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American Zionist Emergency Council and American Emergency
Council for Zionist Affairs, minutes, 1943.

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MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETINGAMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

January 7, 1943.

A special meeting of the Office Committee was held on Thursday, January 7, 1943, at 2:30 P.M., at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT: Mr. Szold (presiding), Mr. Bublick, Mrs. Epstein, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Pool, Mr. Shulman, Mr. Wertheim, Mr. Lourie.

By invitation: Rabbi James Heller, Rabbi Felix Levy.

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM

Rabbi Heller reported informally and confidentially on a meeting held with members of the Council for American Judaism. At that meeting the proposal was made that the Council dissolve and that the Central Conference of American Rabbis write into its by-laws a clause that this body would not commit itself on the Zionist question either pro or con. After the dissolution of the organization, conversations between Zionists and the members of the Council would be initiated looking toward friendly cooperation for Palestine. The members of the Council constantly reiterate that though they are against Zionism they are for Palestine.

Rabbi Heller recommended that for the next two or three weeks, while negotiations directed to the dissolution of the American Council for Judaism were being carried on, Zionists refrain from directing their propaganda to attacks on this organization. He believed the Zionist cause would have much to gain from pursuing such a course.

Skepticism was expressed on the part of one or two of those present that the recommendation of Rabbi Heller would result in silencing the anti-Zionists on the American scene even as an organized group. Moreover, Zionists were in the mood for combat; to halt them now would create a "let-down" which will be charged against Zionist leadership.

Rabbi Levy made it clear that the proposal was only for a temporary "armistice" for a period of two to three weeks. If the rabbis withdraw and the laymen organize, then we can go ahead and fight them openly.

During the course of the discussion it was made clear that the proposed "armistice" would not enjoin the Zionists from proceeding with plans for the all-Jewish Conference, or from initiating a petition, or from any positive Zionist action which might be contemplated.

After a lengthy discussion it was moved and approved (Dr. Goldstein contra) that Rabbi Heller's proposal be accepted and that the Zionists refrain from launching any direct attack on the American Council for Judaism for the coming two or three weeks, to enable the arrangement referred to by Dr. Heller to be brought to a conclusion.

Arthur Lourie

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T.V.A. people could not understand how serious minded people could start with plans with them and then hear nothing further. Matters were not standing still--private individuals had submitted a memo to the highest quarters in Washington on the same subject; and now Popular Science had an article in the name of a French engineer envisaging a similar scheme to the J. V. A. All sorts of groups are coming forward with post-war plans and projects. Esco had been eliminated, but nothing else had been achieved. He urged the committee not to allow another day to pass but to come to a decision.

Following further discussion in the course of which Dr. Weizmann expressed his anxiety to "get a move on" with the matter, Mr. Wertheim's motion was put to a vote. The motion was carried. (Mrs. Halprin contra, Mrs. Pool abstaining).

LOWDERMILK BOOK

Mr. Neumann reported that at the last meeting of the Public Relations Committee, it had been agreed to recommend the earliest possible publication of Mr. Lowdermilk's book. A sub-committee under Dr. Steinberg was authorised to act in the matter.

REQUEST FROM PALESTINE

It was reported that Hadassah had received a request from Mrs. Vester in Palestine, asking Hadassah to use its good offices to buy and transmit milk for Polish (non-Jewish) children there at the expense of Mrs. Vester's committee.

It was agreed that Hadassah should do this.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Judge Levinthal made the following report of the annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee on January 31, which he had attended as a member of the Committee. Mr. Maurice Wertheim had presided, and urged the adoption of the statement which he described as a "jumping off place" rather than a final position. The extreme anti-Zionist group of the American Jewish Committee were not present; they felt that the statement to be presented represented "selling out" to the Zionists. A number of Zionists did attend.

Judge Levinthal in speaking on the resolution had explained why he could not vote for it. He had pointed out that the statement represented a retrogression; Judge Levinthal had also drawn attention to the failure to give recognition to the Jewish Agency.

Judge Proskauer stated that the document, which had been drafted by a Zionist close to the movement, had been shown to some of the leading statesmen in Washington who had been high in its praises. He further said that the purpose of the Jewish Agency, to include Zionists and non-Zionists, had not been fulfilled, for the Zionists had absorbed the non-Zionists. He urged Judge Levinthal to vote for the statement and to accept his offer of cooperation.

Mrs. Jacobs had pointed out that the failure of the non-Zionists

to participate fully in the Jewish Agency had been their own fault. Judge Lehman had spoken and recalled his own role in the formation of the Jewish Agency. He asserted that if he believed the statement to be presented to the American Jewish Committee represented a final credo, he would be compelled to withdraw from the Committee. He believed it to be no more than a starting point toward closer understanding between the Zionists and the Committee.

On the strength of Judge Lehman's statement, Judge Levinthal said, he abstained from voting for the statement. Mrs. Halprin had likewise been recorded associating herself with Judge Levinthal.

It was reported that the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee had instructed the incoming president to appoint a committee to arrange for further negotiations with the Zionists.

All the members of the Office Committee who had been present at the meeting of the American Jewish Committee paid a warm tribute to Judge Levinthal for his admirable presentation of the Zionist position and for his statement in explanation of not voting for the resolution.

In the course of discussion the following points were made: 1. The fact that the Zionists present at the meeting had not recorded themselves as voting against the statement was deplored. 2. The statement of the Committee was characterized as anti-Zionist but so cleverly worded that it had created a lot of confusion in the minds even of some Zionists. Twenty-five years ago such a statement from the Committee might have been welcomed, but now that the Zionists were making specific political demands for a Jewish Commonwealth, this statement could in no sense be construed as pro-Zionist. 3. The motion to instruct the incoming president to appoint a committee to deal with the Zionists was one to be regarded with caution. The Zionists, with the Pittsburgh Conference, had embarked on a new course and had put the matter into the hands of American Jewry. Private negotiations between us and the American Jewish Committee would be a betrayal of the 32 organizations which had come to a decision at Pittsburgh in regard to an Assembly of American Jewry. Nothing must be done to vitiate the plans for that contemplated, democratically elected Assembly.

4. To certain people in the State Department the Committee's statement was undoubtedly a welcome document because it would make their task easier in dealing with the difficulties constantly being raised by the Zionists. It was essential therefore that the State Department should hear from us a reiteration of our demands and a clear denial that we accepted the statement of the American Jewish Committee. Our main and most important task was to push through the Jewish Assembly as the only antidote to all the statements which are being made. Time was of the essence. We did not know when peace talks would seriously start, and it was essential that this matter be pursued without delay.

5. Nevertheless, it was urged that nothing be done to alienate those members of the American Jewish Committee who might be persuaded to accept the Zionist position. It should be made clear to the Committee that they will be welcome at the Assembly and that nothing will be done beforehand to bind it. If representatives of the American Jewish Committee wished to discuss matters with us this could be done with individuals in private, unofficial conferences, but making it clear to them that we have no authority to negotiate with them officially.

6. It was also urged that Hadassah, as a Zionist organization, withdraw its membership from the American Jewish Committee. Other Zionists should also withdraw. The election of Judge Proskauer as president was a challenge levelled at the Zionist movement. Dr. Weizmann said in this connection that while Zionist membership on the Committee was purely an American problem, he personally thought it incongruous in the circumstances for Zionists to participate in the activities of the Committee. In answer to this it was suggested that if, as Judge Lehman indicated, there was the possibility of bringing about a changed emphasis in the attitude of the A. J. C., then it might be mistaken for Zionists to withdraw now. The presence of Zionists at the meeting of the Committee had been helpful to the Zionist cause, in that it gave them the opportunity of presenting their position. The plans for the Assembly should be proceeded with but we should deal tactfully with the American Jewish Committee in view of the possibility of winning over members of the Committee, who were men of importance in public life, to our point of view. X

After some further discussion it was finally agreed that;

1. A committee be named to draft a statement of our position. The statement is not to attack the American Jewish Committee as such, but is to be in answer to their statement and to deal affirmatively with our position. | ?
2. Private discussions which may be carried on by individuals must be clearly understood to be unofficial in character. We must remain free to bring the Biltmore program to the Assembly and nothing should be done to preclude this possibility.
3. Mrs. Halprin was asked to inform the National Board of Hadassah that the consensus of opinion in the Emergency Committee was to request it to give consideration to the continuation of Hadassah's membership in the American Jewish Committee, as an organized Zionist body, in the light of today's discussion.

A. L.

MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

February 4, 1943

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Thursday, February 4, 1943 at 3:00 P.M. at ~~42 E. 42nd Street~~, New York.

ST. REGIS HOTEL

PRESENT: Dr. Wise (presiding), Mr. Bublick, Mr. Gellman, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Jacobs, Judge Levinthal, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Neumann, Mrs. Pool, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Shulman, Mr. Wertheim

Dr. Weizmann, Rabbi Berlin.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Weisgal.

REPORT OF ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE:

The recommendations of the organization Committee were reported as follows:

1. Mr. Brodie should be asked to serve as chairman of the committee on resources and planning, though without any such conditions as originally proposed. The committee unanimously approved this proposal. A committee was to be named to discuss the matter with Mr. Brodie, with power to act.

2. Mr. Lipsky should be asked to serve as chairman of a committee on press and publications.

There was some discussion on the relation of this committee to the committee on public relations. It was generally agreed that these two committees were not divisible, but were concerned with two facets of the same function. The chairman of both committees would be in constant contact on the actual conduct of the work, and each would be ex officio a member of the corresponding committee.

The opinion was expressed that a distinction should be made between the Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish press, and the general press, and that the latter should be under the direct jurisdiction of the public relations committee, and the former as well as publications on behalf of the committee under Mr. Lipsky's committee. After some discussion it was, however, agreed that such a distinction might be artificial and that the matter of the relative jurisdictions of the two committees should be worked out by their chairmen.

Subject to this it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Lipsky be invited to serve as chairman of such a second committee on publications, etc. (name to be finally decided on after discussion on the question of function as above).

3. Rabbi Breslau should be asked to serve on a professional basis, as the Washington representative of the Emergency Committee in charge of the work there of the American Palestine Committee, with responsibility to the Public Relations Committee. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. Shulman be authorized to offer the position to Rabbi Breslau.

J. V. A.

It was further reported that the Organization Committee had recommended the employment of Dr. Armin Weiner, a distinguished Czech engineer now in this country, in connection with a preliminary survey in behalf of the J.V.A. research project.

Judge Rothenberg reported as follows: Dr. Weizmann invited Mr. Szold and myself to discuss the matter of the proposed investigation of the J.V.A. project. In view of the failure of the Emergency Committee to come to an arrangement with the Esco, Dr. Weizmann suggested the setting up of a commission under the aegis of the Agency to take the matter in hand. There are now residing in this country several very eminent engineers from European countries. They have notable reputations in their fields and have done important engineering work in Europe. It was thought by Dr. Weizmann that the commission to be established should invite such persons who may be available to serve on an advisory committee of experts who would go into the whole subject under the guidance of the commission to be appointed. The suggestion was made that the commission would from time to time report to the Emergency Committee as the arm of the Jewish Agency, and that the Emergency Committee would exercise a measure of supervision over the Commission.

The question was raised as to what would be the relation between this commission and the resources and planning committee of the Emergency Committee. It was doubtful if the Emergency Committee could hope to do any fruitful post-war planning if this project were taken out of its hands as was now proposed. The whole difficulty with Esco had arisen because there was unwillingness to allow so important a project to go outside the authority of the committee which represented the Agency, namely the Emergency Committee.

Judge Rothenberg said there was no reason to assume hostility between the proposed Commission and the resources and planning committee. The Agency would take over control of the investigation reserving to itself the right to deal with problems which may arise. Close cooperation between the two committees could be envisaged if there were good will.

In answer to the suggestion that the Agency had no permanent office here, such as it had in London and Jerusalem and that after Dr. Weizmann left, an uncertain position would be created, inasmuch as the Emergency Committee itself was the only arm of the Agency in this country, the chairman said he thought the Emergency Committee represented the Agency here only where western hemisphere affairs were concerned and not to deal with a project to be actually carried out in Palestine. In any case it would be possible to delegate the necessary authority after Dr. Weizmann's departure.

Mr. Wertheim moved that the proposal be accepted and expressed regret that no action had been taken on the definite offer of the Esco Foundation at an earlier meeting although the majority of those present had been in favor of acceptance.

In the course of further discussion Mr. Neumann warned against allowing more time to elapse. The whole J.V.A. matter was in a mess. The Lowdermilk's were distressed by the delay in the matter of the book, and the

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MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETINGAMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on June 1, 1943 at 8:00 P.M., at the St. Regis Hotel.

Present: Judge Levinthal (presiding), Mr. Publick, Rabbi Gold, Mrs. Goldstein, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Neumann, Mrs. Pool, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Shulman, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise.

Dr. Weizmann, Dr. Goldmann, Rabbi Berlin.

Mr. Lourie, Mr. Weisgal.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

The question of a Zionist bloc in connection with the elections to the forthcoming Conference was discussed in the light of the decision of Poale Zion to present a separate slate.

The following points of view were expressed:

(a) A Zionist bloc is essential to preserve Zionist unity and to insure the election of Zionist candidates, especially in large communities, where separate Zionist slates would throw the nomination to the non-Zionists.

(b) The Conference is not the occasion for indicating party strength, but unified Zionist strength behind the Biltmore platform. Separate party slates would arouse an unhealthy inter-Zionist competitiveness.

On the other hand, it was suggested that it would be wise for a number of representative persons in the Jewish community to be elected as delegates to the Conference, even though they may be non-Zionists. The impression must be avoided that the Zionists are out to capture all the delegates. Moreover, a Poale Zion slate, for example, might attract Landsmanschaften in various cities, who would not otherwise vote the Zionist slate.

On behalf of Poale Zion, Mr. Wertheim pointed out that in cities entitled to one or two delegates, and there are approximately 100 such cities, an agreement would be readily possible.

It was urged that an agreement be made with Poale Zion on a national basis, the purpose of which would be to assure Poale Zion representation from cities where they normally could not secure it.

The matter was referred to the committee composed of two members from each party and Mr. Shulman, which had previously been appointed to deal with the matter of coordinating Zionist strength for the elections.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mr. Shulman reported that the Committee on public relations planned the publication of a bulletin to be circulated among members of the American Pales-

tine Committee, the Christian Council, etc. The Committee recommended that Marie Syrkin be engaged for the work of the Public Relations Department. She would also take charge of the proposed bulletin, if arrangements could be made for release from her present post with the Board of Education.

The recommendation of the Public Relations Committee was accepted, and Mr. Shulman was authorized to proceed in the matter of securing the services of Miss Syrkin.

DR. WEIZMANN:

The chairman welcomed Dr. Weizmann.

Dr. Weizmann reported that announcements had appeared in Falcor indicating that after discussions in the Executive and the Actions Committee in Jerusalem, it was decided to open an office of the Jewish Agency in Washington. He would like to have had this done six months ago. The matter had been protracted, but finally a decision was taken. Dr. Weizmann had then caused a statement to be published announcing that this office would be conducted by Dr. Goldmann, supported by Mr. Lipsky, who had also been elected by the Agency Council and the Congress to represent the Executive in America. Such an office would naturally have to operate in close cooperation with the Emergency Committee and its organs. He expressed the hope that some sort of machinery would be set up to effect such co-operation.

Dr. Weizmann then said that he would be leaving the country by the end of the month and would like to use this opportunity to make a few summary remarks.

He said he viewed the situation in the Zionist movement with the utmost gravity. The fact that ~~Central European Jewry~~ Jewry is being decimated imposes quite different problems. Where will the millions of Jews come from who are to go to Palestine? The only communities still intact are in Hungary, part of Rumania, and those who were saved in Russia, and it is not known how or when those will be returned. Other scattered groups are being systematically exterminated. Only those who had the courage and the means to survive will be left. What then is the aspect of the movement that must be faced? There may be, perhaps, a million or a million and a half Jews left to emigrate, but the wisdom of talking in very large figures seems questionable.

However, Dr. Weizmann continued, he believed in the eternity of Israel and Zionists should think in terms of building up their strength to the maximum from within. There must be a creative strengthening of the Yishuv and its functions.

He was sure of one thing: the old methods and slogans and cliches have gone never to return because the position is changing and Zionist organizations all over the world must make up their minds that new methods must be sought. This has nothing to do with maximalism or minimalism. It has to do with the fact that since the destruction of the Temple, Jews have never faced so tragic a period. He was not certain whether the movement has the men or the forces to do what must be done. He believed the situation would reflect deeply on the position of the Jews in America. First of all, morally. The American Jewish community is still in the process of evolution. Europe is being cut off while American Jewry is still in its formative period. It is doubtful whether these great forces can be replaced by forces which can be produced inside America. It may be a period of moral impoverishment of American Jewry and greater assimilation. This, in turn, reflects on the work in Palestine. American Jewry will not go to Palestine unless driven. Dr. Weizmann remarked this without criticism or blame, but consider-

ed it a fact. There is no Chalutzioth in America. These facts will have a great effect on everything that must be done. He said he was sorry to appear pessimistic and depressed, but the situation was more depressing than political set-backs, for those come from the outside and are not Jewish responsibilities, but this comes from within.

Politically, Dr. Weizmann said that he hoped Dr. Goldmann, who had been making regular reports, had conveyed the impression that the situation was somewhat improved; it was slowly becoming more fluid -- the thaw seems to be setting in.

In his last conversation with Lord Halifax, he had told him that in about 8 months there might be an inscription on the gates of Palestine "no more Jews need enter here." He asked Lord Halifax how he would like to read that inscription in view of the promises of Great Britain and the position of world Jewry. Lord Halifax was definitely uncomfortable.

Mr. W. seems to be a friend. Dr. Weizmann said he did not know whether he had many followers. He himself would not be too surprised if the article on Ibn Saud in "Life" came from Wallace Murray. He urged that the article be not taken too tragically. The statements of Ibn Saud had to be made by an Arab leader in public, just as Zionists have to talk a certain way in making public statements. He still believed that FDR and WC could pave the way for talking to Ibn Saud. However, they are strategists and it is difficult to convince them that maintaining the little idealism there is left in the world is as important as the production of planes or guns. There is a job of work to be done in England in this direction.

Dr. Weizmann said he was leaving this country with a heavy heart. Nobody can guarantee success, but everyone could try to do everything in his power to assure it. He regretted that the movement here had not lived up to this standard. Many things which should have been done are still undone -- literature, publications, resolutions, contacts with leading journalists, the raising of a political fund, were only some of a long list of things which should have been done. On the other hand, there was the new office in Washington with which the Emergency Committee would cooperate closely and he hoped that what had been left undone would be caught up with. He said he thought the Conference was one of the great steps forward and hoped it would not be lost sight of. He hoped that the Palestine Surveys Commission would not suffer from lack of funds. He understood they were planning to send an expert to Palestine and believed that the sooner he went, the better.

He said he was conscious of the shortcomings of what he was saying. He hoped to have an opportunity of meeting again before he left with a larger group, after he had seen the President. He intended to tell him exactly what he thought. In his opinion the test of everything the President said about freedom would be what the democracies would do for the Jews. There was no question in his mind that America is veering to the right. Whether the pendulum would swing to the extreme end he could not say. But if that happened it always worked itself out on the Jews. One could sense uneasiness in Washington among Jews high in government circles. Into this problem is projected a small group of Zionists and it is not doing enough to meet the problem. He said he thought it would come out all right in the end, but he would like to live to see it and have Dr. Wise live to see it. Infinitely more force must be put behind the effort than is being put now.

Mrs. Pool asked Dr. Weizmann what he meant by saying that the old clichés and slogans must be discarded and new ones adopted.

Dr. Weizmann replied that it was his belief that when the Biltmore Resolution was passed, Zionists were genuinely convinced that the Jewish State would be realized "tomorrow." It may be some time between the present stage (and he assumed that the White Paper would be broken to some extent) and the Jewish State. The Biltmore program is a symbol, a flag, but it is not practical politics within a year or two. Zionists must continue to build, infiltrate, and expand industrially and economically, without expecting millions of Jews to come. There are two reasons for this: (a) there aren't millions to come and (b) even if there were, under the prevailing circumstances, in a tired and possibly reactionary post-war world, the task will not be easy. He might be mistaken, but at least he tried not to give any false illusions. Zionists should strengthen themselves from within. There are a great many values which can be produced in Palestine to bring Zionism nearer its goal morally and economically.

He said he was not frightened by the Arabs. Their shares were sinking. Even in this demoralized world people were beginning to realize that the best that could be said of them is that they have not fully betrayed. In this connection, Dr. Weizmann reported briefly a meeting with the Council on Foreign Relations, where it was evident that the Arab problem, in connection with Palestine, did not loom large in their minds.

Dr. Goldstein asked Dr. Weizmann how he would formulate a 1944 edition of the Biltmore program. Dr. Weizmann said he would keep the Biltmore program as a flag and a symbol.

Rabbi Berlin said that when the Biltmore program had been drafted it was meant as a guide to accomplishment after this war. If that were not so, there would be no point in Zionist activity. He said that Dr. Weizmann's statement would have met with strong disapproval in Palestine, where it was believed that the peace must bring the implementation of the Biltmore program.

Concerning Dr. Weizmann's estimate that millions of Jews would not survive the massacres in Europe, Rabbi Berlin said that no one could know the figures. Even friends who discuss the matter ask how many millions can be taken in. The big problem is to establish the Jewish right to Eretz Israel. As to the practical aspects of the Biltmore program, Rabbi Berlin could not say how the situation would be better in a year or two from now than it is at the moment. How can American Zionism be content with the line indicated by Dr. Weizmann, Rabbi Berlin asked, when the great necessity was a strong Zionism? How will the political committee function? How can we get America and England friendly to a weaker, instead of a stronger Zionism? He thought it imperative that before Dr. Weizmann left the country, he and the American Zionists come to an understanding as to whether or not they agree on a line.

Dr. Goldstein asked whether Dr. Weizmann would want American Zionist leadership to pass on his judgment and analysis of the situation. Or does he prefer that they wait until he has had an opportunity to discuss the matter with his colleagues and a new official line is formulated?

Dr. Weizmann said he was eager that there be no illusions as to how he views the situation. It may be better than he thinks; it may be worse. He believed that in Palestine the Biltmore resolution was considered as within the realm of immediate fulfillment and he had not only the right, but the duty to say that he considers this impractical. The fact that the Jews have been allowed to disappear and there was no reaction to it or to the Bermuda Conference is depressing. He did not think England or America morally capable of doing anything.

Rabbi Gold asked whether it was right to deceive the people.

To this Dr. Weizmann replied that when a general leads his men into battle, he does not have to tell each sergeant all the difficulties. He has been in America more than a year and both internally and externally, as far as the Jews are concerned, Hitler has won the war. His poison has spread deep. The leaders should know this and be on their guard. He thought that there had been a good deal of political hysteria in Palestine.

Dr. Goldmann deplored the fact that it seemed impossible to speak frankly of the political situation even among a small group of leaders, without being accused of minimizing or betraying the cause. He said that no one contemplated changing the Biltmore program and he believed there was a good chance of even the eldest among the Zionist leaders seeing its implementation. The question was not one of a Messianic hope, but of what practical steps should be considered first; on what point must the first demand be concentrated. The only memorandum submitted to the State Department as the official program of the movement was the Biltmore resolution, so that officially it is on record. He himself regarded it as a practical program for this generation, and at this particular juncture of Jewish history. But on what step should be taken first there seemed to be a genuine difference of political opinion.

Already a member of the State Department has asked him what part of the Biltmore program he would ask for, if he had to choose one immediately. He had replied that he would ask for the immigration of half a million Jews in two years immediately after the war. The first task is to bring in as many Jews as will create a Jewish majority and then to ask for a self-governing Jewish Commonwealth. This is a question of practical politics. He did not believe that either the State Department or Great Britain would accede to the demand that Palestine be established as a Jewish Commonwealth as the first step in the program. He did, however, believe that they would accede to the demand for the immediate immigration of half a million Jews, fully understanding the implications -- which were a Jewish Commonwealth. The difference was one of approach.

He thought the dispute about the number of Jews to immigrate to Palestine ridiculous. The formula should be that all those Jews who have been uprooted from their countries and have to be cared for immediately after the Armistice, who want to and are able to go to Palestine, should not only be allowed to go, but should be assisted by the United Nations. They should be forced neither to return to their countries of origin, nor to be dispersed. No one can direct this immigration except the Jews themselves.

Palestine lives far from reality. It is a country whose strength lies partly in its unrealistic approach. But there is a difference between that approach and the approach of those who must take the practical steps. The situation in Washington is beginning to "unfreeze," and we may be asked very shortly just what Zionist demands will be step by step. He recommended that it be couched in his formulation for immigration, as stated above. There will be a tremendous job of housing, feeding, and transportation which, if successful, will lay the basis for the demand for a self-governing Commonwealth.

Judge Levinthal thought Dr. Goldmann's statement was over-simplified. If 500,000 Jews have a right to go to Palestine, then their right to go there is different from their right to go anywhere else -- implied in that right is the right to a Jewish Commonwealth. The Arabs understand this. At a recent meeting Arabs proposed opening up the whole Arab world to Jewish immigration, on condition that they would not go to Palestine in such numbers as to constitute a majority there.

Mr. Shulman said it was right that Dr. Weizmann should give his frank appraisal of the situation. The first reaction should be to determine whether it is a realistic appraisal in terms of present-day practical politics.

There is no date mentioned in the Biltmore program the date of implementation may be far distant, but in the meantime there are steps which must be taken and that must be determined upon. Zionists are not faced with a situation where they must choose between immigration and the Biltmore program. There is no proposal that as a condition of immigration such as described by Dr. Goldmann, it will be necessary to forego the Biltmore program. If the situation is as has been described, and there is a chance to secure large immediate immigration without foregoing the Biltmore program, then it should be welcomed.

Mr. Szold said he had a number of questions to ask and urged that another meeting be called in view of the importance of the subject under discussion. One of the questions he would want to discuss, for example, was suppose the question is asked as to what the first Zionist demand should be, but implied in it is the condition that if 500,000 Jews are helped to go to Palestine immediately after the war, the idea of the Commonwealth must be given up, then what steps should be taken. This and similar questions should be discussed.

Dr. Weizmann said he would be glad to have another meeting. He wanted also to raise one more question which weighed heavily on his mind. In reading speeches and listening to talks from Palestine, one sound rang through them all: "we must fight." He could imagine that if all the ropes broke that might be the ultimate sanction. But whom to fight? The Arabs? The British? The United Nations? It is necessary to think about this. It was this atmosphere which he had in mind when he characterized certain manifestations as political hysteria. If one does come to such a decision at this time when the life and death of so many are at stake, one should not speak about it. To do so is a sign of political immaturity.

It was decided to continue the discussion at a meeting with Dr. Weizmann on Sunday, June 6th, at 4:00 P.M.

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

Dr. Goldmann said that the following proposals had been made with a view to effective coordination between the office of the Jewish Agency in Washington and the office of the Emergency Committee:

1. The Emergency Committee should also have an office in Washington on the same premises as the Jewish Agency office. There are certain spheres, such as public relations work, work with the American Palestine Committee, etc. in which the Emergency Committee will continue to act alone; there are other spheres which are primarily within the province of the Jewish Agency office, such as contact with the Latin American countries; there are other spheres in which joint action will be necessary, such as negotiations with the State Department, where American Zionists should appear together with Agency representatives.

2. There should be a working committee composed of the three officers, one member of each party and Mr. Shulman, as chairman of public relations. This committee should meet regularly with those who represent the Executive to map out the policies and to work out the machinery for coordination of activities.

Mr. Shulman supplemented this report as follows: the Office Committee as now constituted should be the political committee to determine broad questions of policy. The working committee should constitute a panel to be called upon to

do actual political work.

Dr. Goldstein moved that Dr. Goldmann's proposals be ratified and the motion was carried.

RUSSIAN DELEGATION:

Dr. Goldmann reported a conversation with the first secretary of the Russian Embassy and with the Russian Consul General in New York.

He asked both of them the same questions:

(1) Whether there was any possibility of changing the personnel of the delegation, in view of the unfortunate choice of Mr. Pfeffer, or, at least, of adding some person more representative of the Jewish community of Russia.

(2) What were the prospects of a return delegation to Russia.

(3) Will the delegation have an official character?

Both replied to question one that it would be impossible to eliminate Mr. Pfeffer from the delegation or to add another member to it. Concerning the return delegation to Russia, nothing definite can be reported. The original memorandum of the Writers and Artists Committee had contained two sections: one asking for the delegation to come here and the other asking that a return delegation go. That the Russian government arranged for two delegates to come here might be construed as implying consent to the second part of the memorandum, but such consent has not been definitely given. The character of the reception will be similar to that of the famous girl sniper, who came here not as an official of the Russian government, but with their blessing. There will be a reception for Mikhoels and Pfeffer at the Embassy and by the Consulate in New York.

Dr. Goldmann said that it was taken for granted that Zionists would participate on the reception committee. He believed that if no Zionist were represented on it, it would be construed as an unfriendly act by the Embassy. He recommended that if all the conditions set forth (see minutes of May 17) were accepted, then a small number (from three to five) of individual Zionists be permitted freedom to join the reception committee.

It was agreed that the Emergency Committee express no objection, as a committee, if Zionists participate in the reception committee for the Russian delegates, provided all the conditions are met.

ARTICLE IN LIFE

Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldmann and Mr. Weisgal had arranged to meet with the editors of Life to discuss the article on Ibn Saud, appearing in the current issue.

It was agreed to request the organizations to communicate with their local chapters instructing them to write letters of protest to Life. It was also agreed to try to arrange for an article replying to Ibn Saud, to appear in Life.

In this connection, it was agreed that the matter of official recognition of the Zionist position be discussed with Elmer Davis of the OWI.

A. L.

MINUTES OF MEETINGAMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

August 12, 1943

A special meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs took place on Thursday, August 12, 1943 at 1:00 p.m. at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

PRESENT:

Dr. Wise (presiding), Mr. Gellman, Dr. Goldmann, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Halprin, Dr. Heller, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Lipsky, Mrs. Pool, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Shulman, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim.

Mr. Isreeli, Mr. Kenen, Mr. Magida, Mr. Weisgal.

Dr. Goldmann reported on conversations he and Dr. Wise had had with members of the State Department and other influential people in Washington who had suggested that the American Jewish Conference be postponed, pending the results of negotiations which were about to begin with leaders of the Arabs. It had been pointed out to Dr. Goldmann that if the Conference were held, the issuance of the joint statement on the part of the British and American Governments, which had been postponed, might follow.

In the course of discussion it was suggested that the agenda of the first session of the Conference may, depending upon circumstances, be limited to the European situation only.

It was decided that the Conference should not be postponed. It was agreed that it would be impossible to give the general public an adequate explanation for such a postponement.

It was further decided to appoint a committee of five to go to Washington to see a representative of the White House and one or more representatives of the State Department in order to explain our position to them.

Dr. Goldmann reported that Mr. Lourie had gone to Canada in an effort to see Mr. Martin, who is Mr. Churchill's personal secretary.

Dr. Goldmann further reported that the Office of Strategic Services had asked that the Bulletin issued by the Arab-Jewish Relations Study Committee be sent to their office. This matter was referred to the next regular meeting of the Office Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

A.S.M.

MINUTES OF MEETINGAMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

August 16, 1943

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs took place on Monday, August 16, 1943 at 3:00 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT:

Dr. Wise (presiding), Mr. Bublick, Rabbi Gold, Dr. Goldmann, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Lipsky, Mrs. Pool, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Shulman, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim;

Judge Rosenblatt (by invitation);

Mr. Kenen, Mr. Magida, Mr. Weisgal.

ARTICLES IN THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Dr. Goldmann reported that his first reaction to the article in the New York Times and the New York Herald Tribune of August 13, reporting the trial of two British soldiers accused of gun-running arms and ammunition in connection with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, was to publish a statement. On second thought, however, that had been decided against and the attached cable had been sent to the Executive in Palestine. In the meantime, presumably prior to their receipt of the cable, Mr. Ben-Gurion had, on behalf of the Jewish Agency, issued a statement as reported in the New York Times of August 15.

Dr. Goldmann suggested that a strong message signed by Dr. Wise on behalf of American Zionists and expressing support of the Jewish Agency should be sent to the British Embassy with the request that the Embassy convey to the Foreign Office our indignation at the hostile attitude manifested at the trial.

After discussion as to whether or not we should ask that a delegation be received by the Embassy, and as to the desirability of publishing our message to the Embassy, it was decided to ask for a delegation but not to publish the telegram. The attached telegram was dispatched immediately after the meeting.

Judge Rosenblatt suggested the desirability of bringing a libel suit against the New York Times on the part of the United Palestine Appeal or the Keren Hayesod.

After discussion it was decided that it would be better not to institute a law suit against the New York Times, but it was decided that the Keren Hayesod or the United Palestine Appeal should publish a statement in the press taking issue especially with the following paragraph which appeared in the Times: "Major Verdin suggested that persons who in good faith had sent funds from abroad to Palestine with the object of bettering the plight of unfortunate Jewish refugees, would be disappointed if they knew that in some cases the money raised went into base enterprises inimical to the cause of the United Nations."

Judge Rothenberg wished to be recorded as being opposed to the publication of any statement.

Mrs. Jacobs pointed out that this is a military affair and that possibly the civil authorities had little or nothing to do with it. After further discussion it was decided that a copy of the telegram to the British Embassy should be sent to Sir John Dill by Dr. Goldmann.

There was some discussion on whether any action should be taken with regard to the New York Times. It was obvious from the headlines given the first story of the trials that it was pursuing a definitely anti-Zionist policy. It was decided that a committee should seek an appointment with Mr. Edwin James, the Managing Editor of the Times, at an early date.

Mr. Lipsky requested that it be recorded that he opposed such action on the grounds that it would give the impression that we are as naive as to assume that the tenor of the Times was accidental and not intentional.

JOINT BRITISH AND AMERICAN STATEMENT:

Mr. Shulman reported on the visit paid to Judge Rosenmann by Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldmann, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Monsky and himself in accordance with the decision reached at the last meeting of the Office Committee (see Office Committee minutes #124).

TRIBUTES TO LORD WEDGWOOD AND MAJOR CAZALET:

Dr. Wise stated that unless there were objection he would suggest that at the forthcoming Convention of the ZOA time be set aside for tribute to the late Lord Wedgwood and Major Cazalet and that some prominent non-Jewish Zionist from England, such as Lord David Davies or Mrs. Dugdale, be invited for this purpose.

REQUEST FROM OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES:

Mrs. Jacobs reported that Mr. Speiser, the Chief of the Near East Division of the Office of Strategic Services, had written to the effect that he would like to be placed on the mailing list for the Bulletin of the Arab-Jewish Relations Study Committee. Mrs. Jacobs said that past issues of the bulletin were meant for internal consumption only.

After discussion it was decided that Mrs. Jacobs should call on Mr. Speiser and determine the background of his inquiry. The Bulletin will be re-organized in the near future and the new publication may be fit to be sent to him.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS:

Mr. Lipsky read the attached minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Publications. The report was referred to the Public Relations Committee. There was discussion as to the title of the proposed bulletin and it was decided to adopt the title "Palestine", subject to the approval of the ZOA, in view of the fact that this might lead to confusion with "The New Palestine".

ANSWER TO ENQUIRIES:

Mr. Magida and Mr. Kenen enquired whether the Committee had any suggestions to make with regard to answering enquiries which had come in concerning the articles by Drow Pearson, C. L. Sulzberger, and others that had appeared in the press.

Dr. Wise suggested that the answer should be that the issuance of the threatened statement had been averted temporarily, perhaps permanently, and that the Committee was giving its fullest attention to the matter.

Mrs. Halprin read the attached draft of a letter which she was sending to the local Hadassah political chairmen on this general subject.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OF AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

Mr. Weisgal reported that he had been requested to ask the Emergency Committee to loan the services of Mr. Kenen to the Conference. This was agreed to.

MEETING OF FULL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE:

It was decided to hold a meeting of the full American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs on Tuesday evening, July 24, subject to further confirmation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



A.S.M.

MINUTES OF MEETINGAMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

August 23, 1943

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs took place on Monday, August 23, 1943 at 1:00 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT:

Judge Levinthal (presiding), Mr. Bublick, Mr. Cruso, Mr. Gellman, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Neumann, Mrs. Pool, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Shulman, Mr. Szold, Dr. Wise.

Mr. Kenen, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Magida, Mr. Weisgal.

APPOINTMENT OF ZIONIST PROGRAM COMMITTEE FOR CONFERENCE:

In view of the fact that the different Zionist bodies had submitted programs separately to the American Jewish Conference, the desirability of presenting a unified Zionist program was again discussed.

It was pointed out that certain paragraphs of the Biltmore Program in the light of the passage of a year and a half since the Biltmore Conference required revision for the purposes of the forthcoming Conference.

After considerable discussion it was decided that the Chair appoint a committee of five to meet immediately after the meeting in order to review the Biltmore resolution and to determine in what form it should be submitted to the Conference; this committee was to consist of Mr. Bublick, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Halprin, Mr. Lipsky and Mr. Shulman, and was to report back to the Office Committee the next day, Tuesday, at 1:00 o'clock.

MEETING OF FULL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE:

It was decided to call a meeting of the full Emergency Committee for Thursday, August 26, at 5:00 p.m.

ZIONIST STATEMENT TO BE CIRCULATED TO CONFERENCE:

It was reported that the office of the Jewish Agency had arranged for the preparation of a statement of the Zionist case to be circulated to all the delegates at the Conference. It was suggested that this statement be issued under the aegis of the Emergency Committee. It was agreed that a committee of five to consist of Mr. Gellman, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Pool, Judge Rothenberg and Mr. Szold go over the material with the authority to make changes and determine whether or not it should be printed under the Committee's auspices.

LETTER FROM DR. SILVER TO DR. WISE:

A letter from Dr. Silver to Dr. Wise dated August 14, 1943 on the subject of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the connection of Dr. Heller and

Dr. Brickner with that statement, was read. After discussion Judge Levinthal was authorized to reply to Dr. Silver, referring to action previously taken by the Office Committee in this matter and also to communicate on behalf of the Committee with Dr. Heller and Dr. Brickner.

NEW YORK TIMES REPORT ON JERUSALEM TRIALS:

The attached cable transmitted here by the London office on behalf of the Jerusalem Executive was read. It was reported that a reply from the Embassy in response to our telegram to them was shortly to be expected.

It was reported that a full cable had been sent to Dr. Weizmann and also a letter from Dr. Goldmann to Sir John Dill.

In view of the latest article by Mr. Sedgwick in The New York Times of August 23rd it was proposed that a statement which had been prepared in the office and was read to the meeting be issued. After discussion it was decided in view of the fact that the trials were still continuing and other factors not to issue any statement at this time. Preparations should be made for having available a full dossier if and when it should be decided to come out with a public statement.

FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT:

Mr. Szold reported that the Jewish Agency had decided to register as a foreign agent. As far as the ZOA was concerned it was proposed that the President of the ZOA together with himself should see Attorney General Biddle to clarify the position.

Mrs. Pool felt that it would be most undesirable to have to register and that it would be worthwhile even to suspend the transmission of the shekel if it could thereby be avoided.

Mr. Lourie recalled that some time ago a sub-committee had been appointed to look into the matter from the legal point of view and it was agreed that that sub-committee should meet again and report back to the Office Committee.

BOAKE CARTER:

Mrs. Pool reported on difficulties which had arisen between Hadassah and Mr. Boake Carter and a Mr. Moses Guibbory, over a house in Palestine occupied by a Hadassah station which Mr. Boake Carter had purchased. Litigation was pending. The Hadassah delegates were advised that if in their discretion they felt that they should fight the claim there was no reason why they should not do so.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

A.L.

"We received following from Jerusalem quote 'Trial yesterday before military tribunal Jerusalem two British non-Jewish soldiers charged with illegal possession of arms property of British Army was scene of virulent anti-Jewish attack by defending counsel Major R B Verdin stop In speech much of which irrelevant to defence of accused who had pleaded guilty he made what was parently carefully prepared attack upon Jews generally Jewish soldiers particularly and also Jewish Agency stop Describing these two criminals who have unsavoury record of forgeries thefts apart from being deserters and traffickers in their countrys arms as two poor boys who never met Jews previously had no knowledge of money said 'were ensnared by vast organisation with its tentacles spreading into army throughout Middle East and having everywhere representatives in hotels cafes inexhaustible resources of money stop When army truck needed to transport stolen arms it came from Jews stop There was a secret organisation among Jewish troops stop Vast organisation controlled military checking posts which allowed traffickers pass freely throughout country traffickers helped out of difficulties by Jewish soldiers stop When truck carrying arms broke down it was towed by trucks containing Jewish soldiers stop Jewish soldiers did thing worthy of praise but this done when enemy near borders Palestine and shadow of concentration camps like Dachau at hand but became interested other affairs when danger left Palestine and began acting in manner prejudicial to United Nations stop This secret organisation is cancer in Middle East war effort stop Officer was convinced that Jewish Agency strongly connected with this organisation asserting that this proved by Ben Gurion's participation in this affair in support of which allegations he stated that during police investigations the accused had picked Ben Gurion's photograph from eighteen photographs shown them by CID including Ben Gurion as person seen by them in company with leader of arms purchasing gang in Haifa cafe stop Officer added that two prominent members of Jewish community were directing whole activity which must have had wide support as it had inexhaustible funds which were supplied by vast organisation which he connected with Jewish Agency stop Officer stated there were many indications to prove the connection between this vast organisation and Jewish Agency and is necessary to broadcast this fact to Allied Nations who may find it necessary to revise policy towards Jews stop Concluded accused should be made world famous because helped to detect interesting facts about attitude of Jews towards war effort which might affect government policy stop Accused were victims of corrupt organisation with which authorities should deal stop Officer did not tender single iota of evidence of his slanderous allegations stop We understand that foreign correspondent specially invited few days ago from Cairo to Palestine informed interesting things would be happening stop It is manifest that the CIDS showing Ben Gurion to self-confessed criminals was deliberately concocted scheme to besmirch his good name stop This together with entire performance deliberately designed to undermine and defame Jewish Agency and is continuation of fixed policy of anti-semitic group of this country who consistently have been doing everything in their power to slander Jewish war effort and bring our soldiers into disrepute in the eyes of their British comrades and higher military authorities by spreading malicious allegations questioning their loyalty stop We consider present incident is part of calculated attempt to incite Anglo-American public opinion against the Jews and prejudice our future in Palestine by seeking to compromise the Jewish Agency and Yishuv stop It is latest development in widespread whispering campaign conducted for some time stop Have addressed memorandum to High Commissioner on above lines for telegraphic transmission to Secretary of State requesting enquiry and that adequate measures be taken to terminate this regrettable and harmful state of affairs 'unquote Inform Lourie and Montor"

JOSEPH LINTON.

MINUTES OF MEETINGAMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

August 24, 1943

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs took place on Tuesday, August 24, 1943 at 1:00 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT:

Judge Levinthal (presiding), Mr. Bublick, Rabbi Gold, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Halprin, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Neumann, Mr. and Mrs. Shulman, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise.

Mr. Kenen, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Magida, Mr. Weisgal.

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR CONFERENCE:

A draft of the resolution to be submitted to the Conference was read and discussed at some length. Several changes were made and a final form was approved on. A sub-committee was designated to prepare a preamble.

STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO BE CIRCULATED TO DELEGATES:

Mr. Weisgal suggested that two statements on Palestine by the Prime Minister, one made in 1920 and one in 1939, be printed on the back of the statement which the Emergency Committee was to distribute to the delegates at the Conference. It was decided not to proceed with this proposal.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE:

It was agreed that the matter of the Chairmanship of the Emergency Committee be dealt with at the meeting on Thursday of the full Emergency Committee.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF CONFERENCE:

There was general agreement that Dr. Wise should be nominated as President of the American Jewish Conference save that it was pointed out on behalf of the Mizrachi that their bloc of delegates for the Conference were of the opinion that the Conference should elect a Praesidium and that the Praesidium in turn should elect a Chairman. It was added, however, that a final decision in this matter would be reached at a meeting of the Mizrachi delegates on Thursday evening, August 26.

The question was raised as to whether Dr. Nahum Goldmann should be invited to open the debate on Palestine. It was the consensus of opinion that although Dr. Goldmann would be best suited for this purpose, under the circumstances prevailing in the Conference it would be advisable that Dr. Goldmann be reserved as an expert to speak before the Palestine Committee of the Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

August 26, 1943.

A meeting of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs took place on Thursday, August 26, 1943, at 5:00 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT

Dr. Wise (in the Chair), Miss Benjamin, Mr. Bublick, Mr. Cruso, Mrs. Doniger, Mrs. Epstein, Miss E. Franklin, Mr. Furmanský, Rabbi Gold, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. S. Goldstein, Mrs. Halprin, Rabbi Heller, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Jaffe, Rabbi Kowalski, Miss Leibel, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Mereminski, Mr. Neumann, Dr. Perlzweig, Judge Rosenblatt, Miss Rothbard, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Rothstein, Mr. Segal, Mrs. Shulman, Mr. Shulman, Dr. Silver, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mr. Isreeli, Mr. Kenen, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Magida, Mr. Weisgal.

Mr. Montor, Mr. Shetzer.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRMEN

Following an introductory statement by Dr. Wise, Mr. Lipsky submitted an amendment to Article IV of the Constitution of the Emergency Committee which (after correction) read as follows:

"The officers of the Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Co-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer and such other officers as the Committee shall, from time to time, elect."

Following a discussion, the proposed amendment was unanimously approved. The secretary was instructed to write to all members of the Committee in order to secure a two-thirds ratification of the proposed amendment. It was also unanimously agreed that the Office Committee be ~~be~~ called henceforth the Executive Committee.

Mr. Lipsky then nominated Dr. Abba Hillel Silver as Co-Chairman of the Emergency Committee together with Dr. Wise. The motion was seconded and Dr. Silver was unanimously elected as Co-Chairman of the Committee.

The meeting of the full Emergency Committee was then temporarily adjourned and a meeting of the Executive Committee was convened.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Dr. Wise read the following telegram which he had received from Judge Levinthal:

"REGRET URGENT WAR LABOR BOARD CASE PREVENTS MY ATTENDANCE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING TODAY STOP INFORMED FULL AGREEMENT REACHED IN ACCORDANCE YOUR PROPOSALS STOP THEREFORE RABBI SILVER'S SUGGESTION HE BE ELECTED TODAY SUBJECT ZOA EXECUTIVE RATIFICATION SATURDAY EVENING SHOULD IN MY OPINION BE ADOPTED STOP TO FACILITATE EFFECTUATION OF AGREEMENT I HEREBY TENDER MY RESIGNATION CHAIRMAN OFFICE COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE AT COMMITTEE'S PLEASURE"

Judge Levinthal's resignation was accepted and Dr. Wise was authorized on behalf of the Committee to express to him the warm appreciation of the Committee for the manner in which he had conducted its affairs during his tenure of office.

Dr. Goldstein then nominated Dr. Silver as Chairman of the Executive Committee and paid a warm tribute to him and to Dr. Wise. He believed that he spoke for those present in saying that they all looked forward to working with him towards the fulfillment of our common aim to make Palestine a Jewish Commonwealth.

Mrs. Halprin asked whether the nomination meant that Dr. Silver, if elected, would reside in New York. She felt that the man who was to head the Executive Committee should be present to guide and direct it. We wanted Dr. Silver here in New York.

Dr. Silver replied that he had given full consideration to the amount of work that would be involved. He realized that his presence would be required in New York and in Washington and he planned to give to the work all the time it required.

Dr. Silver was unanimously elected to the Chairmanship of the Executive Committee.

RESUMED MEETING OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned and the meeting of the full Emergency Committee was resumed.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

A discussion took place on the basis of a draft Palestine resolution prepared in the office, to be submitted to the American Jewish Conference. The resolution was remitted to the drafting committee.

STATEMENT BY DR. SILVER

Before adjourning, Dr. Silver made a statement in the course of which he expressed his great appreciation of the consideration which had

been shown him in selecting him as Chairman of the Executive Committee and Co-Chairman with Dr. Wise of the Emergency Committee. He said that he knew what his new position entailed, that it meant, for example, many nights spent on trains coming and going, but he was ready to make the sacrifices that might be needed. He did not, indeed, regard them as such. There were many who had to make sacrifices. He planned to give all the time that would be required to his new work. He hoped it would not become necessary for him to uproot himself completely from Cleveland, but he was nevertheless ready to move to the East if it should in the end become necessary. He expressed the hope that the members of the Committee would bear with him and help him in the work. He added that those who know him know that his bark is worse than his bite. He liked to be frank and he liked others to be frank when discussing Zionist problems.

Because of his living outside New York it might not be possible, perhaps, to have as many meetings as they had been accustomed to, and it might be necessary to crowd more work into fewer meetings. He felt confident, however, that they had not called him to the Chairmanship just to preside over meetings. He hoped that he would be able to do something to see our work more centralized and better coordinated. He planned thoroughly to acquaint himself with the work of the Committee and to work out some definite lines of cooperation with Dr. Goldmann and the Washington office. He intended to leave a great part of the responsibility for certain work to the people engaged to do that work. If a man was capable and did his work well his every step should not be looked to, but he must be given the necessary authority and confidence.

Dr. Silver went on to say that we were on the eve of great decisions and he hoped that we would be able to make use of the help and ability of all. The work should not be done by just a few, but as far as possible everyone should find a place and take a part in it.

Dr. Silver concluded by referring to the hopes entertained by Mrs. Silver and himself of settling in Palestine after the war is over.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

A. L.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

September 2, 1943

To: Members of the Executive Committee of the American Emergency Committee
for Zionist Affairs

From: Arthur Lourie

It is proposed for the future to fix definite times for the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Emergency Committee as follows:

Meeting of Executive Committee first and third Mondays of every month at 4:00 p.m. at the Emergency Committee offices.

Should it be necessary to call special meetings of the **Executive** Committee members will be informed as occasion arises. In the meantime you are asked kindly to note the above meeting dates on your calendar.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will take place on Monday, September 20, 1943 at 4:00 p.m.

Meetings of the full Committee will henceforth take place regularly on the third Monday of every month at 8:15 p.m. at the offices of the Emergency Committee.

A.L.

American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

41 EAST 42nd STREET
ROOM 1121
NEW YORK CITY

September 3, 1943

To Members of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs:

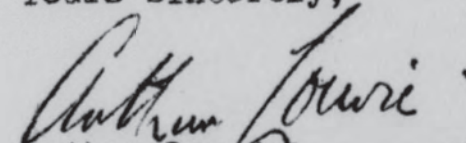
At a meeting of the Committee on August 26, 1943 it was unanimously agreed that Article IV of the By-Laws of the Committee be amended to read as follows:

The officers of the Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Co-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer and such other officers as the Committee shall, from time to time, elect.

In terms of Article VIII of the By-Laws an amendment of the By-Laws offered without previous notice requires confirmation in writing by two thirds of the members of the Committee.

Please indicate on the enclosed card your approval or disapproval of the proposed change in the By-Laws.

Yours sincerely,


Arthur Lourie
Secretary

al:ca
encl.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 20, 1943

A meeting of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held Monday, September 20, 1943, at 8.15 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street, New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Wise (in the Chair), Miss Benjamin, Mr. Boukstein, Mr. Bublick, Mrs. Epstein, Mr. Furmanský, Rabbi Gold, Mr. Goldman, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Goldstein, Mrs. Halprin, Mr. Itzkowitz, Mr. Jaffe, Rabbi Kirshblum, Rabbi Kowalski, Miss Leibel, Rabbi Levinthal, Judge Levinthal, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Mereminski, Mr. Neuman, Dr. Perlzweig, Mrs. Pool, Judge Rosenblatt, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Rothstein, Mrs. Schoolman, Mr. Segal, Mrs. Shulman, Mr. Shulman, Dr. Silver, Mr. Wertheim.

Dr. Nahum Goldman; Mr. Isreeli, Mr. Kenon, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Magida.

Mr. Montor, Mr. Weisgal

PROPOSAL FOR ACTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING IN JERUSALEM

Mr. Lourie read a cable received from the Executive of the Jewish Agency July 16th, which had been previously reported to the Executive Committee with regard to the possibility of a meeting of the Larger Actions Committee in Palestine in the latter part of the year.

This cable had been discussed at a meeting of the Executive Committee on July 20th and the following reply had been dispatched on July 21st by Dr. Goldman:

"REPLY YOURS EVERYONE FAVORS ACTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING FALL BUT
TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES VERY GREAT STATE DEPARTMENT WILL CERTAINLY
CONSULT BRITISH THEREFORE ADVISE ATTITUDE GOVERNMENT BEFORE WE APPROACH
STATE IF MEETING CONVOKED WILL COME SHORTLY BEFORE OTHERWISE INTEND
FLYING END SEPTEMBER IS WEIZMANN COMING CABLE

No answer had as yet been received to Dr. Goldmann's cable and it was possible that it had not reached Jerusalem, perhaps having been held up by the censors. A letter had also been received from the Organization Department of the Zionist Organization on the subject of the proposed meeting in Jerusalem and cables had been received, too, from the Argentine and South African Federations which had been invited to send representatives.

The possibilities of travelling to Palestine were now apparently better X than they were at the time the meeting was first proposed. When the matter was discussed by the Executive Committee it had also been decided to make inquiries as to the possibility of holding the meeting in London instead of in Jerusalem, since it was believed that it would be easier to travel to London. In reply to this inquiry, Dr. Weizmann had cabled that in the opinion of the London members of the General Council it would be preferable to hold the meeting in Jerusalem and that he personally hoped to visit Palestine in the fall.

In the course of the discussion on this subject, the following points were made:

1) Every effort should be made to arrange the meeting of the General Council at a time when American members of the Council could attend, and no such meeting should be held without the participation of the American representatives.

2) It would be physically impossible for an American delegation to reach Palestine in time for the dates suggested by the Executive of the Jewish Agency for the meeting, namely, October or November.

3) With regard to the approach to Government, the initiative should be taken at this end and enquiries made at once of the State Department in Washington as to the possibility of obtaining the necessary visas and priorities for an American delegation.

4) It was questioned whether it was wise to send a delegation of six or more leading American Zionists to Palestine at this time, when their presence in this country is so urgently needed.

In connection with the latter point, Dr. Goldmann stated that there was no possibility of obtaining priorities on 'planes for even four people; and travelling by boat (he believed there would be a good possibility of obtaining priorities on a boat shortly) would take three to four weeks each way. Although he agreed that it was not wise to send the leaders in American Zionism away from the country for such a long period at this time, he pointed out that the Executive of the Jewish Agency believes a meeting of the General Council is important and Dr. Weizmann agrees with that view. He believed that perhaps one or two American Zionists should go to Palestine.

It was agreed that a cable be sent to Palestine incorporating the above-mentioned four points.

POLITICAL REPORT

Dr. Goldmann reported on the two matters which were of particular concern at the moment:

1) The joint statement which it was learned was to have been issued by the American and British Governments. It appeared that the danger of such a statement being issued had now been definitely averted.

2) Mission of Colonel Hoskins to Ibn Saud.--Dr. Goldman reported on the conversation he had had with the State Department with reference to Colonel Hoskin's visit. Colonel Hoskins had now returned to this country and his report was at present under consideration by the State Department.

Dr. Goldmann went on to say that the State Department is very much worried about reports which they had received of increased tension in Palestine. They indicated that they would be very glad to receive a report from Dr. Goldmann on his return from his forthcoming visit to Palestine.

Referring to the American Jewish Conference, Dr. Goldmann stated that the passage of the Palestine Resolution by the Conference has made a deep impression on the State Department. Many questions have been asked as a result of it, and the Department now knows that the majority of American Jews support what they were wont to consider "extreme Zionist views".

Mr. Boukstein reported on a conversation he had had with Mr. Landis following the latter's appointment as economic head of the Middle East. Mr. Landis was very much interested and had undertaken to get into touch with the

leading members of the Yishuv on his arrival in the Near East.

It was further reported that men with economic knowledge were being sought by the organization which Mr. Landis would head. It was agreed that a small committee should be appointed to recommend the nomination of suitable young men for employment in the Middle East.

On the suggestion of Mr. Mereminski it was decided:

1) to cable to Mr. Ben-Gurion asking for the text of the statements issued by himself and the Arab leader, Auni Bey Abdul Hadi, on the same day referring to the alleged tension in Palestine and both denying that trouble is to be expected there.

2) to cable to the Executive in Jerusalem urging them to send Mr. Josep to the United States as soon as possible for the purpose of conference and information.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

Dr. Silver spoke of the favorable reaction to the American Jewish Conference meetings, and said that a number of things must follow soon if the good created by the Conference is not permitted to be dissipated by time. He believed that the Interim Committee should begin functioning, so that a good deal of our propaganda for the Jewish Commonwealth can be carried on not only in our name but in the name of American Jewry. From now on the voice of American Jewry ought to speak for us. It is important for us as quickly as possible to get the Conference into the picture, working on behalf of the major resolution which came out of the Conference.

As the first approach of the Conference to Government, a delegation was sent to Washington to meet with Mr. Cordell Hull, in the name of the American Jewish Conference. Dr. Silver then read a report on the conversations with Mr. Hull which had been drafted immediately after the meeting by the secretary of the delegation. (On file in office).

The visit with Mr. Hull was a very cordial one, Dr. Silver stated, but it was clear that it would be necessary to discuss further with him two matters - the absorptive capacity of Palestine and the impracticability of alternative territories. Dr. Silver went on to say that in general it might be said that the people in Washington do not know the story. It is tremendously important that we find time to meet with these people and not only when there is a crisis.

A discussion on the future activities of the American Jewish Conference ensued. Several members of the Committee stressed the importance that something be done at once to continue the work of the Conference, pointing out that there has already been criticism, particularly on the part of the Jewish Labor Committee, of alleged inactivity. It was felt that the Conference should embark immediately on activities such as those connected with the rescue of European Jews, which, although of vital interest to the Zionists in the Conference, are of particular interest to such groups as the Jewish Labor Committee. It was urged that action should be taken to make the Conference the most vital influence in American Jewish life.

After some discussion, it was decided that the co-chairmen of the Emergency Committee should invite Mr. Monsky to call a meeting of the Interim

Committee of the Conference as soon as possible; that a sub-committee of seven of the Emergency Committee be appointed to make a thorough study of the whole question of the future of the American Jewish Conference; and that a full meeting of the Emergency Committee be called a week in advance of the Interim Committee meeting to discuss the report to be submitted to it by the sub-committee.

Rabbi Gold suggested an amendment to this resolution, namely, that as soon as a date is set for the meeting of the Interim Committee, it should be made known to the press.

Mr. Segal raised the question of the constitution of the delegation which visited Mr. Hull on behalf of the American Jewish Conference and which he said was not properly representative of the different elements. He pointed out also that it was not only the non-Zionists who were beginning to question the results of the Conference, and that a number of critical articles had appeared in the Yiddish press written by people who were sincere Zionists. He stressed the importance of strengthening the hands of the Mizrachi and the Poale Zion in relation to Agudas Israel and the Jewish Labor Committee.

It was felt that there was a great deal of merit in Mr. Segal's point, and it was believed that the next Committee to be sent to Washington should bear this in mind.

A discussion followed on the part to be played by the American Jewish Conference and the Emergency Committee in matters connected with Palestine.

REORGANIZATION OF WORK

Dr. Silver reported that at the Executive Committee meeting which had taken place that afternoon he had brought in a plan of reorganization of the work of the Emergency Committee which he hoped would be carried out. One of the important decisions of the Executive was the unanimous decision to appoint a permanent Executive Director in the person of Mr. Henry Montor to have charge of all departments of the Committee, supervise their activities, etc. It was hoped to expand to meet the needs of a lively evolving program.

CHANGE OF NAME OF COMMITTEE

A number of suggestions were offered for a new name for the Committee, which it was believed was too cumbersome. It was decided to rename the Committee "American Zionist Emergency Council".

MR. FURMANSKY'S STATEMENT AT AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

Dr. Wise raised the question of the statement made by Mr. Furmanský at the close of the debate on the Palestine Resolution at the Conference, in which he spoke against the Palestine Resolution.

It was the consensus that Mr. Furmanský had been guilty of an undisciplined and disloyal Zionist act and a motion was passed to this effect. Mrs. A. P. Schoolman voted against the motion, on the ground that he had not been allowed to state his case before the Emergency Committee. (A copy of a letter from Mr. Furmanský is circulated herewith at Mr. Furmanský's request.)

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

Mr. Shulman raised the question of convoking a Conference of Christians,

which would speak on behalf of various liberal organizations, Church organizations, the Christian Council for Palestine, etc, against the White Paper, etc. Mr. Shulman believed that it might be preferable to have the Christian Council sponsor such a Conference.

Due to the lateness of the hour, it was decided to refer this matter to the next meeting and in the meantime to present the plan to the Christian Council for their consideration.

REPORT ON PALESTINE SURVEY COMMISSION

Mr. Neumann presented the following report:

Six months ago Dr. Weizmann appointed a special group, under the name of Commission on Palestine Surveys, to investigate certain important development projects which Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk had previously proposed to us for consideration. Dr. Lowdermilk's ideas are briefly outlined in a chapter of his forthcoming book, Palestine, Land of Promise, the writing of which he had undertaken at our request. Before leaving on a mission for China he had urged us to treat the projects he suggested not merely as material for propaganda, but to give them the serious study they required on the part of engineers and other experts. A special body was accordingly named by Dr. Weizmann to undertake such an investigation on behalf of the Jewish Agency.

The principal features of Dr. Lowdermilk's plan involve a comprehensive scheme of irrigation and hydro-electric power development by diverting the fresh waters of the Jordan for irrigation and a further diversion of Mediterranean waters to the Jordan Valley or the Dead Sea for the generation of power.

Even prior to the appointment of the Commission, we had turned to experts for advice. I had communicated with Mr. David Lilienthal, Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, who promptly responded with an offer of full cooperation. This was followed by conferences with Mr. Lilienthal and his experts, in Washington and in Tennessee. From that time on the T.V.A. organization has given us every assistance. When the Commission was set up they loaned to us one of their leading engineers, who has now been in the employ of the Commission for the past six months. Working with him as an assistant is a native Palestinian, who has a broad knowledge of Palestinian conditions.

The question had been considered whether the work be undertaken here or on the spot in Palestine. Experts advised, however, that much could be done here on the basis of data available in this country, including rainfall reports and charts, geological reports, water surveys, etc. After the preliminary work was finished here, engineers were to proceed to Palestine and return to draw up their final reports.

The Commission on Palestine Surveys, as appointed by Dr. Weizmann, consists of several laymen, as follows: Dr. Nahum Goldmann, acting chairman; Messrs. Andre Meier, Emanuel Neumann, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Alexander Sachs, Israel Sieff and Robert Szold. Recently Mr. Israel B. Brodie also joined the Commission. Three additional persons not resident in New York have been coopted as associate members. They are: Mr. Julius Fohns of Houston, Texas, Mr. Joel Wolfsohn and Dr. Meyer Jacobstein, both of Washington, D.C.

To supervise and guide the work of our engineering staff and to assume responsibility for it, we have also formed a very strong engineering

Consulting Board consisting of the following:

Professor Abel Wolman, of Johns Hopkins University, Chairman
Colonel Theodore B. Parker, for nine years Chief Engineer of the T.V.A.
Mr. Harry W. Bashore, Commissioner of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior
Mr. John L. Savage of Denver, Colorado, Chief Designing Engineer of the Bureau of Reclamation - one of the foremost consultants in the world on irrigation and dams.

The Consulting Board meets periodically and is discharging its responsibilities most satisfactorily. In addition to these gentlemen there are other experts in various fields who are acting as technical advisors.

According to our terms of reference, our investigation is to cover ultimately not only the two major subjects, irrigation and power, but certain subsidiary studies dealing with agricultural and industrial possibilities related to the irrigation and power schemes, as well as the form or forms which a development authority might take. Among the many matters which are being studied are the possible use of water from the Lebanon; the irrigation of the Negev, as well as other neglected areas, etc.

The work of the engineers tentatively points to large and encouraging possibilities from the strictly technical point of view: on the one hand, the possibility of irrigating some two million dunams of land, apart from the further extension of irrigation by wells; and on the other hand, the possibility of the generation ultimately of 100,000 to 200,000 KW, which would compare with important power projects in this country. No estimates of cost are available as yet, but one might venture a rough guess that the cost of these projects might come to a figure of \$150,000,000. or more. There would, of course, be financial returns from the sale of water for irrigation and of electrical current for lighting power, etc.

We are about to engage the part-time services of an economist to deal with some of the economic aspects of these questions.

I am happy to say that Mr. Szold's visit to Palestine will be most helpful. Before leaving he acquainted himself thoroughly with the work in progress and has taken with him a complete file of our material. We hope he will not only fully inform our friends in Palestine, but will also secure for us important data and information which we require from them concerning the proposed technical mission to Palestine. We hope that such a mission may consist of our own engineer, Mr. Hays; Dr. Lowdermilk, who may be passing through Palestine on his way back from China; and Mr. Savage, who may be passing through Palestine on his way to India. The visits of the two last named would be without any substantial cost to us, and Mr. Savage's visit will be particularly valuable in connection with the question of the Negev. Eventually, we hope to have also Mr. Strathorne, soil expert, revisit Palestine for us.

When the experts will have returned, a final report will be drawn up which we hope will bear the signature of some of the outstanding technical authorities in this country and which would then be turned over to the Jewish Agency for such use as it may make of it.

Because of the splendid cooperation we are getting from Jewish and non-Jewish friends and technical experts on a voluntary basis, the cost of our investigation will be less than originally contemplated. The Commission is financed partly by private contributions and largely by subsidies from the

Keren Hayesod.

The purpose of all this work is, of course, primarily to establish the feasibility of such development projects and the existence of a large absorptive capacity. The eventual practical use to be made of it and the implementation of the projects is a wholly different matter, with which we are not concerned at this moment.

At the conclusion of Mr. Neumann's report, the Chairman requested that members of the Emergency Committee regard this report as strictly confidential.

The meeting adjourned at 11.45 p.m.

A.L.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

September 20, 1943

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs took place on Monday, September 20, 1943, at 4:00 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street, New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Silver (presiding), Mr. Bublick, Mr. Cruso, Mrs. Epstein, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Jacobs, Judge Levinthal, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Neumann, Mrs. Pool, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Shulman, Mr. Szold (for a few minutes), Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann; Mr. Isreeli, Mr. Kenen, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Magida, Mr. Weisgal.

CONFIRMATION OF AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE PALESTINE RESOLUTION

The question was raised as to whether anything should be done to obtain the confirmation of the Palestine Resolution adopted by the American Jewish Conference, by the three organizations which had not taken a position on this Resolution, namely, the Council of Jewish Women, the American Jewish Committee and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Some members of the Committee felt that it was very important to obtain confirmation of the Resolution as soon as possible.

In the discussion which followed it was pointed out that to attempt to force an early decision by these organizations on ratification of the Resolution might be unwise, since it might then be taken up at meetings of their executive bodies, where there would be a sharp division of opinion. It would be wiser, it was believed, to allow the matter to be referred to the larger bodies of these organizations, which would meet later on, and where the result would in all probability be more favorable.

With regard to the American Jewish Committee, it was decided that a small committee, to be appointed by the Chairman, meet with Judge Proskauer for an informal talk on the question of the attitude of that body to the Resolution.

The opinion was expressed that the whole question of the American Jewish Conference should be the subject of a thorough discussion by the Emergency Committee. There was already dissatisfaction being expressed, it was pointed out, that after this great Conference of historic importance, nothing is being done. Articles have appeared in the Yiddish press to this effect, and the Jewish Labor Committee in particular is attacking the Conference.

MR. FURMANSKY'S STATEMENT AT AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

The question was raised of the statement made by Mr. Furmanky at the Conference, in which he spoke against the Palestine Resolution. It was agreed to bring up this matter at the full meeting of the Emergency Committee.

ACTING TREASURER

A motion was made and passed that Mr. Shulman serve as acting Treasurer in the absence of Mr. Szold.

RESOLUTION ON MR. SZOLD'S VISIT TO PALESTINE

The following resolution was read to be presented to Mr. Szold on the eve of his departure for Palestine:

"The Committee learns with deep satisfaction of Mr. Szold's imminent departure for Palestine. It wishes him God's speed and requests him to convey to the Executive of the Jewish Agency and to the Yishuv the greetings of all American Zionists represented in this Committee, the assurance of our complete association with them in their courageous defense of the Zionist position and the expression of our resolve to exert our utmost effort for the attainment of our common objective."

REORGANIZATION OF WORK ON EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A discussion took place in executive session on the proposals made for the reorganization of the work of the Emergency Committee.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING
AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

September 28, 1943

A special meeting of the Executive Committee was held Tuesday, September 28, at 3:30 P.M., at 41 East 42nd Street, New York City.

PRESENT:

Dr. Wise (presiding, Mr. Bublick, Mr. Gellman, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Neumann, Mrs. Pool, Mr. Shulman, Mr. Wertheim,

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mr. Kenon, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Magida.

Mr. Montor.

The special meeting was called, Dr. Wise explained, to consider two matters: 1) The verdict in the arms trial, which was reported in the morning papers and the advisability of issuing a statement to the press; 2) a letter received from the British Embassy, which raised the question of whether a delegation should now visit the Embassy. With regard to the arms trial verdict, Dr. Silver had been contacted over the telephone and he believed the matter should be considered by the Executive Committee.

STATEMENT RE ARMS TRIAL

In the discussion on the arms trial verdict the opinion was expressed that the time for the issuance of the statement had been earlier; there was now a decision of a legally constituted court to be reckoned with, which had convicted two men of gun running. It was also pointed out that if a statement was to be issued it should not come from this end, but from the Jewish Agency in Palestine, who are in possession of all the facts. It was recalled that at the beginning of the trials, when the question of issuing a statement had come up in the Emergency Council, it had been decided not to issue one, which decision had proved to be wise, since the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem issued a statement immediately thereafter which was carried by the press.

On the other hand, it was feared that this trial was only the beginning of a campaign on the part of the Palestine Administration to discredit the Jewish Agency and the Jewish contribution to the war effort, and so strengthen the White Paper policy; that other prosecutions would follow, and that, therefore, it should be determined whether some measures might be taken here which might prevent the continuation of this procedure. It was pointed out that although we could not attack the verdict we ought to attack the method by which the verdict was arrived at and the purpose for which the trial was conducted in this manner. It was felt that if pressure were brought to bear on the Government and the Embassy, it might be possible to put an end to the campaign.

It was suggested that the best way to counteract the impression created by the wide publicity given to the arms trials, would be by a constructive publicity campaign in which the contribution of the Jews of Palestine to the war effort would be stressed, as well as the part played by the Jewish Agency in promoting the cooperation of the Yishuv without any assistance -- rather opposition -- from the Palestine Government. In this campaign, too, the Palestine Administration should be attacked in a series of indictments, including the Struma incident, and the efforts to discredit the Jewish Agency. Every effort should be made to mobilize public opinion, through press articles, radio commentators, etc.

It was believed that use should be made also of the Zionist press in the publicity campaign, and the suggestion was made that an article be published in the Jewish Frontier, for example, reprinted and distributed widely.

After further discussion, and after Mr. Kenen had read the statement he had prepared, it was agreed that no statement should be issued at this time, but that every effort be made to mobilize radio commentators and journalists in a constructive publicity program.

STATEMENTS TO PRESS BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Reference was made to the report which had appeared in the New York Times that morning, together with the news story of the arms trial verdict, of Mr. Lipsky's statement on the trial which he had made at a Zionist meeting in New York the previous evening. It was agreed that such opportunities for publicity on our case should be exploited fully, but it was questioned whether statements should be issued by individual members of the Emergency Council without previous discussion with the Council. It was agreed that when an important event occurs, if possible, the Emergency Council should meet and decide on the line to be followed; in cases of special urgency individuals should consult with other members of the Council.

DELEGATION TO EMBASSY

It was recalled that a decision had been taken some time ago to send a delegation to the British Embassy in connection with the arms trial, but that it was later decided to postpone this visit and the memorandum which was to have been presented by the delegation was sent instead to Sir Ronald Campbell, charge d'affaires at the Embassy in the absence of Lord Halifax (see aide-memoire in office files). A reply had come from Sir Ronald a few days ago, in which he stated that there were several statements in the aide-memoire which he did not accept, and indicated that he was ready to discuss these questions at any time.

It was agreed that a delegation should now be named to call on Sir Ronald Campbell as soon as possible.

DEMONSTRATION OF RABBIS IN WASHINGTON

Mr. Gellman asked for guidance from the Executive with regard to the request received by members of the Mizrachi to participate in the demonstration of Rabbis in Washington.

Dr. Goldmann reported on the conversation he had had with Mr. Peter Berg-

Sept. 28, 1943

son of the Army Committee, who had informed him that the Committee for the Rescue of European Jewry was organizing a limited march to Washington on October 5th, in which four hundred Rabbis would participate, and that they would be received by the Speaker of the House. They would present two demands: that an inter-governmental committee to deal with Jewish rescue problems be set up, and that the gates of Palestine be opened for Jewish refugees.

It was further reported that the demonstration in Washington was intended to draw attention to the beginning of a petition movement to be launched by the Rescue Committee.

It was the consensus that members of the Mizrachi invited to participate in the demonstration might do so, not as members of the Emergency Council, but as individuals.

MEETING CALLED BY CONGRESSMAN BLOOM

Dr. Goldmann reported that he had been invited to a meeting called by Congressman Bloom in New York that evening at which he planned to urge the Jewish press not to publish any attacks on the sons of Ibn Saud. Mr. Bloom was to meet the princes on their arrival in Washington in a few days. It was urged that Dr. Goldmann attend the meeting that night. X

It was suggested that a strong delegation of Congressman Bloom's constituents call on him to discuss with him the Palestine question, and it was agreed that Dr. Goldstein be requested to organize such a delegation, to include the Chairman of the Zionist District, representatives of labor, Rabbis, etc.

With regard to the visit of Ibn Saud's sons, Dr. Goldmann reported again on a request which had been made unofficially on behalf of the State Department that the Zionists abstain from any attacks on the princes during their stay in this country, where they would be guests of the White House. It had been intimated on behalf of the Zionists that no attacks would be organized on condition that the princes refrain from bringing up the subject of Palestine.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

A.L.

Hashomer Hatzair
305 Broadway, N.Y.

September 28, 1943.

Mr. Arthur Lourie
Zionist Emergency Committee
41 East 42nd Street
New York City

Dear Lourie:

At the last meeting of the Zionist Emergency Committee, held on September 20th, a vote of censure was passed against me for an alleged breach of Zionist discipline. I vigorously reject this accusation. Moreover, I consider the way and the procedure by which this matter was handled unworthy of any Zionist institution. The fact that I was not even given the right to explain my action at the American Jewish Conference, before the 'verdict' was passed, consists in itself a breach of Zionist organisational discipline and will stand out as a black stain in the record of this Committee.

Permit me therefore through this letter to address myself to the impersonal record of the minutes rather than to the conscience of my colleagues at the Committee.

This is in brief what I would have said if tolerance would have prevailed at this unfortunate meeting: The stand of the Hashomer Hatzair, concerning the issue of the 'Biltmore Program' was known to everyone interested in the discussion. It was published in our own press (Youth and Nation), in the Post-War Studies published by the American Jewish Committee as well as in the Survey of Facts and Figures published by the Conference for Preliminary Studies of the American Jewish Conference. The right of every group, no matter how small, not only to express its political point of view but also to decide as to its tactical behavior at the Conference proper is undeniable. Had you listened or read my declaration carefully you would know that I abstained from voting because I am a disciplined Zionist and that I greeted the resolution as a great Zionist victory despite my disagreement with the wording of it.

I contend that this action of mine under no condition represented a breach of Zionist discipline. I do it on the following grounds: (1) I abstained from voting; (2) there is a formal decision of the Zionist parties participating in the Zionist Emergency Committee that no all-inclusive Zionist bloc shall be created at the American Jewish Conference; (3) at the last meeting of the Zionist Emergency Committee preceding the Conference, during the discussion on the Palestine resolution, I announced very clearly that I won't be bound by the decisions of this body because I was never invited to meetings or consulted on the problem as to how Zionists have to proceed in this Conference. The Committee did not react to my statement and no move was made during or after this meeting to convince me of the undisciplinatory character of such a statement. It is interesting to note that later on during the meeting when it was decided that the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee shall act as a Steering Committee of the Zionists at the Conference (when necessary), it was Mr. Rothstein who upon receiving the information that I am not a member of the Office Committee suggested that my name be added to the Steering Committee. No vote was taken on this suggestion and I was never approached in connection with it.

I submit the above to you with the request that this statement should be attached to the records wherever this case will be mentioned.

Very sincerely yours,

(-) Moshe Furmanský

MINUTES OF MEETING
AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

October 5, 1943.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council took place on Tuesday, October 5, 1943, at 41 East 42nd Street, New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Silver (presiding), Mr. Bublick, Mr. Cruso, Mrs. Epstein, Mr. Gellman, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Neuman, Mrs. Pool, Mr. Shulman, Dr. Wise.

Dr. Nahum Goldman, Mr. Kenen, Mr. Lourie.

Mr. Montor, Mr. Weisgal

REORGANIZATION

Dr. Silver recommended that the following committees be constituted:
FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - The function of this committee would be to examine and approve the budgets of the various committees and devise ways and means of providing the necessary funds; it would also concern itself with the hiring and remuneration of personnel. Dr. Silver recommended Mr. Charles J. Rosenbloom as Chairman of this Committee.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS COMMITTEE - This Committee would endeavor to establish within each region a miniature Emergency Council. The relationship with the National Emergency Council and the local groups would have to be defined. Mr. Joel Gross was recommended as chairman.

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE - The function of this Committee would be to organize Christian lay groups. It would carry on the work done in the past by the American Palestine Committee. Mr. Herman Shulman was recommended as Chairman.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - Chairman, Mr. Louis Lipsky.

COMMITTEE FOR INTELLECTUAL MOBILIZATION - The Task of this Committee would be to mobilize the support of academic circles, writers, artists, etc. The Chairman recommended was Rabbi Milton Steinberg.

COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN CLERGY - Chairman, Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein

COMMITTEE ON CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN-JEWISH RELIGIOUS FORCES - Chairman, Rabbi Wolf Gold.

COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS - This Committee would organize and conduct large scale gatherings. Mr. Meyer W. Weisgal was proposed as Chairman.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE - This Committee is to do work directly in line with the political program of the Emergency Council, and to marshal material to champion and defend our position on the Jewish Commonwealth. It would have a full-time research director and it would be its task to provide the other committees with the material they require. Dr. Silver recommended Mrs. Rose Jacobs for the chairmanship of this committee, which, he emphasized, is to carry on research for the prosecution of our program. Mrs. Jacobs said that she would like to have a talk with Dr. Silver, who indicated that he would be glad to meet with her and added that if she had any reservations with regard to the scope of the Committee, she should let him know now.

PRESS AND RADIO COMMITTEE - Chairman, Mr. Chaim Greenberg

COMMITTEE ON CONTACTS WITH ALLIED POST-WAR GROUPS - Dr. Silver recommended Mrs. Samuel Halprin as Chairman of this Committee.

Two Committees to deal with post-war planning:

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC RESOURCES - Chairman, Mr. Emanuel Neumann.

POST-WAR POLITICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE - Chairman, Mr. Robert Szold. (In the absence of Mr. Szold the Committee would select a deputy Chairman.)

With regard to the membership of each of these committees, Dr. Silver indicated that he was prepared to make recommendations to the respective Chairmen. He explained that all the groups would be represented on each Committee and every member of the Emergency Council would have a place on one of them.

It would be necessary for some of the committees to start work immediately, Dr. Silver stated, and he expressed his desire to meet with the chairmen to discuss with them the membership of their respective committees.

Mr. Cruso suggested that one other committee be set up - one to maintain contact with Labor groups. It was agreed that such a committee should be included.

A discussion arose on the functions of the Community Contacts Committee. The question was raised as to whether the contacts in the local communities should not be made through the Zionist groups; and it was also asked whether the various national organizations should continue to send material of a political nature to their local groups. Dr. Silver explained that it was not the intention of the Emergency Council to duplicate the work of the Zionist agencies; on the contrary, the plan was to make full use of all the Zionist groups in each community. The Community Contacts Committee was not intended to compete with existing committees. Its function would be ^{to give} direction to these committees and stimulate their activities. When the Committee was constituted it would work out its functions and bring in a detailed plan of its proposed activities.

Dr. Silver's recommendations with regard to the Committees to be constituted and their chairmen was approved by the meeting.

Dr. Silver, referring to the need of additional expert assistance for the Emergency Council reported that he had approached Rabbi Leon Feuer with a proposal that he secure leave of absence for a year from his congregation and join the executive staff of the Emergency Council for that period. Rabbi Feuer was very much interested and, happily, had succeeded in obtaining the necessary leave of

absence.

It was unanimously agreed to draft Rabbi Feuer for work with the Emergency Council.

FIGHT AGAINST WHITE PAPER

The question was raised of the advisability of endeavoring to have a Resolution passed by the United States Congress attacking the White Paper. New England Congressmen, it was reported, are ready to present a Resolution confirming the Lodge-Fish Resolution of 1922 and Congressman Celler was drafting one along similar lines.

The opinion was expressed that it would not be wise to have a Resolution introduced into the House until there has been sufficient time to mobilize public opinion on behalf of the abolition of the White Paper. Some members of the Executive felt that instead of a concentrated attack on the White Paper it would be better policy to work on a constructive program, that is, on behalf of the Jewish Commonwealth; to obtain the passage of a resolution would in any case require six months of strenuous work. The point was made, too, that if once the Resolution were moved in the House it would mean a political defeat if it were not pushed through to a final and successful conclusion.

As regards our objective in the campaign against the White Paper, the view was expressed that we should seek to obtain a definite statement from the United States Government which could be publicized, to the effect that the United States had never acquiesced in the White Paper policy and that its agreement was a prerequisite to the legality of that policy; furthermore, we should aim at least at eliciting from the Government of the United States and Great Britain a statement to the effect that the White Paper is suspended until the whole Palestine issue is decided, thus preventing a fait accompli next April.

On the question of American rights in terms of the 1924 American-British Convention, it was suggested that the United States Government's right to intervene was much more limited than has been generally assumed.

The fear was expressed that a campaign which concentrated on the White Paper might make for friction in relations between the United States and Britain, which ultimately would react harmfully on the Zionists. On the other hand, it was felt that if it is intended to mobilize American public opinion, the public must be given something specific to work for and to fight for. The view was expressed that Americans generally might not react with any vigor in support of the fight for a Jewish Commonwealth, whereas it would easily be possible to arouse their sympathy and support if they were told that the doors of Palestine will be closed to the Jews after April, 1944.

With regard to an attack on the White Paper causing tension between the two Governments, it was pointed out that while we certainly did not desire to add to points of friction between the governments it was a factor which could hardly be avoided if this unjust policy were maintained, and the fault could not be laid at our door.

With respect to the manner in which the White Paper should be fought, Mr. Montor urged that the campaign be an all-out campaign, that full use be made of the press and the radio and of other forms of publicity. He saw no objection to advertisements presented with dignity and appearing all over the country; and it might be advisable to arrange a march on Washington, perhaps by Eddie Cantor on

behalf of the Youth Aliyah children, by business people on behalf of their investments in Palestine, etc. In addition, consideration should be given to the ultimate introduction of a Resolution in the House.

In the course of the discussion, the proposal was again put forth by Mr. Shulman for a Christian Conference to be convoked, in which labor organizations, liberal and church groups, and various individuals should be invited to participate.

The importance of utilizing fully the American Jewish Conference in the campaign against the White Paper and letting it be known that the Jewish people remain unanimous in this fight, was also stressed.

So far as the introduction of a Resolution in the House was concerned, it seemed to be the consensus that it would be desirable eventually to introduce such a Resolution, but only after Senators and Congressmen had been thoroughly canvassed and the certainty of the passage of the Resolution secured.

It was reported that a resolution, or declaration, on Palestine was to be presented at the Convention of the American Federation of Labor, which would include reference to the Commonwealth.

Dr. Silver, concluding the discussion, stated that the policy of the Executive will be an active and vigorous attack against the White Paper from now on, in which attack the whole of American Jewry will be united, and which will, he hoped, win for us the approval of every fair minded non-Jew. Every effort will be made to obtain the suspension of the White Paper or commitments that will go beyond abrogation. Dr. Silver added that it was hoped to get the committees convened and acting at the earliest possible moment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 18, 1943

A meeting of the American Zionist Emergency Council was held Monday, October 18, 1943, at 8:15 P. M., at 41 East 42nd Street, New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Silver (presiding), Mr. Boukstein, Mr. Bublick, Mr. Cruso, Mrs. Epstein, Mr. Furmansky, Mr. Gellman, Rabbi Gold, Mr. Goldman, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Goldstein, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Gross, Mrs. Halprin, Mr. Itzkowitz, Mrs. Jacobs, Rabbi Kirshblum, Rabbi Kowalsky, Miss Leibel, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Mereminsky, Mr. Neumann, Dr. Perlzweig, Mr. Quittman, Mr. Rocker, Judge Rosenblatt, Dr. Rosenblueth, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Rothstein, Mr. Rosenbloom, Mrs. Schodman, Mr. Shulman, Mrs. Shulman, Mr. Weisgal, Mr. Wertheim.

Rabbi Feuer, Mr. Isreeli, Mr. Kenen, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Montor, Mr. Shetzer.

VISIT TO BRITISH EMBASSY

Dr. Goldstein reported on the visit to the British Embassy of the delegation which had been named (Mrs. Halprin, Dr. Goldstein and Mr. Greenberg) to see Dr. Ronald Campbell in connection with the arms trial. The delegation informed Sir Ronald that American Jews are deeply disturbed over the fact that the Palestine Administration permitted, if not encouraged, the case involving the two Jews tried for gun-running to be made a "cause celebre", inviting correspondents from neighboring countries to cover the trial, and that the attempt thus made to discredit the Jewish Agency and the Jewish war effort was deeply resented. The delegation pointed to the striking contrast between the procedure at this trial and that at the numerous gun-running trials in which Arabs were involved and also referred to the sentence of seven years pronounced by a military court on Sacharoff, a Jew, for the illegal possession of two rounds of ammunition and that of six months given by a magistrate's court to an Arab for the possession of a British rifle and 86 rounds of ammunition.

Sir Ronald, Dr. Goldstein reported, was thoroughly prepared for the interview and refuted some of the observations made by the delegation, denying that the Palestine Government was unfriendly to the Jews. He indicated, however, that he would convey to the Government in London the purport of the delegation's visit to the Embassy.

In the discussion which followed Dr. Goldstein's report, it was pointed out that many questions are being asked about the trials and that, therefore, it was necessary to take further action. It was

suggested that the forthcoming Convention of Hadassah would provide a good opportunity to give effect to the statement made by the delegation to Sir Ronald, that the Jews of the United States are deeply disturbed about the trials. The view was expressed that a strong attack should be launched against the Palestine Administration, with the trial as one of our grievances, and it was proposed that this attack might take the form of a series of articles in such publications as the Nation or New Republic. The suggestion was also made that Hadassah adopt a resolution at its Convention endorsing the resolutions passed by the Assefat Hanivcharim in Jerusalem, which have been reported in the press.

On the other hand, it was pointed out that from the point of view of public relations, it would be wise to concentrate on one thing at a time, and since an intensive campaign is now being launched against the White Paper, our attack should be confined to that. It was suggested that instead of making the condemnation of the trial the subject of a resolution at the Hadassah Convention, reference should be made, in strong terms, to the arms trial in the course of a discussion on Palestine.

After further discussion, the consensus seemed to be that nothing further should be done at present attacking the trials.

REPORT ON MEETING OF INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

Mr. Shulman reported on the meeting of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference, which had been held the previous day. The morning session had been devoted to a discussion on how the Resolutions adopted by the Conference could be implemented; and there was also considerable discussion on the relation between the Conference and the existing organizations, the manner in which the existing agencies were to cooperate and the extent to which their services could be utilized. A Resolution was passed to the effect that the Conference should proceed to implement the decisions and resolutions which it had adopted with regard to rescue, post-war reconstruction and Palestine, that three Commissions be set up to deal with each one of these problems, and that these Commissions report to an early meeting of the Executive as to their plan of action and bring in recommendations as to how they are to utilize the existing agencies.

With regard to the rescue work, it was the unanimous opinion of the Interim Committee, that since the Joint Emergency Committee for European Affairs was an ad hoc Committee and there was not in existence a permanent body engaged in this work, the Rescue Commission of the Conference should take over its functions.

At this session the Interim Committee also decided to set up an Executive Committee.

The afternoon session, Mr. Shulman reported, was devoted to a discussion of the Executive Committee. It was decided to appoint an Executive of 17 members, with Dr. Wise and Mr. Monsky as co-chairmen. (The original decision of the Conference had been to have three co-chairmen, but the Interim Committee decided to elect only two at present, the third to be chosen at a future date.) An Executive Committee of seventeen was then elected, and this session was

followed by a meeting of the Executive.

The Executive set up the Commission on Palestine, with Dr. Silver as chairman, and the Commission on Rescue, with three co-chairmen - Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Wise and Mr. Monsky (all three of whom had been co-chairmen of the Joint Emergency Committee for European Jewish Affairs). Rabbi Irving Miller was selected to serve as Executive Vice-Chairman of the Rescue Commission. It was decided to postpone until the next meeting the election of the Chairman of the Commission on Post War Reconstruction. The Chairmen of the three Commissions are to be members ex-officio of the Executive. Participation on the Commissions is to be on the basis of the key of nine established at the Conference; on which basis the Executive was also set up.

Following Mr. Shulman's report, a discussion took place on the relation which should be established between the Emergency Council and the Palestine Commission of the Conference, and the functions to be performed by each body.

Reference was made to the principle laid down at the meeting of the Interim Committee, as a guiding principle for the Conference, that as much authority and power be vested in the Conference as possible, comparable with the functions which it performs and with the realities of the situation. It was pointed out that the

Conference has no machinery to carry on the Palestine work, and it was believed that it would be unwise to transfer to it the functions of the Emergency Council and give it full authority in matters relating to Palestine at this time.

The view was expressed that as much documentation as possible should come from the Palestine Commission, which should have the imprint of the Conference and should be distributed widely, but that the material for this documentation should be prepared by the Emergency Council. It was suggested that the Conference be utilized as the enlarged Jewish Agency was used, the work to be done by the Emergency Council and turned over to the Conference when representations to Government were to be made. X

With regard to activizing the Conference, there was a tremendous task to be done in the country, it was pointed out in organizing the communities, arranging regional conferences for the purpose of clarifying the resolutions of the Conference, preparing for the second session, which would involve issuing material, etc. When the Executive Director of the Conference is engaged, the Commissions are functioning, and contacts have been established with the communities and the delegates, the Conference will begin to make itself felt.

It was the consensus that the Conference should be used as the vehicle for public expression and public relations - that it should be the voice of American Jewry; and that in all representations to Government on the questions of the White Paper and the Commonwealth, the Conference should be the instrument vis-a-vis the American Government. In addition, it was believed that the Conference should be kept informed of the activities of the Emergency Council.

After further discussion it was agreed that the whole subject be given further thought before the next meeting.

POLITICAL REPORT

Washington

Dr. Silver reported on his activities in the previous week. He had seen Congressman Bloom, Justice Frankfurter, Congressman Celler and Mr. Rosenman, and had held a press conference, which was attended by some twenty representatives of newspapers and syndicates. He had also called on the Danish Minister, Mr. Henrik de Kauffmann, to express the admiration of the Jewish people for the magnificent way in which the people of Denmark and their King reacted to the unspeakable Nazi Brutalities against the Jewish citizens of Denmark. He was to have met Senator Mead of New York as well, but the Senator, finding himself unable to keep the appointment, telephoned him instead; and indicated that he hoped he would have an opportunity to meet with the same group with whom he had met prior to his going overseas.

Dr. Silver had had a conversation too, with Mr. Peter Bergson of the Jewish Army Committee during which Mr. Bergson outlined the new project for a League for Free Palestine which the Army Committee is planning to launch in the near future.

Dr. Silver also reported on his conversation with Ambassador Steinhardt in New York that day.

Concluding his reports, Dr. Silver stated that he was coming to feel that although the task will be difficult, it is not hopeless. On the subject of the White Paper he thought there is a very good chance to win out.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE

Mr. Boukstein referred to the Conference which was to be held in Atlantic City in November of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and raised the question of the advisability of requesting representation at this Conference. The Joint Distribution Committee had been invited to participate.

It was recalled that the question of seeking representation on the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration had been discussed some time ago by the Emergency Council and that at that time it had been proposed that the Council attempt to get some status. A cable had been sent to Dr. Weizmann asking whether he approved of such an approach but no reply was received. Mr. Szold and Mr. Shertok had seen Mr. Lehman in Washington on the matter.

After some discussion it was agreed to make further inquiries and to seek representation at the Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 P. M.

A. L.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 15, 1943

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held Monday, November 15th, at 4:00 P. M., at 41 East 42nd Street, New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Philip Cruso, Mrs. Judith Epstein, Leon Gellman, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Mrs. Rose Jacobs, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Louis Lipsky, Emanuel Neumann, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Simon Shetzer, Herman Shulman, David Wertheim, Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Joel Gross, Charles J. Rosenbloom, Meyer W. Weisgal.

Arnold K. Isreeli, Isaiah L. Kenen, Arthur Lourie, Henry Montor.

Samuel Blitz.

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 27 *x missing from files.*

It was pointed out that there seemed to be a contradiction in the report of the discussion on the attitude to be taken by the Emergency Council towards the withdrawal of the American Jewish Committee from the American Jewish Conference. It was agreed that the minutes should be changed to correct this impression. With this correction to be made, the minutes were approved.

(The first part of the minutes has been corrected to read as follows:

"The decision taken by the American Jewish Committee to withdraw from the Conference was discussed.

"It was agreed that the resignation of members and groups from the Committee was to be favored. The importance of impressing upon our Government that the Committee does not represent a large segment of Jewish life in America was also stressed.

"The opinion was expressed that there should be no campaign launched all over the country against the American Jewish Committee, which would fritter away our efforts and divert attention from the main goal of fighting the White Paper.)

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Dr. Silver called on Mr. Montor for a brief review of the activities of the Emergency Council since the last meeting.

Mr. Montor referred to the physical problem of lack of space, and reported that arrangements have now been made to move the offices to 342 Madison Avenue December 1st at the latest.

The Finance Committee had met several times and had made some changes in the budget to bring it within the figure accepted by the Executive Committee. The budget of most of the departments had been placed before the Finance Committee. With regard to the Community Contacts Committee, Mr. Gross had been giving a great deal of attention to this work. A number of problems had arisen in forming local Emergency Committees, particularly in connection with the reluctance of some of the old Public Relations committees of the Zionist Organization of America to draw other groups into the work. Mr. Montor indicated that it would be most helpful if members of the Executive would volunteer some time for personal visits to some of the local Emergency Committees.

In the public relations field, arrangements have been made, Mr. Montor reported, for an American journalist to go to Jerusalem. Efforts were now being made to obtain a visa for him. Discussions had been held with people in the radio world, with a view to making arrangements for commercial use of the radio in our program, but it was found that sums beyond the ability of the Emergency Council to provide would be required to do important work in this field. Mr. Weisgal had been in touch with an important broadcaster and efforts were being made to work out some programs with him. Efforts were also being made to push the sale of the Van Paassen book "The Forgotten Ally". This book was to be published shortly in serial form in the New York Post.

A final meeting was to be held with a candidate for the post of Washington contact. Mr. Montor was also in touch with a gentleman in Washington who had been requested to become public relations officer for the capital.

Efforts were being made to activate further the Christian Council and the Council had been offered additional funds to enable its office to be placed on a full time basis.

With regard to publications, the first issue of the Confidential Bulletin had been circulated.

The Committee for Intellectual Mobilization had met and a luncheon had been arranged for this week, for a group of radio commentators and newspaper columnists. Rabbi Steinberg, the chairman of this Committee, had thrown himself into this work wholeheartedly, Mr. Montor said. A director for the department has been engaged.

Mr. Max Zaritsky has accepted the post of Chairman of the Committee on Labor Relations. It has been decided that Mr. Lourie will work with the Committee on Contacts with Post War Planning Groups.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Joel Gross, reporting on the activities of this Committee, stated that although all the constituent organizations of the Emergency Council had been requested to appoint representatives to this Committee and to lend their assistance to the program which had been outlined, they have not all given the Community Contacts Committee their full cooperation as yet. Since the letter addressed by Dr. Goldstein several weeks ago to all the Zionist districts suggesting that they take the initiative in organizing the local Emergency Committees had produced only limited results, a meeting was arranged with Zionist Organization field men at which discussion was given to the organization of local Emergency Committees.

Telegrams had been sent to leading personalities throughout the United States and this led to an acceleration in the formation of local Emergency Committees. Rabbi Feuer was touring a number of cities to assist in the organization of local

Committees, Mr. Gross further reported, and he, too, would visit a number of communities.

To date, Emergency Committees have been formed in 88 cities and 23 additional communities have advised the Community Contacts Committee that they have initiated action. For the most part, Mr. Gross stated, the results are encouraging. He referred to the organization, within a few days, of Emergency Committees in 20 communities in New Jersey which are already embarking on a good program.

Mr. Gross concluded his report by urging that the constituent organizations extend their full cooperation to the Community Contacts Committee, and also that they direct their local groups to address their requests for information and material to the Committee instead of to their national organizations.

Dr. Silver thanked Mr. Gross for the very considerable time and effort he has put into the work of getting the local Emergency Committees organized.

Supplementing Mr. Gross's report, Mr. Montor referred to the detailed Outline of Activities which is sent to the Chairmen of the local Emergency Committees as soon as word is received of their formation. He also reported that a great deal of the work in organizing the Committees is being done by personal contact - either through the telephone or by visits to the communities. Several people have volunteered their services for visits to various cities. He indicated further that it is not only a question of setting up Committees, but every effort is being made to see that the right people serve on these Committees.

Mr. Montor also reported that the Press Department was preparing a series of press books for the guidance of the local Emergency Committees. The first of these, which contains instructions on how to handle press relations and dealing with the White Paper, was to be ready that week and would be sent to the Chairman of every Emergency Committee in the country.

A letter had been sent to national Jewish organizations inviting their cooperation in the fight against the White Paper, and requesting that they adopt Resolutions calling for abrogation of the White Paper and direct their local groups as well to participate in the campaign. The reaction of these organizations was said to be favorable. A similar letter would also be sent this week to the Welfare Funds.

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

Mr. Shulman reported on the activities of this Committee. At the first meeting it had been decided to ask Will Rogers, Jr. to act as Secretary of the American Palestine Committee. Mr. Shulman had had a long talk with Mr. Rogers but found that he was not prepared to sever his contacts with the Jewish Army Committee.

In connection with the membership campaign to be launched in order to enlarge the American Palestine Committee, Mr. Shulman reported that agreement has now been reached whereby the letter which is to be sent to prospective new members will be signed by Senators Wagner and McNary, the co-chairmen of the Committee. The membership drive, Mr. Shulman stated, will have to be stimulated by the local Emergency Committees.

Mr. Shulman had been in touch with Mrs. Norman Littell of Washington, who had agreed to help in setting up a Women's Division of the American Palestine Committee, or, alternatively, getting a number of women active in stimulating the membership drive.

With regard to the proposal which he had previously made for the convening of a Christian Conference, Mr. Shulman reported that Senator Wagner was prepared to have the American Palestine Committee convene such a Conference and invite the cooperation of other organizations.

Mr. Shulman had approached Mr. Arthur T. Vanderbilt, ex-president of the American Bar Association, in connection with obtaining a legal opinion on the White Paper. Mr. Vanderbilt indicated that he and other ex-presidents of the American Bar Association would be prepared to consider signing such a document when it was prepared. Mr. Shulman felt that Dr. Robinson would be the right person to draw up the case.

The question of asking for a hearing before the Foreign Relations Committee would be taken up that week with Senator Connally, Mr. Shulman reported.

The Executive Committee of the American Palestine Committee, to consist of thirteen members, was in the process of formation.

Dr. Silver thanked Mr. Shulman for the very considerable work being done by him, involving as it did a great deal of time.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Lipsky reported that at the last meeting of the Publications Committee Mr. Montor had brought up the matter of three pamphlets, the publication of which appeared to be pressing. The Publications Committee approved of these three projects.

The first is a twelve page pamphlet on the White Paper, prepared by Mr. Lourie and Miss Schwartz, and containing a short introduction, a summary of the provisions of the White Paper and Winston Churchill's 1939 speech on that document. It also includes relevant portions of the Mandate and other documents. This pamphlet is now on the press.

The second pamphlet is a reprinting of Maurice Samuel's "The Zionist Position", originally prepared for the American Jewish Conference, which contains an admirable summary of the Zionist position. All remarks addressed to the delegates of the Conference are of course to be omitted, while the Conference Resolution on Palestine is to be added. This, too, is now on the press.

The third pamphlet is to be a ten to twelve page analysis of Jewish colonization projects outside of Palestine, pointing out their lack of success. This is considered particularly necessary in view of the tendency in Government and other circles to consider Palestinian settlement only a minor part of the solution to the Jewish refugee problem.

In addition, the Publications Committee was considering the publication of certain memoranda, Mr. Lipsky reported.

With regard to the magazine "Palestine", the first issue would be ready for distribution shortly. 15,000 copies of this issue were being printed, Mr. Lipsky stated, and the mailing list which had been prepared included presidents of Universities, members of Legislatures, heads of Chambers of Commerce, and members of Rotary Clubs. He believed, however, that the publication should be keyed to an intelligent interest in Palestine. Mr. Neumann agreed with this view, and thought "Palestine" should go to selected groups, to people who are putting current political thought into circulation, such as members of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Foreign Policy Association, in addition to the first three groups mentioned

above, editors of newspapers and periodicals, etc.

On the other hand, Mr. Montor felt that the aim should be to reach the great body of people who have influence and who cannot be assumed to have too intimate a knowledge of Jewish problems.

It was agreed that the first issue of "Palestine" should be circulated among the large list of people, as prepared, but that for future issues the mailing list should be reconsidered with a view to limiting the circulation of the magazine to a smaller and more select group.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Rosenbloom reported that the Finance Committee had met and revised the budget, to bring it within the figure accepted by the Executive Committee. The new budget calls for an expenditure of \$509,382.

It was noted that there was no specific appropriation for the Economic Planning Committee, the Committee on Jewish Religious Forces and the Committee on Labor Relations. Mr. Rosenbloom indicated that it might be possible to use some of the funds allotted to the other committees for these. With regard to the Economic Planning Committee, for example, Mr. Montor pointed out that \$42,000 had been set aside for research, and at a meeting to be held with the chairmen of the Research Committee and the Economic Planning Committee the question would be discussed as to how that appropriation could be divided.

Dr. Silver emphasized that it was impossible to ask the Committees which had not received appropriations to function without budgets and urged that the Finance Committee go over the budget to see whether funds cannot be taken from other departments.

Mr. Neumann urged that sometime between now and the end of the year a meeting be devoted to the budget, when it could be studied section by section. He believed this was necessary since questions of policy are involved.

COMMITTEE ON JEWISH RELIGIOUS FORCES

Rabbi Gold reported that his Committee had held its first meeting, at which certain suggestions were made, and a plan of action outlined.

COMMITTEE ON CONTACTS WITH POST WAR PLANNING GROUPS

Mrs. Halprin reported that she had written to Mrs. Roosevelt for an appointment, which had been promptly granted, for this week in New York. She and three other women would meet Mrs. Roosevelt. They planned to talk to her on the questions of the White Paper and the absorptive capacity of Palestine.

Mrs. Halprin further reported on the talk that she and Mrs. Epstein had had with the publisher of the New York Post.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jacobs reported that there had been a number of meetings with the prospective director of the Research department. There would be a decision the following day as to whether he would be able to take over the work.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P. M.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

November 15, 1943

A meeting of the American Zionist Emergency Council took place on Monday, November 15th, at 8:15 P. M., at 41 East 42nd Street, New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Stephen S. Wise (presiding), Miss Juliet Benjamin, Maurice Boukstein, Mrs. Judith Epstein, Moshe Furmansky, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Paul L. Goldman, Mrs. Samuel Goldstein, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Joel Gross, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Isaac Hamlin, Benjamin Itzkowitz, Mrs. Rose Jacobs, Rabbi Max Kirshblum, Rabbi I. M. Kowalsky, Miss Jeannette Leibel, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Irving Lipkowitz, I. Mereminski, I. Naiditch, Emanuel Neumann, Judge Bernard Rosenblatt, Charles J. Rosenbloom, Miss Dvora Rothbard, Sam Rothstein, Mrs. Bertha Schoolman, Simon Shetzer, Mrs. Rebecca Shulman, Herman Shulman, Louis Segal, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Elihu D. Stone, David Wertheim.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Arnold K. Isreeli, Isaiah Kenen, Arthur Lourie, Henry Montor, Meyer W. Weisgal.

Dr. Joseph Cohn, Martin Panzer, Robert Silverman.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF OCTOBER 18TH

The minutes of the meeting of October 18th were approved.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON WHITE PAPER

A draft of a statement was read for issue to the press, in reply to the announcement made in the House of Commons by the Colonial Secretary that the 32,000 immigration certificates available under the White Paper quota and unused owing to war conditions would be valid after March 1944. There was some discussion on the draft statement, and a number of suggestions were made for points to be incorporated in it. It was agreed that the statement should be strengthened and should stress the fact that the Colonial Secretary's announcement is no concession and that the policy of the White Paper remains fundamentally unchanged.

Mr. Shulman reported that several meetings of the Executive Committee of the Interim Committee had been held since the last report was presented. The Commission on Rescue has been set up and has power to coopt as many members as it desires. At the last meeting of the Executive it was decided to invite the Joint Distribution Committee to participate in the rescue work and to determine in what other way they should cooperate. X

The Joint Emergency Committee for European Jewish Affairs had adopted a motion to adjourn that Committee, and the members were invited to participate in the Commission on Rescue of the Conference.

At the last meeting of the Executive of the Conference Interim Committee, a

report was presented by a committee appointed at the previous meeting on a statement to be issued with regard to the withdrawal of the American Jewish Committee from the Conference. That statement was approved and issued to the press. An appendix to the statement to the press - a document of about 20 pages - is to be published in pamphlet form and will be distributed to every delegate in the various communities.

The Executive also decided to set up the other two Commissions as soon as possible. The constituent organizations were requested to send in their designees.

Mr. Shulman reported further that the Conference was planning to organize a national committee to work with it on the question of rescue.

Mrs. Halprin urged that the fight against the White Paper be carried on with the active cooperation of the Conference. It was agreed that the Conference should take action and invite the cooperation of other groups.

JEWISH ARMY COMMITTEE

Action was also decided on at the last meeting of the Conference Executive Committee with regard to the Jewish Army Committee. Requests had been received from various quarters, for some action to be taken by the Conference, to make it known that the Army Committee is not representative of American Jewry. A resolution was drawn up, but it was felt that it should not be issued at the same time as the statement on the American Jewish Committee, and it was therefore decided to postpone its publication for a later date. The resolution states that neither the American Jewish Conference, nor any of the organizations connected with the Conference have anything to do with the Emergency Committee for the Rescue of European Jews, that the latter has no connection with the Conference, that it has no constituency, that it is not authorized to speak on behalf of American Jewry, and that it is not responsible to anybody.

Dr. Silver raised the question of the League for a Free Palestine, and indicated that before long the Zionists will have to take a position in the matter. The League has set up a regional office in Chicago, and apparently there would shortly be a large scale membership campaign launched all over the country. He believed that the Conference Executive should issue a strong statement and that it should be given wide publicity all over the country; and he urged that the Zionist delegates present at the forthcoming meeting of the Executive should press for strong action.

Dr. Goldstein referred to the press conference he had had with representatives of the Yiddish press, where he got the impression that some of them lean towards the Army Committee because, they say, nobody else is doing anything striking. He urged that a Conference be arranged with the Yiddish press to point out the danger of the Army Committee's activities. He also expressed his belief that the American Jewish Conference will die if it does not proceed quickly to engage an executive staff, and urged that pressure be exerted in the Interim Committee to see that an executive director is engaged.

Mrs. Halprin pointed out that all the members of the Interim Committee Executive were asked to bring in names of possible candidates for the post of executive director and urged that the Zionist members on the Committee make recommendations.

Dr. Goldman agreed with Dr. Silver that the Resolution of the Conference on the Emergency Committee for the Rescue of the Jews of Europe should be given wide publicity, and that action should be taken on this resolution at the latest at the meeting of the Interim Committee Executive the coming Tuesday. He believed that if

we stepped into the fight, the Army Committee would disintegrate soon, and pointed out that Washington also was interested in destroying them. In addition to the statement of the Conference on the rescue committee he thought that the Emergency Council should issue a statement on the League for a Free Palestine. He regarded this League as much more dangerous than the rescue committee and recommended that rather than wait until the next meeting of the Emergency Council, the Executive Committee should issue a clear fighting statement against the League.

Mr. Wertheim believed we should not wait for the Conference, but that we should come out now with a statement on the League, in which the whole story of the Army Committee should be told.

Mr. Weisgal agreed with this view and stressed the fact that Washington has been waiting since August for a statement by us disavowing the Army Committee. He urged that this matter be discussed in all its ramifications, and a decision taken as to what to do with this menace in Jewish life.

Mr. Boukstein thought we should not wait two weeks. He proposed that the chairman appoint a small committee to work on a statement and that they be authorized to issue it.

Mr. Mereminski, too, urged that a press conference be held with the Yiddish press people without delay, and that they should not merely be handed a statement, but that the matter should be discussed thoroughly with them and every effort made to convince them how dangerous the Army Committee people are. At present they are all influenced by Mr. Bergson.

Dr. Wise and Dr. Silver urged that the overall statement should come from the Conference, and that the Zionists should deal only with the Zionist angle, namely, the League for a Free Palestine.

Mr. Montor, too, thought our statement should limit itself to the League. As our activities increased we should by that fact more than any other be able to displace them.

After some further discussion the following motion was adopted: that the members of the Interim Committee present, submit to the Conference through its Interim Committee the suggestion that their Resolution be made much stronger than it is and that it deal with the whole problem of improvised pseudo-representative groups; and that the Emergency Council then call a Conference of the Yiddish press, discuss the matter thoroughly with them, and issue its own statement to both the Yiddish and English press.

BUDGET

Mr. Charles Rosenbloom, reported that about a month ago the Finance Committee had presented a budget of \$604,000 to the Executive Committee, and the Executive adopted a budget of \$500,000. The Finance Committee had therefore revised the figures and was now presenting a budget of \$509,382. Mr. Rosenbloom gave the details concerning the amounts allotted to each department.

Discussing the budget, Dr. Silver pointed out that it is not a large sum that is being requested for the things we want to do - sending people to Palestine, getting articles written, publishing magazines ourselves, doing research work, etc.

After some further discussion, the budget of \$509,382 was adopted unanimously by the Emergency Council.

POLITICAL REPORT

Dr. Silver reported on his interviews with Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Mr. Herbert Lehman and Mr. Sumner Welles, and on the meetings which he and Dr. Goldmann had had with Lord Halifax and Mr. Edward Stettinius.

Referring to the talk with Mr. Lehman, Mr. Mereminski expressed the opinion that the Jewish Agency should take steps to approach the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. He also believed that the question of lend-lease for Palestine should be taken up by the Agency, pointing out that lend-lease supplies are urgently required for our work in Palestine. Lend-lease and food are tied up, he said. There are 40,000 dunams which cannot be used because we have not the necessary machines, which we should get through lend-lease. We must establish the principle that the Jewish Agency has a status in the matter.

Dr. Goldmann reported on conversations which Mr. Shertok had had in Cairo. It was also reported that Col. Hoskins was now in London and that Wallace Murray was invited there.

As to Mr. Mereminski's remarks re the UNRRA, Dr. Goldmann pointed out that the Jewish Agency has no official relation to the UNRRA; it has relations with the League of Nations, but the UNRRA has no connection with the League. The Jewish Agency could participate in the UNRRA only on the recommendation of the Mandatory Power. Further, Dr. Goldmann pointed out it is doubtful whether the UNRRA will function in Palestine. It is to function only in occupied countries where there is need of food. UNRRA has no direct relation to the whole complex of Palestine.

With regard to lend-lease, Dr. Goldmann stated that the difficulty was likewise that we have no governmental status; only the Palestine Government could make recommendations in respect of lend-lease.

Referring to the visit of Col. Hoskins and Mr. Murray to London, Dr. Wise suggested that the Conference send a joint delegation to Mr. Hull to get more information. He also made what he called the daring suggestion that since Government is sending two people to London who are unfriendly to the Zionist cause, that they be requested to send a friendly Jew to London. That would be a test, Dr. Wise said.

Dr. Goldstein stated that in view of the fact that important things are in the making it becomes urgent for us to have contact with our people in London at this time. Perhaps it would be desirable, he suggested, to designate somebody to go to London to bring them all these observations and get a report from them.

Judge Rosenblatt supported Dr. Wise's suggestion.

Mr. Neumann thought that we ought to face reality and should realize that our Government is not prepared to lift a finger in our behalf. With regard to information from abroad, he agreed that we were not getting all we ought to have. He believed that a systematic campaign of education should be carried on among the people who matter, and that the economic problem should also be handled more thoroughly.

Mr. Weisgal referred to the situation during the last war, when two Jews were sent to represent Zionist interests, and when the Zionists had a special pouch between London and Washington.

Dr. Silver pointed out certain difficulties which applied to the proposal to ask Government to send a man friendly to the Jews in London. He agreed, however, with Dr. Goldstein that it was necessary to send somebody to England.

After further discussion, it was agreed that an immediate approach be made to the proper authorities for facilities for a representative of the Emergency Council to go to London.

MR. BEN-GURION'S RESIGNATION

Dr. Goldmann reported on the cable received from Mr. Szold with regard to the resignation of Mr. Ben-Gurion, which had already been reported in the press. Mr. Szold indicated in his cable that Mr. Ben-Gurion had resigned before his arrival in Palestine, and that he and Mr. Kirschner, President of the South African Zionist Federation, as well as practically all Palestinian circles were urging him to withdraw his resignation. He also stated that the South African Zionist Federation had cabled Mr. Ben-Gurion strongly urging him to withdraw his resignation; and that Dr. Weizmann had cabled that he was unable to leave London at the present time because of important pending conversations and that he had suggested that a Palestine delegation proceed to London instead. This suggestion was now under consideration in Palestine.

It was decided that a cable be sent to Mr. Ben-Gurion urging him in the interest of Zionist unity to remain at his post and stressing the fact that disunity in Zionist ranks at this time will have harmful results for the work in this country.

The meeting adjourned at midnight.



A. L.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 29, 1943

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council was held Monday, November 29th, at 4:00 P. M., at 41 East 42nd Street, New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Maurice Boukstein, Mrs. Judith Epstein, Leon Gellman, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Mrs. Rose Jacobs, Louis Lipsky, Emanuel Neumann, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Simon Shetzer, Herman Shulman, David Wertheim, Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Joel Gross, Charles J. Rosenbloom, Meyer W. Weisgal.

Rabbi Leon I. Feuer, Arthur Lourie, Henry Montor.

Maurice Chanis of Columbus, Ohio, Mendel Fisher, Robert Silverman.

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held November 15th were approved.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Mr. Montor reported briefly on the activities of the Emergency Council during the past few weeks. Arrangements have now been completed, he stated, for moving the offices at the end of that week to 342 Madison Avenue, Suite 1426. In addition to the facilities for offices in the new quarters, there will also be a large conference room. Mr. Montor expressed his gratitude to Mr. Alex Rothenberg, who had been of considerable assistance in making the new quarters available.

The first Press Book, dealing with the White Paper, had been circulated among the Chairmen of the local Emergency Committees, Mr. Montor reported. The drive for an enlarged membership of the American Palestine Committee has been launched, 8,000 letters having been sent out last week over the signatures of Senators Wagner and McNary. The address of the American Palestine Committee has now been changed from New York to Washington. X

With regard to Publications, the first issue of "Palestine" had been mailed out to 15,000 people. In accordance with the decision taken at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, the mailing list for further issues of "Palestine" would be revised.

Mr. Montor further reported that a private Conference was being called in Cleveland, December 11th and 12th, to which would be invited the chairmen of all

the local Emergency Committees, involving about 100 - 150 people.

Rabbi Feuer will go to Washington, Mr. Montor stated, to manage the work there and to contact Congressmen for the local Emergency Committees. He will also deal with the work of the American Palestine Committee. Mr. Leo Sach has been asked to serve as one of our legislative counsel in Washington and will work with the Community Contacts Committee; and Mr. Elihu Stone has been requested to go to Washington to deal directly with the majority and minority leaders in Congress.

Mr. Shulman had met with Dr. Robinson, who has agreed to write a legal brief on the White Paper, with voluminous documentation, and also a shorter document for the layman.

Letters have been sent to 340 Welfare Funds asking them to adopt Resolutions condemning the White Paper and also to circularize these Resolutions to their constituencies. So far the response has been very encouraging, Mr. Montor stated. The Jewish Welfare Board has called upon the Jewish Community Centers to cooperate with the local Emergency Committees in their fight against the White Paper.

A delegation from the Jewish Legion was being received that day by the British Embassy, where they were presenting a resolution protesting against the White Paper. Mr. Lourie had examined the material that was to be submitted to the Embassy, and Mr. Kenen and Mr. Isreeli were in Washington to publicize the matter.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS COMMITTEE

Rabbi Feuer reported further on the activities of the Community Contacts Committee. He stated that 125 Emergency Committees have now been organized and a further number was in the process of organization. A number of mailings have been sent to these Committees, including the Press Book, invitations to the Conference in Cleveland and questionnaires on Congressmen. Next week they would receive the new pamphlet on the White Paper "Shall the Door be Shut".

Rabbi Feuer had visited eight major communities, and had met with the Committees in these cities. For the most part he found them well organized, and if these eight communities are any reflection, he stated, the country is eager to proceed with this fight and only awaits our direction. He had discussed with the Committees the question of direct contact with Congressmen and Senators and found that almost universally there was the feeling that that was the heart of the job.

Reporting on the Christian Council, on behalf of Dr. Voss, Rabbi Feuer stated that the membership of the Council was now well over 900, and Dr. Voss is circularizing this membership in order to keep them well informed. A pamphlet containing Dorothy Thompson's address to the Balfour Day Meeting in Carnegie Hall was to be sent to the members within the next few days. They are all on the mailing list for "Palestine". Dr. Voss is now preparing a pamphlet incorporating the contents of the September 1943 issue of "World Alliance News Letter" on "Jews and Christians", is ready to begin work on the Harlow manuscript, and has in preparation several articles.

Dr. Atkinson and Dr. Voss are looking for someone to work for the Christian Council on a full time basis. The Council recently sent out an appeal for funds to its membership and subscriptions are coming in.

Four Regional Institutes were held during the month of November in Cleveland, Chicago, Denver and Omaha, which were addressed by Dr. Atkinson and Dr. Voss. The

meeting in Denver was particularly successful, with 35 people present. The group there planned to take definite action by organizing in community-wide activities to combat anti-Semitism, to create public opinion against the White Paper and to hold public meetings of protest. In Omaha the meeting started in an atmosphere of suspicion, which contrasted markedly with the wholehearted enthusiasm and complete confidence which marked the conclusion. In both cities Committees were appointed to carry on the work.

Dr. Voss is planning to send literature each week for a period of four weeks to those who attended the Conferences and to those who sent in regrets, to assure a continuous impact. They are also being circularized for membership in the Council and have been put on the Emergency Council mailing list for "Palestine".

Mr. Gross, supplementing Rabbi Feuer's report, remarked that the purpose of the Conference in Cleveland was to see how people can best be convinced and how issues can best be resolved. He stated further that the organization of Committees had been given a great impetus, which was a confirmation of the suspicion he had had that we have underestimated the extent of the support we can get outside of New York.

REPORT OF INTERIM COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

Mr. Shulman reported that a small Administrative Committee, consisting of 6 or 7, has been appointed by the Interim Committee, and is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the work of the Executive and the Interim Committees. Mr. Kenen has been engaged by the Conference as public relations counsel, and Mr. Perlstein of Richmond, Virginia, as administrative secretary.

At the last meeting of the Interim Committee, Dr. Silver had presented a report to the Palestine Commission on the Emergency Council's campaign against the White Paper. A motion had been adopted by the Interim Committee approving the efforts of the American Zionist Emergency Council and calling on the constituent organizations of the Conference to cooperate in the fight against the White Paper.

With regard to the Commission on Post War Reconstruction, Chaim Greenberg and Dr. Eisendrath were appointed co-chairmen. Judge Steinbrink has been asked to serve as co-chairman of the Palestine Commission.

X LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR MR. KENEN

A motion was adopted granting leave of absence from the Emergency Council for Mr. Kenen, to enable him to take the post of public relations counsel of the Conference. Warm appreciation was expressed of his work on behalf of the Council and his departure was regretted.

It was reported that Mr. Manson, who had been engaged as assistant to Mr. Kenen, would carry on until a suitable successor to Mr. Kenen is found.

X RESOLUTION IN CONGRESS

Dr. Silver pointed out that by the next meeting the question of introducing a Resolution into Congress would have to be recanvassed. The work being done by the Emergency Council up to now has been taking that direction. At the last meeting of the Interim Committee the Conference decided to introduce the following amendment to the Rogers-Paldwin Resolution: "Be it further resolved that Congress advise the removal of restrictions on Jewish immigration into Palestine in order to allow the largest and earliest possible immigration of Jews into the National Home."

Mr. Montor suggested that before the Cleveland meeting the question of the Resolution to be introduced in Congress be discussed by the Executive, if necessary at a special meeting.

PROGRAM OF EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Dr. Silver indicated that he has been worried about the concentration by the Emergency Council on the fight against the White Paper. He recalled the suggestion made in the Conference Interim Committee to have two Commissions on Palestine, one to concern itself with the immediate problems, and the other to deal with the future status of Palestine. There was, however, only one Resolution on Palestine adopted by the Conference, Dr. Silver pointed out, and the Palestine Commission exists to implement that Resolution. He stressed the fact that we have to fight for the Commonwealth at the same time as we are fighting against the White Paper. If we say we are fighting the White Paper in order to establish the Commonwealth, that is one thing; if we only say we are fighting the White Paper, that is quite another thing - even the American Jewish Committee would be satisfied with that.

Dr. Goldmann agreed with Dr. Silver, especially, he said, in view of Colonel Stanley's statement in the House of Commons. The only part of the White Paper that involved a deadline, he pointed out, was that dealing with immigration, and that deadline has now been removed. Before the end of the war, not more than the 32,000 certificates available would be needed. Dr. Goldmann did not believe the White Paper would be abrogated, - instead, he thought there would be a new policy announced. Before Colonel Stanley's statement, there was a point to concentrating on the fight against the White Paper, but now Dr. Goldmann could not see how we could separate that from the fight for the Commonwealth. Thinking in terms of political reality, we should fight for constructive action. We should use the fine machinery we have built up for the constructive program. Great Britain is now beginning to discuss the Near East, and there is not time first to spend six months fighting the White Paper, then to start talking about the Commonwealth. At the end of 1943, when we are entering the crucial Zionist year, Dr. Goldmann concluded, we must organize the majority of the Jews in this country to fight for our total program. He agreed with Mr. Montor that it would mean a fight in American Jewry.

Mr. Montor stated that there seemed to be two approaches, and he was looking at it from the point of view of technique. We all recognize the strength in each community for the Zionist cause, he said, but the organized Zionists in some of the communities do not have the strength to stand up and fight. He believed that the Zionist movement in America was farther back now than it was three years ago. As anti-Semitism has progressed, our Zionists have weakened their position. On the other hand, the American Council for Judaism is meeting with increasing support, particularly because the position of the Jews in this country, in the mind of many Jews, has weakened, and therefore the threat being used that their patriotism is in question meets with greater response. Also, the Jewish community in this country was not prepared intellectually for the adoption of the Palestine Resolution by the Conference.

Our present concentration on the White Paper, Mr. Montor continued, is intended to unite Jews in the communities on the importance of Palestine. He gave the example of the Palestine Committee of the Conference. If we start on a common denominator level, we will have a forum in which to state our case. For instance, in Pittsburgh Mr. Rosenbloom tried to bring into the Emergency Committee every element in the community. Although they were brought in on the basis of fighting the White Paper, they will have a better understanding of what Palestine means as a result, and will be able to talk intelligently about the Commonwealth, etc. There is a great gain, from the public relations point of view, in getting total community support, Mr. Montor stressed.

It was decided to hold a special meeting Wednesday, December 1st, at 4:30 P. M. to discuss further and decide on the program of the Emergency Council.

FINANCES

Judge Rosenblatt reported that the Keren Hayesod has agreed to make available the full amount requested of it - \$250,000 for the budget of the Emergency Council, for the period October 1943 to October 1944. It was also reported that the Jewish National Fund has voted the sum of \$86,250 to complete what has been regarded as the pledge for the year January 1, to December 31, 1943, and had approved the additional amount required of them.

COMMITTEE ON JEWISH RELIGIOUS FORCES

Rabbi Gold reported that a Conference of orthodox Jewish organizations was being called by four leading orthodox organizations, - the Religious Bloc of the American Jewish Conference, the Committee on Jewish Religious Forces of the Emergency Council, Mizrachi, and the Executive to Strengthen the Torah. From his conversations with many individuals, Rabbi Gold said he had reason to believe that the Conference would be successful. The date has been set tentatively for February 14th, since that was the first day on which hotel accommodations could be procured.

It was believed that this Conference was most important, and it was agreed to spend \$4,000 - \$5,000 if necessary to assure its success. It was also urged that efforts be made to hold it on an earlier date.

HADASSAH REPRESENTATION ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Epstein presented a request on behalf of Hadassah that they be given the right to have three representatives on the Executive instead of two, which will give them the same representation as the Z.O.A. Mr. Wertheim pointed out that this proposal would mean that the Poale Zion would no longer have parity with Hadassah on the Executive.

Mr. Lourie referred to the amendment to the Constitution which had been adopted and which provided that Hadassah and Z.O.A. shall each have three representatives on the Executive and Poale Zion and Mizrachi were each to have two. Mr. Wertheim pointed out that that arrangement was reached on the understanding that the third Hadassah member was to be Mrs. Jacobs and the third Z.O.A., Mr. Lipsky, both of whom are members of the Jewish Agency Executive.

It was decided to appoint a committee of three, consisting of Dr. Goldmann, Mrs. Epstein and Mr. Wertheim, to decide on this matter.

REVISIONISTS REQUEST TO JOIN EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Dr. Silver reported that the Revisionists had begun negotiations in October with a view to joining the Emergency Council. He had informally sounded out the four constituent groups of the Council as to their attitude and a cable had also been sent to Palestine on the subject. No reply had yet been received to this cable, and a further communication had come a few days ago from Colonel Mendelsohn urging immediate action on the Revisionists' desire for collaboration with the Emergency Council.

Dr. Silver stated that Zionists all over the country feel that unity must be established and that if the Revisionists come into the Emergency Council they may be able to help us destroy the Army Committee.

Mr. Wertheim pointed out that the Revisionist group in this country is tied up with the New Zionist Organization in Palestine, and that confidential material which would be made available to them there could be turned over by them to the Palestine Organization.

Dr. Goldmann believed that the Council should wait a little longer for a reply from Jerusalem to our cable on the Revisionists, since the Palestine Executive has not had sufficient time to discuss the matter. He stated that there were certain tendencies in the World Zionist Organization towards readmitting the Revisionists and referred to the Committee appointed in Palestine to negotiate with the Revisionists there. He recommended waiting two more weeks for a reply from the Executive.

Mr. Neumann stated that he had spoken to a member of the Revisionist group here. It had been suggested to him that if the American group reach an understanding with the Emergency Council, that might be a first step towards coming to an agreement with the World Zionist Organization.

It was agreed to wait another two weeks for a reply from Jerusalem.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM CANADIAN ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

Mr. M. Dickstein of Montreal, Vice-President of the United Zionist Council of Canada, was introduced. Mr. Dickstein stated that at the last meeting of the Canadian Council it was decided that in view of the fact that the Canadian Zionists have little communication with Jerusalem, London and even New York, to request that a representative be invited to each monthly meeting of the Emergency Council in order to be kept informed and in order to report on activities in Canada. It was pointed out that Mr. Freiman is invited to all meetings and it was agreed that when he is unable to attend, another member should be invited in his place.

Mr. Dickstein reported briefly on the activities of the Canadian Pro-Palestine Committee.

COMMISSION ON PALESTINE SURVEYS

Mr. Neumann raised the question of whether the work of the Commission on Palestine Surveys should be publicized. He referred to the reasons which had prompted the Commission to keep its studies confidential. Some information on the work of the Commission has been given publicity, however, in Palestine, and at the same time it has not been made available to people in this country who should have it. A preliminary report has been written on the proposed project and letters have been received from two leading experts expressing themselves in the affirmative as to its feasibility.

Although the Commission is autonomous and is responsible to the Jewish Agency, Mr. Neumann stated, it would like to receive guidance from the Zionist leaders in the Emergency Council.

Mr. Rothenberg referred to the objections raised in certain political circles as to the ability of Palestine to absorb large numbers of immigrants, and thought we should use the information gathered by the Commission as a means of instruction. He recommended that in view of the possibility of negotiations in London, the report should be made available to the President.

Dr. Goldmann said he saw no objection to making it available to the President. He was also in favor of making it available to people in the State Department, in the Board of Economic Warfare, etc. Since the work was being done at the request of

Dr. Weizmann, he recommended that his permission be requested to submit this information to a group of officials in Washington and to give it general publicity. Since the Lowdermilk book would be coming out shortly, that was an additional reason for making the studies public.

It was the consensus that subject to consultation with Dr. Weizmann, people should be informed of the work of the Survey Commission, but that the President should see the report first.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P. M.

A. L.



AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 13, 1943

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council was held Monday, December 13, 1943, at 4:00 P. M., at 342 Madison Avenue, New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Mrs. Judith Epstein, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Mrs. Rose Jacobs, Mrs. Tamar Pool, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Herman Shulman, David Wertheim, Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

Rabbi Wolf Gold, Charles J. Rosenbloom.

Rabbi Leon I. Feuer, Arnold K. Isreeli, Arthur Lourie, Harold P. Manson, Henry Montor.

Mendel Fisher, Charles Rome, Robert Silverman.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 29

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held November 29 were approved.

REPORT ON CLEVELAND CONFERENCE

A report was presented on the Conference of chairmen of local emergency committees which had been held in Cleveland December 11 and 12. The Saturday night session was devoted to general political reports, Dr. Goldman reviewing the international scene and Dr. Silver the Washington scene. Sunday morning there was a full discussion of practical methods of implementing the program of the Emergency Council throughout the country, following detailed presentations by Rabbi Feuer on the structure, composition and functions of the local emergency committees, and by Mr. Shulman on the character, present composition and future program of the American Palestine Committee. At the Sunday afternoon session, Mr. Weisgal briefly outlined the work of the Special Services Committee and Mr. Montor reviewed the activities of the Emergency Council. The remainder of the session was devoted to a discussion of methods of contacting, educating and winning the support of Congressmen and Senators. This session was presided over by Judge Fisher of Chicago, who introduced the subject, and during the course of the discussion, a draft of a Resolution that might be introduced in Congress was read.

The Conference was attended by over 100 chairmen of local emergency committees, and there was every indication of keen Zionist interest and fine imagination in implementing the program. The group present was a very representative one, the delegates coming from all over the country, from Maine to Oregon.

Those who attended the Conference went away satisfied that they had participated in a worthwhile effort. The Conference should prove valuable in

coordinating our program throughout the country, with acquainting people in the communities as to what we want them to do and getting their ideas as to how they want us to do it.

Much of the discussion at the Conference centered on the theme of the inseparability of the fight against the White Paper and the fight for the Commonwealth. Some communities had not realized that in launching a campaign against the White Paper, the Commonwealth aim could not be ignored. A few of the local Committees had drawn in non-Zionists and even anti-Zionists. It was explained in Cleveland how the White Paper and the Commonwealth issues must be tied up. This discussion was summed up in a resolution moved by one member to the effect that only such persons be invited to serve on the local emergency committees as subscribed to the Palestine Resolution of the American Jewish Conference.

DELEGATION TO LONDON

A cable from Dr. Weizmann asking that arrangements be made for a representative American delegation to come to London was read, and also a cable from Mr. Shertok on the subject of Palestinian and American delegations to London. (Both cables attached to Minutes).

It seemed that there was a different conception in Jerusalem as to the purpose of the meeting in London than there was in London. It was pointed out that the Executive in Jerusalem was apparently primarily concerned in settling the internal conflict; whereas Dr. Weizmann was thinking about consultations with regard to talks with the British Government, in which he requires the cooperation of American Zionist leaders.

After some discussion it was decided, in view of the uncertainty as to whether or when actual negotiations with the British Government might ensue, that it would be desirable to send a liaison to London to report on developments in this country and to obtain all information on the situation there. The liaison would be expected to return immediately so that the Council might be in possession of all the relevant information in deciding on the character and scope of a delegation.

It was suggested that in any case the State Department should be consulted as to the availability of priorities for a delegation in the near future.

In the course of the discussion Dr. Goldstein referred to the news items which had been appearing with regard to the possibility of a new partition scheme. He urged that this matter be taken up by the Executive Committee and that before any one went to London on its behalf a stand be taken on two or three hypothetical schemes. Dr. Silver agreed that it was important that the Committee should be in a position to express itself on any proposal, but that in the present circumstances there was nothing definite to discuss.

After further discussion, it was decided unanimously that Mr. Lourie go to London as soon as it was possible to obtain a priority for him.

REVISIONISTS' REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY COUNCIL X

A cable received from Mr. Shertok in reply to the one sent to him some weeks earlier on this subject was read. (Cable attached).

Dr. Silver reported that he had arranged to meet with the Revisionist repre-

sentatives the following day, when he would present Mr. Shertok's questions to them, and then notify the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem of the replies received.

In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that the Jewish Agency had not commented on the fact that the Revisionist group here would not break away from their parent body if they joined the Emergency Council. It was indicated that the Revisionists know that if they join the Council they will have to submit to our discipline, and, therefore, to the discipline of the Jewish Agency. The question was asked as to whether they can submit both to the discipline of the Council and the discipline of their parent body.

Dr. Goldmann said that if the Executive in Jerusalem did not object to our proceeding with the negotiations with the Revisionists, he personally would be ready to agree, but he was sceptical of the results. He reported that at the recent meeting of the Actions Committee group in New York, the majority of the members had expressed themselves as opposed to allowing the Revisionists to join the Emergency Council.

Mrs. Halprin made the point that if the Revisionists join the Emergency Council and at the same time are bound to their own organization, their representatives, and through them the organization, will have access to all material of a confidential nature.

Mr. Wertheim reported that he had taken the matter up informally with the Poale Zion, who felt that the matter was one for the Agency. He suggested that the four groups get copies of the exchange of cables with Jerusalem and give the matter further consideration.

Dr. Silver pointed out that he had presented the matter to the parties more than a month ago. He urged that in this case the parties accept the recommendation of the chairman of the Executive and make it possible for the Revisionists to join the Council. He stressed the fact that having them disassociate themselves from the Bergson group and assist in disintegrating that group would be very valuable.

Mrs. Halprin raised the question of bringing Mr. Meir Grossman back into the Emergency Council, and it was agreed to look into the status of his departure from the Council.

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

Mr. Shulman reported that the membership drive for a greatly increased membership in the American Palestine Committee had now been launched. There had already been many acceptances, and very few rejections. The local communities had been asked to send in names of persons whom they knew to be friendly to our cause and to whom membership applications would be sent.

A letter had also gone out to the members of the American Palestine Committee who are being invited to serve on the Executive of the A.P.C.

With regard to the Christian Conference, the date has been set for February 15th, and the Conference will be held in Washington. An attempt was being made to secure Constitution Hall. The plan is to invite ten to fifteen organizations to participate, (about 100 representatives) and these organizations are being carefully selected. It will then be determined whether it is feasible to invite individuals as well. It is intended to have a dinner session, introduced by Senators Wagner and McNary, with five or six addresses dealing with various topics, such as the absorptive capacity of Palestine, etc., and to conclude with the submission of a Resolution.

CABLE FROM DR. WEIZMANN, LONDON, NOVEMBER 26 RE DELEGATION TO LONDON (Received December 1st)

ANXIOUS HAVE HERE DELEGATIONS FROM AMERICA AND PALESTINE FOR ADVICE AND COOPERATION IN PRESENT RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION STOP HAD INTENDED INVITING YOUR DELEGATES ONLY AFTER PALESTINE'S ACCEPTANCE OF MY INVITATION BUT SO FAR NO DECISION FROM JERUSALEM STOP NOW FEEL CANNOT DELAY FURTHER AND ASK YOU MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION COME HERE STOP SUGGEST YOU CABLE JERUSALEM URGING THEM SEND DELEGATION SOONEST POSSIBLE.

CABLE FROM MR. SHERTOK, JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 5 (Received December 7)

REGRET DELAY IN ANSWERING YOUR CABLE STOP THOUGH FOR TIME BEING ONLY MY GOING LONDON BEEN DECIDED IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE JERUSALEM WILL SOON DECIDE SEND TWO OTHER MEMBERS STOP REGARDING AMERICAN DELEGATION EXECUTIVE JERUSALEM INCLINED DEFER DECISION PENDING ARRIVAL ITS MEMBERS LONDON.

CABLE FROM MR. SHERTOK, JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 1 RE REVISIONISTS (Received December 3)

REGARDING REVISIONIST AFFILIATION WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING FIRST ATTITUDE CONSTITUENT PARTS EMERGENCY COUNCIL SECOND WHETHER THEY PREPARED QUIT BERGSON GROUP THIRD WHETHER IN JOINING EMERGENCY COUNCIL THEY REALISE COUNCIL ACCEPTS AGENCY'S AUTHORITY

This will be dramatized at a mass meeting to be held in Constitution Hall that evening, which will be addressed by one or two members of the Government. In the next few days, Mr. Shulman concluded, a plan will be worked out for a group of people to contact the organizations to be invited.

DR. LOWDERMILK'S RETURN

It was reported that Dr. Lowdermilk had now returned to the United States, and it was suggested that he be accorded a reception at the time of the publication of his book. Dr. Wise's suggestion that this reception be tendered by the American Palestine Committee was approved.

STATEMENT OF BRECKINRIDGE LONG

The statement made by Reckinridge Long on the "Struma" before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on November 26th, at the hearing on the proposal for the establishment of a Rescue Commission, was reported. Mr. Long was asked by Congressman Mundt why the vessel was turned back from Istanbul, and he replied that he did not recall the details but undertook, if desired, to look them up and advise the Congressman. He made no mention of the fact that the Palestine Administration had refused to admit the refugees and that their fate was directly attributable to this refusal.

It was agreed that a letter be addressed to Mr. Long, giving him the authoritative facts and asking him to submit these facts to the Foreign Affairs Committee; and that copies of the letter be sent also to the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and to Mr. Mundt.

ESCO FOUNDATION GIFT TO EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Mrs. Jacobs reported that the Esco Foundation was presenting to the Emergency Council, as a loan, the material gathered by it during a year and a half of research, under the condition that the material will be in active use. This collection was the result of serious work done by six to eight scholars and comprised valuable material which could be used for a number of pamphlets. Mrs. Jacobs also reported that Dr. Berkson would start work with the Council January 1st, after completing his report for the Esco Foundation.

It was decided that the Chairman of the Executive be authorized to extend the thanks of the Council to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cohen on behalf of the Esco for their generous offer.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P. M.

A. L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

December 13, 1943

A meeting of the American Zionist Emergency Council took place Monday, December 13, 1943, at 8:15 P. M., at 342 Madison Ave., New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Miss Juliet Benjamin, Maurice Boukstein, Mrs. Judith Epstein, Moshe Furmansky, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Paul Goldman, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Benjamin Itzkowitz, Mrs. Rose Jacobs, Leib Jaffe, Rabbi I. M. Kowalsky, Miss Jeannette Leibel, Irving Lipkowitz, Israel Mereminski, Isaac Naiditch, Zvi Quittman, Judge Bernard Rosenblatt, Charles J. Rosenbloom, Miss Dvora Rothbard, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Sam Rothstein, Louis Segal, Mrs. Bertha Schoolman, Mrs. Rebecca Shulman, Herman Shulman, David Wertheim.

Rabbi Leon I. Feuer, Arnold K. Isreeli, Arthur Lourie, Harold P. Manson, Henry Montor, Harry L. Shapiro.

Dr. Averbuch, Mendel Fisher, Robert Silverman.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15

The minutes of the meeting of November 15 were approved.

CLEVELAND CONFERENCE

A report was given on the Conference of chairmen of local emergency committees which had been held in Cleveland December 11 and 12. (See Minutes of Executive Committee of December 13).

STATEMENT OF BRECKINRIDGE LONG BEFORE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Reference was made to the statement of Mr. Long before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in which he said that 580,000 refugees had entered the United States since 1933, whereas the actual number had been only one-third.

It was believed that this should be drawn to the attention of the State Department but it was understood that the Interim Committee of the Conference was to deal with this matter.

The decision taken by the Executive Committee, at its meeting that afternoon, to send Mr. Breckinridge Long a letter on the "Struma" incident was reported.

NEW MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE STAFF

Mr. Harry L. Shapiro, who had taken leave of absence from the U.J.A. to join the staff of the Emergency Council, was introduced to the Council.

POLITICAL REPORT

Reports were made on conversations with a number of leading persons in the Administration and Congress.

RESOLUTION IN CONGRESS

Judge Rothenberg read a draft which had been prepared by Mr. Shulman and himself as a basis for discussion for a Resolution to be introduced in Congress if it were decided it was desirable to do so. A number of suggestions were offered in connection with the Resolution. (Text of Resolution and discussion on text on file).

Judge Rothenberg pointed out that it was not the intention to introduce at this meeting a document that would be final, but that it was simply desired to suggest all the general points that might be included. He indicated further that there was a great deal of difference between a Resolution and a speech on a Resolution supporting it. The Resolution itself must be as brief as possible and those who speak on it should fill in the background, etc.

It was indicated that in deciding on the advisability of introducing the Resolution the judgment of various friends in Congress and Government circles should be sought.

In the course of the discussion, Rabbi Feuer, reporting on the work/through^{done} the Washington office of the Emergency Council, said that various members of the Foreign Relations Committee had been seen; also members of the New England delegation. In general it was found that Congressmen are not informed on Palestine and they must be informed quickly and competently, in Washington and throughout the country. During the next two or three months every possible Congressman and Senator should be reached and intensive educational work undertaken. The key figures in Washington, Rabbi Feuer stated, are at present wary of political action, because it may seem an interference with British policy, and because of the military situation.

Timing is the most important thing about the Resolution, Rabbi Feuer added, because when people talk of the military situation, they believe there will be a military invasion of the Balkans and Palestine will be one of the spring boards for this invasion; and the military want to assure order behind the lines. He had the definite impression that the Resolution must not be introduced too late. This is an election year, and if it is introduced too late, it may run into the rush for adjournment.

Dr. Silver pointed out that we do know that the overwhelming sentiment of the Senate would favor a Resolution, if not influenced by the State Department, and recalled that last year 66 Senators had signed a declaration in favor of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. He stated that he himself had doubts as to the wisdom of introducing a Resolution. In certain eventualities we stood to lose more than we might gain. But it was necessary to have it known that there is a friendly feeling in Washington for us and we must try to have that feeling made manifest. Whether the Resolution is introduced in the end or not, we should contact Senators about it and create support for it. After seeing the President we will know what to do next. In the meantime we should go ahead.

HADASSAH REPRESENTATION ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Epstein presented Hadassah's request that they be granted a third representative on the Executive, and that Mrs. Jacobs be restored to her status as present

in her capacity as a member of the Jewish Agency.

Mr. Wertheim moved that Hadassah, Poale Zion and Mizrachi be granted a third representative on the Executive, thus giving parity to all the parties. This motion was seconded by Rabbi Gold and passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 P. M.

A. L.

