soon enough when I reached one of these spots and was greeted by a burst of rifle shots. Jerusalemites have been living under these conditions since December. When I discussed the Jerusalem situation with the secretary of the Jewish Agency, he sadly ob-

served: "For months we had no water, no bread, no light, no petrol --, all we had were shells. Now, although we still lack a sufficiency of water, at least, thank God, we no longer starve. Food has been reaching us ever since your great General Marcus built our 'Burma Road'." Like the people of Malta, the Jerusalemites ought to receive a decoration and each resident should be permitted to wear some sort of symbol signifying that he was one of those who lived through the siege to which the Jews of the Holy City have been subjected.

A similarity that can be observed between Israel and our country is Israel's dedication to the democratic processes. In 1944, during the war, we conducted a national election. Israel is at present making preparations for its national election, scheduled to be held towards the end of December.

I was particularly interested in the new Progressive Party to whose founding convention held on October 10th in the Habimah Theatre of Tel Aviv I was invited and which I attended. This new party is dedicated to the principle of serving the nation and the country primarily, party alignment being of secondary consideration. As I watched the delegates present I was conscious of the excellent cross-section they represented. Among those present were important industrialists, merchants, leading professional men and delegates from unions and agricultural settlements. In my opinion, that party is destined to meet with success, for being left of center it will serve as a unifying force, preventing dominance by either the extreme right or the extreme left. Its program is based on the precepts of the ancient Hebrew prophets and the principles enunciated by Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism.