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American Jewish Conference, 1947-1948.

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue Phone MUrray Hill 2-7197 New York 17, N. Y.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE
1706 G STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 1, D. C.
PHONE REPUBLIC 0883

February 5, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver,

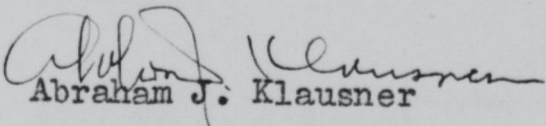
In a few hours I shall return to Germany and there lend a bit of effort towards the alleviation of our seemingly never ending sufferings.

It is my hope that during the next months I shall be able to participate in the mass exodus of the Jews from Germany. Anxiously the people await the results of the present conferences and most anxiously they await that word from their leaders which will once and for all instruct them as to the means by which they can at long last find home and peace.

I shall take the liberty of writing to you from time to time depicting the nature of our ever changing problem. I shall likewise call upon you for aid and advice. More than that, I will ask of you, as I now ask of you, to arrange to visit the Jews now in Germany. If at all possible, please consider attending the Conference of Liberated Jews in Germany on the 25th of February at Bad Reichenhall, Germany.

With many good wishes, I am

Cordially,


Abraham J. Klausner

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

COPY

REFORM CONGREGATION KENESETH ISRAEL
1717 NORTH BROAD STREET
PHILADELPHIA

October the Eighth
19 47

Dear Harry:

Thanks for sending me the material that Eisendrath sent you about the "Plan for a Permanent Organization of the American Jewish Conference."

I have read it through carefully, and I am absolutely and unswervingly opposed to it. If this is set up as indicated in the program, it means that we shall have a Jewish Congress established here in the United States with all the disadvantages that come from such an organization.

In the first place, we already have two organizations that are supposed to protect Jewish rights here in this country: they are the American Jewish Committee and the B'nai B'rith. I believe that recently the so-called Jewish Congress has affiliated itself with these two. I understand that they don't work together very well, but at any rate it's a better organization.

Under the heading "a", this organization "proposes to act for American Jewry in all representations before the United States Government and its departments, intergovernmental agencies and the United Nations, and in all public relations connected therewith." That's only another way of saying that the Jewish people of America constitute a well-organized national minority. Since I do not belong to the Jewish nation, and neither do you, naturally I would be opposed to any such institution.

Under the heading "b", it proposes to represent the Jewish people in regard to Palestine, and it proposes to cooperate with the Jewish Agency for Palestine. If the Zionists ever get a State of their own, then this organization is certainly a treasonable organization, because as American citizens we have no business to set up any group that purposes to cooperate with the Jewish Agency for Palestine which, if it continues to exist, will be the representative of this little Jewish State in Palestine. You can see that I could not subscribe to any such stupid and treasonable arrangement.

So far as "c" and "d" are concerned, I don't see how the American Jewish Congress can be of the slightest value since they say very specifically that they act through recognized Jewish agencies, both in relief and rehabilitation. Now we have the Allied Jewish Appeal which does just that, so what's the use of having an American Jewish Congress established to do that same thing?

Of course, the whole thing is merely a device whereby a few men, practically all of them are either Zionists or concealed Zionists, will control the Jewish policy of the United States of America. Since I am an American citizen and a member of the Jewish faith, I have no need for any such organization, and consequently I would be opposed to it.

With kindest regards,

Cordially,

(signed) W. H. Fineshriber

C
O
P
Y

STRASSBURGER and MCKENNA
LAW OFFICES
26th Floor -Grant Bldg.
Pittsburgh, 19, Pa.

October 13, 1947

Jacob Aronson, Chairman
Executive Board
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
3 East 65th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Aronson:

At the meeting of the Board of the Union to be held on October 25th and 26th, the matter of the permanent organization of the American Jewish Conference will be discussed.

I have been debating the matter by mail with Rabbi Eisendrath. I do not agree with the report of the Committee, of which he is Chairman, and have so told him.

While the war was on and an emergency existed, I was strong for the Union remaining in the Conference. In fact, I introduced the resolution to that effect at the Biennial.

I now see no further reason for its existence. Particularly as in three of the four fields in which it proposes to function existing organizations are now functioning. As to the fourth field I would not want to be tied in with the group that is in control of the American Jewish Conference. I am a delegate to the American Jewish Conference and am familiar with the bloc system and know how the Conference is run.

Whatever we do, the delegates to the Conference will probably vote for the continuation of the organization. However, the Union should take the proper attitude.

I would like to have your reaction to the matter.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Eugene B. Strassburger

EBS/HU

October 15, 1947

Mr. Harry I. Stern
Stern's
Market at Seventh
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

Dear Harry:

Thank you so very much for forwarding me the letter from Dr. Fineshriber, which I want to answer in some detail, and which I leave to your own good judgement as to whether you desire to share it with Dr. Fineshriber or not.

In the first place, may I say that I am amazed at the intemperate nature of Dr. Fineshriber's reaction to the plan for future organization. While there is no doubt that the plan will be criticized in many quarters, and while it is admitted by all those who have worked for more than a year in its creation, that it has many shortcomings, nonetheless, I have yet to find anyone who has so misinterpreted its fundamental aim and purpose as has Dr. Fineshriber. Even Judge Proskauer, President of the American Jewish Committee, while indicating certain fallacies from his point of view in the plan as now presented, nonetheless wrote in LIBERAL JUDAISM of August, 1946, that "a permanent American Jewish Conference is highly desirable." Even Dr. David Philipson, as far back as 1903, sought to establish an "American Jewish Congress", which for some strange reason fills Dr. Fineshriber with such grave anxiety.

Dr. Fineshriber makes an altogether unjustified deduction to the effect that such an organization will give evidence "that the Jewish people of America constitute a well organized national minority." This would be true if Dr. Fineshriber would omit the single but mischievous and unwarranted adjective, "national." To be sure, it is the aim of the Committee on Future Organization to establish in America a well organized minority instead of having as at present a miserably disorganized and anarchic minority group such as we Jews constitute. This has nothing whatsoever to do with nationalism nor with composing a "Jewish nation." Would Dr. Fineshriber state that the Board of Jewish Deputies in Great Britain, which functions precisely in the manner in which the Future Organization is envisaged, constitute "the Jewish nation", and that therefore the Liberal Synagogue of London, Dr. Israel Mattuck, its rabbi, and Miss Lily Montagu, its leading spirit, confess that they belong to the Jewish nation, inasmuch as they are constituent parts of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. All that this plan proposes is to bring some sort of order out of the present chaotic competition of vying organizations, so that in unity we may find that strength so necessary at this critical hour.

As for Dr. Fineshriber's far-fetched designation of any attempt to cooperate

Mr. Harry I. Stern
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October 15, 1947

with the Jewish Agency as "treasonable", I can assure you that such loosely-flung allegations of treason cannot but be bitterly resented by anyone who might perchance see or hear such a charge, even as I assure you, I resent such an accusation myself. Again, I would mention Judge Proscauer and the entire American Jewish Committee who according to Dr. Fineshriber are guilty of nothing short of treasonable action in view of the fact that throughout the past several months crucial negotiation by Judge Proscauer, Mr. Elaustein and the entire American Jewish Committee has been cooperating very closely with the Jewish Agency for Palestine for the attainment of the very end which the United Nations Committee on Palestine now recommends. The same charge of treason will have to be leveled ~~against~~ the Joint Distribution Committee and its leaders, Edward Warburg, Henry Morgenthau, etc., who day by day are cooperating with the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Incidentally, in the offices of the American Jewish Conference.

a
Dr. Fineshriber's allegation that "the whole thing is merely a device whereby a few men will control the Jewish policy of the United States of America" is the very opposite of what he has anticipated. The fact of the matter is that throughout the past, it has been a few self selected individuals who have endeavored by back door diplomacy to whisper into the ear of the President or the State Department precisely what they believe, whether rightly or wrongly, to be the will of American Jewry as a whole. What is now proposed is a democratically constituted organization whereby all the Jewish organizations on the national scene as well as duly elected representatives of several hundred American Jewish communities will be given the opportunity of expressing what is in reality the will of the majority of American Jews. To be sure, those "few men" who have heretofore really sought to "control the Jewish policy of the United States of America" are apprehensive about such democratic procedure, which would bring to effect the very opposite of what Dr. Fineshriber alleges.

Finally, those of us who are third generation American citizens are growing somewhat weary of the insinuation that certain of our fellow Jews have a monopoly on American citizenship and its responsibilities. I believe in the possibilities and necessity of the kind of organization which the Committee of which I happen to be Chairman recommends. I resent any allegation whatsoever that this diminishes in the slightest my American citizenship. As a matter of fact, I believe that it is just because I am an American and likewise a Jew that I am not terrorized by the prospect of creating a far more democratic organization than has thus far functioned in the American Jewish scene. I cannot understand those who make a distinction between democratic procedures in American life and those who resist it in the Jewish community.

Perhaps we may be able to discuss this at greater length when I see you in Philadelphia, and possibly ~~when~~ might draw from Fineshriber likewise into such a discussion. In the meantime, as I stated above, I leave it to your own judgment as to whether, in view particularly of the program that we are seeking to

Mr. Harry Stern
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October 15, 1947

forward in Philadelphia, you desire to show this letter to Dr. Fineshriber.

With warmest greetings, I am

Yours most cordially,

Maurice N. Eisendrath



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

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I. L. KENEN
Executive Secretary

October 20, 1947

Miss Bessie Kline
Secretary to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Miss Kline:

I am sending you, under separate cover, the cut which appeared on the cover of the October issue of the Conference "Record". This was a composite made by us of two separate photographs. If you use it, I would appreciate your giving credit to the Conference "Record". You need not use, in publication, the Keystone picture credit line, since Keystone actually had no such photograph.

Please return the cut when you have finished with it.

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Gilman

Sylvia Gilman, Editor
Conference "Record"

SG:lf

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

American Association for Jewish Education	Masada
American Federation of Jews from Central Europe	Mizrachi Organization of America
American Federation for Polish Jews	Mizrachi Women's Organization of America
American Jewish Congress	National Association of Jewish Center Workers
American Jewish Congress—Women's Division	National Council for Jewish Education
American Jewish Labor Council	National Council of Jewish Women
Bessarabian Federation of American Jews, Inc.	National Council of Jewish Juniors
B'nai B'rith	National Council of Young Israel
B'nai B'rith, Women's Supreme Council	National Federation of Hebrew Teachers
B'nai B'rith Youth Organization	National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs
Bnai Zion	of the United Synagogue of America
Central Conference of American Rabbis	National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods
Council of Jewish Fraternal Federations	National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
Federation of Palestine Jews	National Federation of Temple Youth
Free Sons of Israel	National Women's League
Habonim, Labor Zionist Youth	of the United Synagogue of America
Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America	Pioneer Women's Organization of America
Hapoel Hamizrachi of America	Progressive Order of the West
Hashomer Hadati	Rabbinical Assembly of America
Hashomer Hatzair	Rabbinical Council of America
Hillel Foundation	Union of American Hebrew Congregations
Histadruth Ivrit	Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
Independent Order Brith Abraham	Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America—
Independent Order Brith Sholom	Women's Branch
Independent Order Brith Sholom of Baltimore	Union of Sephardic Congregations
Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of America	United Galician Jews of America
Jewish National Workers Alliance	United Roumanian Jews of America
Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the IWO	United Synagogue of America
Jewish War Veterans of the United States	Yiddish P.E.N. Club
Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary	Yiddish Writers Union
Junior Hadassah	Young People's League of the United Synagogue of America
Junior Mizrachi Women's Organization of America	Zionist Organization of America
Labor Zionist Organization of America—Poale Zion	

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

October 21, 1947

PERSONAL

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Jewish Agency for Palestine
16 East 66th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Silver:

The responsibility rests largely upon me to bring the American Jewish Conference to its Fourth and Final Session, where the report of Dr. Eisendrath on future organization is to be submitted and either ratified or rejected. Whatever happens, the Conference will have to come to Chicago prepared to turn over its affairs to a Winding-up Committee or to a Provisional Committee authorized to bring into being the New Body, organize the elections, fix a date for the first assembly, etc.

Thus far, we are plowing through all financial difficulties with fair success. We suffer a lack of funds to carry on an adequate educational campaign favorable to the adoption of the scheme for a permanent organization. There are organized forces at work against the scheme.

Such funds for an educational campaign are not available. The Conference itself, under its mandate, does not feel authorized to make the effort required for a nation-wide campaign. In fact, Henry Monsky was of the opinion that the Conference should under no circumstance pressure the communities or the national organizations, but leave the decision on the permanent organization to the free consent of all parties concerned. I am helpless, therefore, in this connection in the face of the prevailing sentiment within the executive bodies of the Conference.

But to come to Chicago without sufficient funds honorably to wind up its affairs would be a public scandal. This would reflect specifically on the organized Zionist movement. It is an historical fact that the Conference was inspired by Zionists and organized primarily to serve Zionist interests at a critical time. In fact, the non-Zionist groups charge us with having been created only for such purposes, although we have done good work in other fields of Jewish interest. That we have given substantial help to the Zionist effort, you know well.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

October 21, 1947

In my view, the Zionist movement cannot afford to allow the American Jewish Conference to wind up its affairs with a financial problem disturbing the act of disappearance, which may take place in the midst of crucial discussions in the United Nations.

The amount we require to carry on our affairs to the end of December and wind up our work with a clean slate would be not more than \$50,000.

I suggest that it will be proper for the Jewish Agency, in the larger interests of the cause and for the sake of the Zionist position in the American Jewish community, to make a contribution of \$50,000 for this purpose. The American Jewish Conference has cost the Zionist organizations very little. It has cost the B'nai B'rith more. Actually all the Zionists put together have not contributed their equitable share of the budgets of the Conference during the past four years.

Should the decision at Chicago be in favor of establishing a new permanent body, it will not be difficult to get the funds for the organization of that body, but the path of the New Body should not be embarrassed by a leftover deficit of the Conference.

In my considered judgment the question still remains whether the New Body will receive that kind of support from organized American Jewry as will justify its creation. But that is another matter which should interest American Zionists, who have not yet taken any public position on this issue.

I appeal to you to give this matter your serious and prompt consideration. I would hate to have the free discussion of the issue involved here disturbed by a question of funds, especially as not a large amount of money is involved.

It might be worthwhile to have a discussion about this whole question at your earliest convenience.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Neumann and Shertok.

Very cordially yours,

Louis Lipsky

LL:RR

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

PLAN FOR A PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. An organization, democratic in structure and representative of the American Jewish community, shall be established to secure and protect Jewish rights and to promote the general welfare of the Jewish people, here and abroad; and to enhance the contribution of the Jewish community to American democracy.

a. In the field of international affairs, the organization shall act for American Jewry in all representations before the United States Government and its departments, intergovernmental agencies and the United Nations, and in all public relations connected therewith. The organization shall endeavor to cooperate with the organized Jewish communities of other countries and with such international Jewish agencies as are or may be established.

b. In all matters affecting the rights and status of the Jewish people with regard to Palestine and its upbuilding, the organization shall endeavor to cooperate with the Jewish Agency for Palestine and may request organizations and agencies engaged in activities in this field in the United States to submit reports periodically.

c. In the defense of Jewish rights in the United States and in opposing all anti-democratic forces and tendencies in American life and in combatting anti-Semitism in all its forms, the organization shall act through recognized Jewish agencies, affiliated with the organization, operating in these fields, without affecting their autonomy, it being understood that such agencies shall be invited to report to the organization periodically in order that the organization may be in a position to consider their policies and work, and recommend proposals to promote their objectives.

d. In the field of overseas relief and rehabilitation, the organization shall act through recognized Jewish agencies, affiliated with the organization, operating in these fields, without affecting their autonomy, it being understood that such agencies shall be invited to report to the organization periodically in order that the organization may be in a position to consider their policies and work, and recommend proposals to promote their objectives.

II. STRUCTURE

1. The organization shall be governed by a National Council which will decide its policies and elect an executive body to conduct its affairs.

2. The National Council shall meet biennially at a time and place to be fixed by its executive body; and provision shall be made for special sessions of the National Council at the call of the executive body.

3. The National Council shall consist of not more than 750 delegates to be elected biennially in accordance with the rules of election approved by the Council. The election shall be supervised by a National Board of Elections to be named by the executive body.

4. The delegates shall be elected as follows:

a. 150 to be elected by recognized national organizations on a basis of parity; that is, these organizations shall be divided into categories, the members of which shall have equal representation;

b. 100 to be elected from the City of New York;

c. The remainder to be elected by communities on the following basis:

All communities with a Jewish population of 1,000 or more shall elect one delegate for the first 1,000, an additional delegate for the next 7,500 or major fraction thereof, and additional delegates for each 15,000 or major fraction thereof.

d. States where there are no communities having 1,000 Jewish residents shall be deemed to be regions which are entitled to one delegate each.

5. The National Board of Elections shall have authority to designate to serve as the local elections committee to supervise the election of delegates, either the representative body of the local community or, if there is no such central representative body in a position to act, or where no such body can be organized, an ad hoc committee to be appointed after consultation with representatives of the local community.

III. REPRESENTATION

1. The National Board of Elections shall formulate rules to ensure a democratic system of representation. The rules in effect at the First Session of the American Jewish Conference shall govern the elections for delegates to the new body, with the exception that:

a. The system of cumulative voting shall be discontinued.

b. The definition of national membership organizations or local membership groups shall be amended to include national and local membership groups devoted to Jewish philanthropy, but a special rule shall be adopted governing the number of representatives such organizations shall be permitted in the community elections.

c. All electors shall be elected at meetings of their organizations called for the purpose.

2. The National Board of Elections shall have continuously under review methods of election in all parts of the country in order to perfect the most democratic and practical electoral procedures. In view of the fact that direct elections have been urged as conducive to democratization, the National Board of Elections is authorized to study the question and to experiment in this form of elections in any communities with a Jewish population of 5,000 or less, where the local nominations committee, by a majority vote, shall express its desire for direct elections.

IV. PROCEDURE

The decisions of the National Council shall be deemed the views of the body as a whole but shall not be regarded as representative of the views of all affiliated organizations unless such organizations have ratified the action.

V. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the constitution of the new organization may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates at a meeting of the National Council; except that amendments to Article I, Purpose and Scope, shall require a two-thirds vote of the delegates of the national organizations and a two-thirds vote of the delegates representing the communities.

Excerpt from letter of James G. Heller- Cincinnati, Ohio.
dated October 28, 1947

Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath
3 E. 65th St. New York.

....." I hate to disagree with anything in which
you believe, but I rather fear that my conscience is
not going to permit me to remain silent when the Executive
Board discusses its attitude toward the proposal to form
a new American Jewish Conference. At least we ought to get
together and talk about it."

- - - - (signed) Jim
James G. Heller

C O P Y

GREENMAN, SHEA, LANE & SANDOMIRE
46 Cedar Street
New York 5, N.Y.

October 28, 1947

Mr. Jacob Aronson
Chairman of the Board
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
466 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Jake:

When the Executive Board meets in New York, I understand one of the items on the agenda will be the relations of the Union and the American Jewish Conference.

I have a very keen recollection of the debate at our biennial when our relations with the Conference were involved, but at this time we are about to embark on a permanent relationship and we feel that we are entitled to go into all phases of the question and to see whether our best interests would be served by so permanent and so complete a tie-up.

I have been informed that Judge Proskauer will be in New York during the week-end while we are meeting. He has some pretty strong views on the relationship of organizations like ours and the American Jewish Conference. I think it would be very valuable to all the members of the Board to hear his views, and I, therefore, suggest that he be invited to attend that part of the meeting which relates to the American Jewish Conference and to present his views. I believe he would be willing to come if the invitation is extended.

In suggesting that he be invited, I am giving no indication of what my own views would be after hearing all sides of the question. I believe, however, before we undertake something which may give us some trouble in the future, we ought to stop, look and listen.

With best wishes as always,

Sincerely yours,

((Signed) Fred

Frederick F. Greenman

C O P Y

1616 Union Central Bldg.
Cincinnati 2, Ohio.

November 1, 1947

Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath
President,
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
3 East 65th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Maurice:

I have been hoping to see you for the last two or three weeks to tell you how I felt about the coming meeting of the American Jewish Conference. I am entirely out of sympathy with the program. I do not think that you can superimpose an agency of this kind over all the agencies that now exist in the United States. If anything like that is to happen, it must come up from the bottom and not be superimposed. If cities succeed in establishing community councils, about which there is some question, then a national association of those community councils could possibly perform what the American Jewish Conference is considering.

I am also strongly opposed to the Union's remaining in the Conference if the suggested program is adopted and expect so to express myself at the Executive Board meeting in New York.

Not because of the above views, but due to fortuitous circumstances which are beyond my control, it will be impossible for me to attend the session of the Conference in Chicago in November. An important business deal has come up recently which requires my personal attention and will have to be closed in New York either on November 28 or on December 1. I have no control over the matter and I am unable to change the dates. Either date of closing will require my presence in New York over that week-end. I must therefore ask you to excuse me from participating in the Conference as a representative of the Union.

I am leaving for New York this Sunday night and will be there for the first part of next week. I shall be staying at the Hotel Madison (Volunteer 5-5000). If you are in New York, I wish you would call me on Monday morning, November 3, and perhaps we can get together for an hour or so to talk this thing over. I had hoped to see you there last week but understand that you went West from Cincinnati.

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly

(Signed) Bob Goldman

rpg/np

44-1-60

UNION OF AMERICAN

HEBREW CONGREGATIONS , RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH, PRESIDENT

New York Office: 3 EAST 65TH STREET, NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

November 4, 1947

Dr. Abba H. Silver
Tifereth Israel Temple
19810 Shaker Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friend:

Although I know just how busy the Palestine situation has been keeping you during these crucial days, I am nonetheless waiting impatiently to hear from you as to just when there may be some possibility of our getting together at least for an hour. I believe that if you have the time to read the attached correspondence you will agree with me that it is imperative that I sit down with you for a little while to discuss the entire question of the future organization of the American Jewish Conference in the light of what appears to be some formidable opposition which is once again -- just as previously -- developing within the Union and without doubt for precisely the same reasons as heretofore obtained.

The correspondence between myself and Mr. Harry Stern, President of the Keneseth Israel Congregation in Philadelphia, and member of our Union Executive Board, is not nearly as significant as the other enclosures. We both know that Dr. Fineshriber is an extremist, and the arguments which he advances are of no validity, but it does represent a viewpoint which may be reflected on the part of a small minority within the Executive Board.

On the other hand, the letters from Bob Goldman, former President of the UAC, and from Fred Greenman, one of our National Vice Presidents, are of greater importance and indicate a trend which somehow must be met. Mr. Aronson also had a letter from Mr. Strassburger of Pittsburgh, likewise a Vice President of the Union, (copy of which is enclosed) which is in a vein similar to the above.

At the other end of the scale there is Jim Heller, who, while seeming to agree in principle with an overall organization, is inexorably opposed to our present plan in view of the fact that it includes the National Jewish agencies.

November 4, 1947

I would not be at all apprehensive about the situation if it were being placed before the Biennial Council where such leaders as yourself would be of far-reaching influence. However, I am concerned as to the Executive Board which still has a great deal of material on it that has been an inheritance from the past and which has not as yet caught up with what the last Biennial indicated to be the temper and will of the great majority of our constituency.

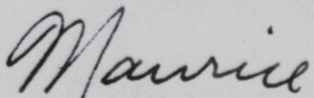
What I believe will be the most strategic procedure would be to evolve some kind of formula which will avoid definitive action on the part of the Executive Board but authorize us to continue to cooperate with the American Jewish Conference or its successor until the matter is placed before the Biennial Council which meets in November, 1948.

Inasmuch as you have always been most helpful in your counsel and constructive recommendations in such critical situations, I would appreciate it deeply if you could let me know at your earliest convenience as to just when you may be in New York prior to the Union Executive Board meeting scheduled for November 22nd - 23rd.

If there is no possibility whatsoever of your getting to New York prior to the above named date, I will have to try to arrange to come to Cleveland to see you, but in view of my own present itinerary, this will be quite difficult. Consequently, if you do plan to be in New York any time soon, please do everything in your power to spare me an hour or so and let me know just as soon as possible when this may be.

With warmest personal greetings, I am

Yours most cordially,



Maurice N. Eisendrath

mne/em
encl.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Phone MUrray Hill 2-7197

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Interim Committee
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
Honorary Chairman

HENRY MONSKY
Chairman

November 18, 1947

JACOB ALSON
DR. MOSES BARRON
RABBI PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN
MAURICE BISGYER
MAX BRESSLER
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
HARRY M. EHRLICH
DR. MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
JANE EVANS
DR. SIMON FEDERBUSCH
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
HAROLD O. N. FRANKEL
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
DANIEL FRISCH
LEON GELLMAN
FRANK GOLDMAN
DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN
DR. ROBERT GORDIS
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN
MRS. BARNETT E. KOPELMAN
MAX A. KOPSTEIN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
ISRAEL KRAMER
DR. A. LEON KUBOWITZKI
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM
JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL
LOUIS LIPSKY
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
RABBI IRVING MILLER
DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN
DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN
MRS. ABRAM ORLOW
JUDGE NATHAN D. PERLMAN
HARRY A. PINE
RABBI W. GUNTHER PLAUT
MRS. LOUIS A. ROSETT
DVORAH ROTHBARD
JUDGE MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
RUBIN SALTZMAN
BENJAMIN SAMUELS
LOUIS SEGAL
MRS. MONROE SELIGMAN
EZRA Z. SHAPIRO
RABBI JOSEPH S. SHUBOW
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
EDWARD S. SILVER
SIMON E. SOBELOFF
ALEX F. STANTON
HERMANN STERN
THEODORE STRIMLING
ROBERT SZOLD
RALPH WECHSLER
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT
DAVID WERTHEIM
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE

Executive Committee
LOUIS LIPSKY
Chairman

JACOB ALSON
MAX BRESSLER
AARON DROOCK
HARRY M. EHRLICH
DR. MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
JANE EVANS
DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN
DR. A. LEON KUBOWITZKI
JACOB MARRUS
RABBI IRVING MILLER
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
ALEX F. STANTON
HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD

I. L. KENEN
Executive Secretary

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Jewish Agency for Palestine
16 East 66th Street
New York City

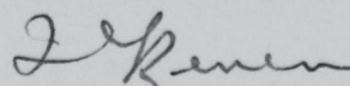
Dear Dr. Silver:

Confirming our telephone conversation, the
Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference
voted to invite you to address the opening Session of
the American Jewish Conference on Saturday, November 29th,
at the Chicago Civic Opera House.

We would naturally expect you to talk about the
Palestine situation and into the speech you might weave
some reference to the part which the future organization
would play in helping the infant Jewish state grow to
manhood.

You might also want to use this as an occasion to
go back to the Commonwealth Resolution of 1943 and its
implementation.

Sincerely yours,



I. L. Kenen

ILK:LF

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

American Association for Jewish Education	Masada
American Federation of Jews from Central Europe	Mizrachi Organization of America
American Federation for Polish Jews	Mizrachi Women's Organization of America
American Jewish Congress	National Association of Jewish Center Workers
American Jewish Congress—Women's Division	National Council for Jewish Education
American Jewish Labor Council	National Council of Jewish Women
Bessarabian Federation of American Jews, Inc.	National Council of Jewish Juniors
B'nai B'rith	National Council of Young Israel
B'nai B'rith, Women's Supreme Council	National Federation of Hebrew Teachers
B'nai B'rith Youth Organization	National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs
Bnai Zion	of the United Synagogue of America
Central Conference of American Rabbis	National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods
Council of Jewish Fraternal Federations	National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
Federation of Palestine Jews	National Federation of Temple Youth
Free Sons of Israel	National Women's League
Habonim, Labor Zionist Youth	of the United Synagogue of America
Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America	Pioneer Women's Organization of America
Hapoel Hamizrachi of America	Progressive Order of the West
Hashomer Hadati	Rabbinical Assembly of America
Hashomer Hatzair	Rabbinical Council of America
Hillel Foundation	Union of American Hebrew Congregations
Histadruth Ivrit	Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
Independent Order Brith Abraham	Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America—
Independent Order Brith Sholom	Women's Branch
Independent Order Brith Sholom of Baltimore	Union of Sephardic Congregations
Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of America	United Galician Jews of America
Jewish National Workers Alliance	United Roumanian Jews of America
Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the IWO	United Synagogue of America
Jewish War Veterans of the United States	Yiddish P.E.N. Club
Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary	Yiddish Writers Union
Junior Hadassah	Young People's League of the United Synagogue of America
Junior Mizrachi Women's Organization of America	Zionist Organization of America
Labor Zionist Organization of America—Poale Zion	

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Monday, December 29, 1947

XX

Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City

The meeting opened at 10:50 a.m. with Louis Lipsky, chairman of the Executive Committee, presiding.

Those present were: Jacob Alson, Joseph R. Apfel, Samuel E. Aronowitz, Joseph F. Barr, Fred S. Harris and Dr. David S. Block (alternates for Col. Julius Klein), Rabbi William Drazin (alternate for Rabbi Uri Miller), Mrs. Elsie Elfenbein (alternate for Mrs. Joseph Welt), Jane Evans, Dr. Simon Federbusch, Dr. A. J. Feldman, Daniel Frisch, William M. Gerber, Arthur Gilbert, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Israel Goldstein, Lester Gutterman (alternate for Mr. Sidney G. Kusworm), Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Joseph Hamerman, Max A. Kopstein, Israel Kramer, Abraham Krumbein (alternate for Herman Weisman), Jacob Marrus, Rabbi Irving Miller, Dr. Samuel Nirenstein, Mrs. Abram Orlow, Mrs. Nathan D. Perlman (alternate for Mrs. Halprin in a.m.), Rabbi Gunther Plaut, Samuel Rothstein, George Sandler (alternate for Rubin Saltzman), Rabbi Sylvan Schwartzman (alternate for Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath), Louis Segal, Edward S. Silver, Alex F. Stanton, Hermann Stern, Mrs. Rachel Vixman (alternate for Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman). Staff: I.L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Dr. Maurice Halperin, Ann Jarcho, A. Liverhant.

I. COMPOSITION OF INTERIM COMMITTEE

The secretary stated that the Fourth Session had authorized the continuance of the existing Interim Committee, allowing the various groups, however, to make substitutions. He read the roster of the new Interim Committee: Jacob Alson, Joseph R. Apfel, Samuel E. Aronowitz, Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Maurice Bisgyer, Max Bressler, Aaron Droock, Harry M. Ehrlich, Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Jane Evans, Dr. Simon Federbusch, Dr. Abraham J. Feldman, Professor Hayim Fineman, Harold O. N. Frankel, Daniel Frisch, William M. Gerber, Arthur Gilbert, Frank Goldman, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Lionel Golub, Dr. Robert Gordis, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Joseph Hamerman, Col. Julius Klein, Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman, Max A. Kopstein, Israel Kramer, Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Sidney G. Kusworm, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Louis Lipsky, Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Jacob Marrus, Mortimer May, Rabbi Irving Miller, Rabbi Uri Miller, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Dr. Samuel Nirenstein, Mrs. Abram Orlow, Judge Nathan D. Perlman, Harry A. Pine, Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, Mrs. David deSola Pool, Mrs. Louis A. Rosett, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Samuel Rothstein, Rubin Saltzman, Benjamin Samuels, Louis Segal, Rabbi Joseph S. Shubow, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Edward S. Silver, Simon E. Sobeloff, Alex F. Stanton, Hermann Stern, Theodore Strimling, Ralph Wechsler, Herman L. Weisman, Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, David Wertheim, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Baruch Zuckerman.

It was pointed out that the list, as read, included members coopted by the previous Interim Committee, and that some of them had indicated their desire to withdraw. A review of the cooptions was therefore necessary.

MOTION: A motion that the list, as read, be approved and the matter of cooptions be referred to the Executive Committee was CARRIED.

MOTION: A further motion that the Executive Committee be authorized to consider cooptions to the Interim Committee and that it bring its recommendations to the next meeting of the Interim Committee was CARRIED.

A suggestion by Mr. Barr that the Executive Committee be instructed to consider the cooption of persons representing the point of view of Jewish war veterans was referred to the Executive Committee without comment.

II. APPOINTMENT OF BUDGET AND ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Messrs. Gutterman, Marrus, Rothstein and Miss Evans were appointed to a Budget and Allocations Committee, authorized to consider assessed quotas of affiliated national organizations and methods of expediting collection thereof, and to report their findings to the afternoon session of the Interim Committee.

III. DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS REFERRED BY FOURTH SESSION

The following sentences, part of the report of the Committee on Organization of the Fourth Session, were considered:

"The Call for the election of delegates issued by the Interim Committee shall include the plan for the permanent organization as approved by this Session of the Conference."

"The basic principles and plan as adopted by the Fourth Session of the Conference shall be incorporated in the Constitution of the new body."

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Apfel that the foregoing two sentences be integrated into and made part of the resolution proposed by the Committee on Organization and adopted by the Fourth Session was CARRIED.

The Interim Committee then considered the following paragraph:

"If the new body has not come into being by December 31, 1948, the Interim Committee is directed to proceed forthwith to wind up the affairs of the American Jewish Conference and submit its final written report to the delegates of that body and to the Jewish public."

MOTION: Mr. Kopstein's motion to amend this paragraph to read:

"If the elections to the new body shall not have been held by December 31, 1948, the Interim Committee shall proceed to wind up the affairs of the American Jewish Conference and to submit its final written report to the delegates of that body and to the general public,"

and to approve as thus amended, was CARRIED.

IV. PREPARATORY COMMITTEES FOR FUTURE ORGANIZATIONS

The secretary read the proposed text of a resolution on future organization and the various paragraphs were considered seriatim:

MOTION: Mr. Marrus' motion to amend the proposed resolution to eliminate the Preparatory Committee and to make the proposed sub-committees responsible to the Executive Committee of the Conference was DEFEATED.

The text of the resolution on future organization as adopted reads:

"WHEREAS the delegates to the Fourth Session of the American Jewish Conference, meeting in Chicago November 29 - December 1, 1947 approved a plan for the establishment of 'an organization, democratic in structure and representative of the American

Jewish community...to secure and protect the rights and to promote the general welfare of the Jewish people here and abroad and to enhance the contribution of the Jewish community to American democracy' and

"WHEREAS the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference was empowered to issue a call for the creation of a new body and the election of delegates and to establish such committees as may be necessary to implement the decision of the Fourth Session

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

I. the new organization shall provisionally be known as the American Jewish Assembly.

II. there shall be established the Preparatory Committee for the American Jewish Assembly which shall take over and include the functions of the National Board of Elections and which shall be authorized to make and execute all plans for the convening of the American Jewish Assembly, subject to the approval of the Interim Committee.

III. the Preparatory Committee shall consist of not more than fifteen persons to be elected by the Interim Committee and the chairmen of five committees which are hereby established and which shall be responsible to the Preparatory Committee, with the following terms of reference:

1) Committee on Elections - This committee shall draft rules for the conduct of the election of delegates to the American Jewish Assembly and shall supervise the elections, certifying the delegates elected to the Assembly. It shall consist of 25 members.

2) Committee on National Organizations - This committee shall establish relations with all national organizations and agencies; determine the eligibility of national organizations to be represented in the Assembly; and allot delegate representation to organizations admitted. It shall consist of 25 members.

3) Committee on Community Relations - This committee shall establish relations with all communities; determine the eligibility of local communal bodies which shall conduct the election of delegates within the communities in accordance with the rules established by the Committee on Elections and, in the absence of such bodies, it shall designate the convenors of an ad hoc committee for that purpose. It shall consist of 75 members.

4) Committee on Constitution - This committee shall draft a constitution to be submitted to the delegates to the first convention of the American Jewish Assembly, incorporating the basic principles and the plan approved at the Fourth Session of the American Jewish Conference. It shall consist of 10 members.

5) Committee on Ways and Means - This committee shall secure funds for the budget of the Preparatory Committee of the American Jewish Assembly and the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference. It shall consist of 40 members.

"The membership of the committees shall be nominated by their respective chairmen in consultation with the Executive Committee, and shall be appointed by the Preparatory Committee. All committees may coopt such other members as they may deem necessary, subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee.

"The Preparatory Committee shall submit a preliminary report to the Interim Committee by March 1."

Mr. Aronowitz' motion that the Call be issued by March 15 and the Assembly convene not later than October 1, 1948 was tabled.

The session recessed at 1:30 p.m. and reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

V. MEMORIAL - MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE

Mr. Lipsky paid tribute to the late Mrs. Stephen S. Wise.

MOTION: A motion by Rabbi Plaut, seconded by Mr. Stanton, that a proper resolution be drafted and forwarded to Dr. Wise was CARRIED.

VI. REPORT OF BUDGET AND ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Kenen, reporting for the Committee, stated that the budget would be divided into two sections: 1) \$180,000 to carry on the work of the American Jewish Conference; and, 2) \$120,000 to cover the expenditures to be incurred by the Preparatory Committee.

MOTION: A motion to adopt the report was CARRIED.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Rothstein, seconded by Mr. Kramer, that the administration of the Conference be authorized to communicate with all affiliated national organizations to urge their governing bodies to make available to the Conference, as soon as possible, a substantial portion of their quota assessment was agreed to.

VII. REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

a) In the absence of Dr. Goldstein, Committee Chairman, Mr. Kenen reported that the Committee had agreed on the following nominations:

Committee on Elections: Samuel Rothstein, Chairman

Committee on National Organizations: Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Chairman

Committee on Community Relations: Ezra Z. Shapiro, Chairman

Committee on Constitution: Judge Simon H. Rifkind, or Judge Lewis Goldberg, Chairman, if Judge Rifkind were unavailable.

Committee on Ways and Means: Edmund I. Kaufmann, Chairman

Continuing, Mr. Kenen said that it had been proposed that the membership of the Preparatory Committee include, in addition to the foregoing committee chairman, the following: Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Frank Goldman, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Col. Julius Klein, Louis Lipsky, Rabbi Irving Miller, Edward S. Silver, Alex F. Stanton, Mrs. Joseph M. Welt.

He reported that acceptances had not been received from Mr. Goldman, Dr. Eisendrath and Mrs. Welt, all of whom had the question under consideration.

MOTION: A motion that Dr. Wise be elected to the Preparatory Committee was CARRIED.

MOTION: A motion that Dr. Feldman be elected to the Preparatory Committee was CARRIED.

MOTION: A motion that Mrs. Hamerman be elected to the Preparatory Committee was CARRIED.

MOTION: Mr. Marrus' motion that Edward S. Silver's name be substituted for that of Samuel Rothstein as Chairman of the Committee on Elections was DEFEATED. (Mr. Marrus wished to be recorded as not voting.)

MOTION: Mr. Stanton's motion, seconded by Mr. Kramer, that the proposed list be approved with the proviso that the Executive Committee be given authority to fill any vacancies that may occur, and with the understanding that the appointments are provisional and that they would be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Interim Committee, was CARRIED.

MOTION: Mr. Kramer's substitute motion that the matter raised by Mr. Marrus be referred to the Executive Committee was DEFEATED.

b) Officers of the American Jewish Conference

Continuing the report of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Kenen stated that it was the Committee's recommendation that the present officers of the Conference continue in office; that the Executive Committee also continue in office; that several chairman of new standing committees to be created join the Executive Committee and that, in some instances, new chairman of standing committees would replace persons now heading such committees. It was the Nominating Committee's view that the persons heading the various standing committees should be experts in their respective fields who would be in a position to devote considerable time to the work. The following nominations were made:

Committee on Resettlement and Immigration: Rabbi Philip Bernstein, Chairman
Committee on Peace Treaties and Restitution: Col. Bernard Bernstein, Chairman
Committee on Palestine: Professor Milton Handler, Chairman
Committee on United Nations Affairs: Miss Jane Evans, Chairman

MOTION: A motion that the present officers and the Executive Committee, with the addition of the new chairmen of standing committees, be continued in office was CARRIED.

(Mr. Marrus wished to be recorded as not voting.)

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

a) The secretary read an invitation from the World Jewish Congress to send fraternal delegates to the second meeting of the Congress at Montreux, Switzerland, in February 1948.

MOTION: Dr. Feldman's motion to accept the invitation, seconded by Mr. Kopstein, was CARRIED.

b) The secretary read an invitation from the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds to send two observers to their General Assembly, January 24-26, in Chicago.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Segal, seconded by Mr. Barr, to accept the invitation was CARRIED.

IX. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

The secretary reported on:

a) Palestine - Immediately after the UN decision decreeing partition, when it became apparent that the Palestine Government was not keeping order nor permitting the Jewish community to do so, the Conference had made representations to Lord Inverchapel. Protests had also been lodged with the British Embassy over the Aden incident.

b) Peace Treaties - Mr. Liverhant, who had gone abroad to work with representatives of other Jewish organizations on the drafting of proposals for inclusion in the German treaty and to be present during the session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in London, had returned to the United States.

c) Successor to Judge Levinthal - The five cooperating organizations had recommended to the War Department the appointment of Dr. William Haber as successor to Judge

Levinthal, who was concluding his tour of duty as Adviser on Jewish Affairs to the Commanding General, USFET, and their recommendation had been accepted.

d) Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations - The Board had submitted proposals on the Human Rights document under consideration at Geneva. Mr. Brotman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, representing the Coordinating Board, had reported that one of its proposals had been written into the document agreed to by the Human Rights Commission.

e) Fourth Session - The Jewish War Veterans had formally voted adherence to the new body subject however to certain conditions.

f) Washington Office - David R. Wahl had resigned to assume the post of Executive Director of Americans for Haganah. His place was temporarily being filled by Dr. Woodrow W. Borah.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 12, 1948

XXI

Biltmore Hotel, N.Y.C.

The meeting opened at 10:50 a.m. with Louis Lipsky, Chairman of the Executive Committee, presiding.

Those present were: Maurice Bisgyer, Harry M. Ehrlich, Jane Evans, Dr. Simon Federbusch, Lester Gutterman (alt. for Frank Goldman), Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Lionel Golub, Mrs. Joseph Hamerman, Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman, Jacob Marrus, Rabbi Irving Miller, Irving Fellerman (alt. for Max Ogust), Rabbi Jonah Caplan (alt. for Rabbi Uri Miller), Dr. Samuel Nirenstein, Mrs. Abram Orlow. Judge Morris Rothenberg, Albert E. Kahn (alt. for Rubin Saltzman), Louis Segal, Mrs. Rebecca Shulman (alt. for Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin), Rabbi Joseph S. Shubow, Alex F. Stanton, Hermann Stern, Mrs. Robert Szold, Louis Weisman (alt. for Joseph Apfel), Mrs. Elsie Elfenbein (alt. for Mrs. Joseph M. Welt), Larry White (alt. for Sidney G. Kusworm), Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Baruch Zuckerman. Staff: M. Grossman, Col. Bernstein, Mrs. A. Jarcho, Mrs. T. Adler, A. Liverhant, A. Rothfeld. (Guest - I. L. Kenen).

B'NAI B'RITH RESOLUTION

The Chair read the official text of the B'nai B'rith resolution adopted February 1, 1948, declining to adhere to the proposed American Jewish Assembly. By way of introduction to the general debate which followed, Mr. Lipsky reviewed the history of the efforts since the Third Session in Cleveland to bring into being the projected new body. In this connection he also read the resolution adopted by the Organization Committee at the Fourth Session in Chicago. He pointed out that the Executive Committee had considered the action taken by the B'nai B'rith but felt that it should make no recommendation regarding it to the Interim Committee. A draft had, however, been prepared of a referendum to all the delegates of the Conference, requesting that the delegates consider the following six propositions:

"First: Do you think the refusal of a number of major Jewish national organizations to join in the organization of the proposed Assembly is sufficient reason to abandon the entire plan to establish a permanent democratically constituted representative body of American Jewry?

"Second: Do you think that the Interim Committee and the Preparatory Committee for the Assembly should proceed to carry out the mandate irrespective of the refusal of a number of major national organizations, including those who voted for the plan at Chicago, to join in the preparations for the Assembly?

"Third: Do you think that the American Jewish Conference should disband and wind up its affairs in the course of the next 60 days?

"Fourth: Should the American Jewish Conference carry on its current program in order to complete certain urgent activities, and disband not later than December 31, 1948, in accordance with the resolution adopted at Chicago?

"Fifth: In view of the negative stand of some important national Jewish

organizations, would you favor action by the Interim Committee looking to the organization of an American Jewish Assembly based exclusively on democratic community representation, with delegates elected according to the procedure outlined in the plan approved at Chicago?

"Sixth; In case you have voted "yes" on the foregoing paragraph, are you prepared to extend your moral and financial support to such alternative action, leading to the organization of an Assembly based on the communities, without representation of the national organizations?"

MOTION: During the course of a general discussion Mr. Zuckerman moved that the referendum be submitted to the delegates with a statement that the Interim Committee favored approval of proposition 2.

The meeting adjourned at 1 P.M. The session reconvened at 2:30 P.M.

MOTION: Rabbi Miller's motion that (1) an emergency one-day session of the Conference be convened on or about March 20th in the City of New York to consider the present situation of the Conference, with a view to either deciding upon adjournment sine die, or to authorize the Preparatory Committee to proceed with its work, and (2) to take appropriate action on the Palestine question was CARRIED.

MOTION: A motion that the Executive Committee be directed to give special attention to the fiscal problem of the Conference and to endeavor to so arrange matters that by the time the emergency session met it would be possible to wind up Conference operations in the event of a vote to that effect was CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 10, 1948

XXII

Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City

The meeting opened at 2:30 p.m. with Louis Lipsky, chairman of the Executive Committee, presiding.

Those present were: Maurice Bisgyer, Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Elsie Elfenbein (alt. for Mrs. Joseph M. Welt), Miss Jane Evans, Dr. Simon Federbusch, Irving Fellerman (alt. for Hermann Stern), Harold O. N. Frankel, Daniel Frisch, William M. Gerber, Frank Goldman, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Samuel Goldstein (alt. for Mrs. Lionel Golub), Lester Gutterman (alt. for Jacob Alson), Mrs. Joseph Hamerman, Col. Julius Klein, Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman, Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Jacob Marrus, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Mrs. Abram Orlov, Mr. G. Sandler (alt. for Rubin Saltzman), Louis Segal, Edward S. Silver, Mrs. Robert Szold, David Wertheim, Lawrence White (alt. for Sidney G. Kusworm). Staff: Meir Grossman, Mrs. J.R. Jarcho, A.C.A. Liverhant, Lillian Friedman, Mrs. T. Adler.

I. PALESTINE - Mr. Grossman read the draft of a resolution on the Palestine question prepared for consideration and adoption by the Interim Committee. In substance, the resolution expressed concern over the failure of the U. S. Government to maintain a consistent position at the UN Security Council on implementation of the General Assembly Resolution on Palestine of November 29, 1947. Endorsing the stand of the Jewish Agency for Palestine that it cannot enter into negotiations designed to whittle down the U.N. decision of November 29, 1947, the draft resolution also pledged full Conference support to the Palestine Jewish community in its struggle for independence.

MOTION: - A motion by Frank Goldman, president of B'nai B'rith, seconded by Julius Klein, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S., and Edward S. Silver, president of the National Council of Young Israel, that the draft be edited by a committee composed of Messrs. Lipsky, Neumann and Goldman and released as the Conference statement on the Palestine question was CARRIED.

II. EMERGENCY SESSION - Mr. Lipsky reported that the Executive Committee had given careful consideration to the question of calling an emergency session at which Conference delegates would decide whether to proceed with the implementation of the Chicago decision for the creation of a permanent organization, as well as the extent of the operations of the Conference during 1948. In view of the critical situation which had developed in Palestine, and other important unfinished business which made it imperative that the Conference continue operations until the end of the year, the Executive Committee had decided to refer the entire matter back to the Interim Committee.

A number of draft resolutions were proposed, and a general discussion followed.

MOTION: - A motion by Miss Evans that the Interim Committee adopt a resolution reading:

"The Interim Committee having reviewed the recent Jewish developments in Palestine and Europe, records its conviction that the emergency situation which called the Conference into being continues. The dangers of jeopardizing the equitable settlement of the Palestine issue, the deteriorating position of the Jewish displaced persons, the need for completing

negotiations designed to secure adequate safeguards for the Jewish people in peace treaties with former enemy countries and to assure restitution of confiscated property, make it imperative to continue the activities of the Conference.

"The Interim Committee, therefore, in order the better to further these vital activities and in accordance with the mandate of the session of the Conference in Chicago with respect to its duration, cancels the emergency session of the American Jewish Conference called for the City of New York on March 21, 1948," was CARRIED.

MOTION:- A motion by Dr. Eisendrath that the Interim Committee go on record as viewing the creation of a permanent over-all Jewish organization on the basis of the plan adopted at Chicago as unattainable, and that it, therefore, discharge its Committee on Future Organization and the Preparatory Committee for the American Jewish Assembly, was DEFEATED.

MOTION:- A motion by Dr. Neumann that the Interim Committee take the position that in view of the difficulties encountered in establishing a permanent Assembly as envisaged at the 4th Session, it resolves that the work of the Preparatory Committee and its subcommittees be suspended was CARRIED.

III. FINANCES - Mr. Lipsky informed the members of the Interim Committee that a special committee had been created to consider the financial position of the Conference. He indicated that satisfactory arrangements had been made with regard to meeting the deficit and to cover operating expenses for the balance of the year, it being understood, however, that all constituent organizations would meet their own obligations to the Conference.

Following a general discussion of the fiscal problems facing the Conference, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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IMPORTANT YOU BRING LEADERS JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS UP
TO DATE ON POLITICAL SITUATION IN ORDER PREVENT DISUNITY
AND DISAFFECTION WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLE ENSUE FROM LACK OF

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

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Honorary Chairman

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Chairman

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DR. MOSES BARRON
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I. L. KENEN
Executive Secretary

May 14, 1948

TO MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE:

You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting of the Interim Committee to consider action to be taken in connection with the proclamation of the Jewish State.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, May 20th, at the Biltmore Hotel, at 8 P.M.

I hope you will make every effort to attend this meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Lipsky

Louis Lipsky, Chairman
Executive Committee

LL:lf

Maurice Eisendrath

see folder

American Jewish

Conference

re A.J.C. meetings

