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American Zionist Emergency Council, American Jewish  
Conference, 1944.



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

DIGEST OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 29, 1944 - Biltmore Hotel, New York, N. Y.

Presiding: Co-Chairman Henry Monsky.

Those present were: Samuel Berson (alternate for Rabbi Solomon Goldman), Maurice Bisgyer, Max Bressler (alternate for Sigmund David), Samuel Caplan, Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Miss Jane Evans, Mrs. Ida Cook Farber (alternate for Mrs. Maurice Turner), J. George Fredman, Leon Gellman (alternate for Gedaliah Bublick), William Gerber (alternate for David Blumberg), Frank Goldman, Mrs. Samuel Goldstein, Hayim Greenberg, Charles P. Kramer, Sidney G. Kusworm, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Louis Lipsky, Mrs. A. J. May (alternate for Mrs. Joseph Welt), Rabbi Irving Miller, Dr. Max Nussbaum (alternate for Hon. Carl Sherman), Herman E. Quittman (alternate for Harry A. Pine), Judge Bernard Rosenblatt (alternate for Dr. H. J. Ettlinger), Miss Dvorah Rothbard, Hon. Morris Rothenberg, Isidore Sack, Max J. Schneider, Herman Shulman, Mrs. Herman Shulman (alternate for Mrs. Samuel Halprin), Hermann Stern, Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, Meyer W. Weisgal, Herman Weisman (alternate for Daniel Frisch), David Wertheim, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Mrs. Stephen S. Wise, Baruch Zuckerman. Guests: Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Saul Spiro. Staff: Meir Grossman, Ann Jarcho, I. L. Kenen, Dr. A. S. Kohanski.

MINUTES OF INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING 5/12/44: Approved.

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICE OF DEFENSE TRANSPORTATION. Mr. Lipsky reported that at a meeting of the Administrative Committee with the Co-Chairmen, Chairmen of Commissions and Committees, held prior to the meeting of the Interim Committee, a telegram had been received from the Office of Defense Transportation requesting postponement of the second session of the Conference. The Administrative Committee had recommended compliance with the O.D.T.'s request and the appointment of a special committee to confer with the O.D.T. to secure its consent to a later date. Co-Chairman Wise reported that Mr. Monsky and he had then telephoned the O.D.T. to explain that the Conference was not a perennially recurrent body but a war emergency group and that an indefinite postponement of the second session would mean the annulment of all Conference purposes. They proposed a postponement for two or three months. This received the "entire approval" of the O.D.T.

Mr. Kramer moved, and Mr. Stern seconded, approval of the action taken by the Administrative Committee and the appointment of a committee to deal with the time and place of the postponed session, then to report its recommendations to the Administrative Committee.

Mr. Wertheim was of the opinion that a delegation should meet with the O.D.T. before a decision is reached. He objected to a long postponement on the grounds that the Conference is dealing with war problems.

The motion to postpone was carried, with Mr. Wertheim and Mr. Zuckerman dissenting.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: In behalf of the Administrative Committee Mr. Lipsky submitted the following report:

Organization.

The reorganized Administrative Committee took over its functions on May 17th. It has met regularly every Thursday evening. Acting upon suggestions from the Interim Committee, its membership was increased by the addition of Samuel Caplan for the Congress group, Samuel Rothstein for the Conservative Religious group, and Jacob Pat of the Jewish Labor Committee, who joined us officially this week. Meir Grossman was added to the staff and J. S. Pearlstien resigned as Administrative Secretary as of June 15th.



Special tasks have been assigned to members of the Committee: Charles P. Kramer to act as Chairman of Elections and Credentials; J. George Fredman to act as Chairman of Administrative Finance; and Meyer W. Weisgal to assume responsibility for the arrangements to be made for the second session in Chicago.

#### Contact with Delegates.

Regular communication was at once established with the delegates and the public. An official notice of the convening of the second session was sent to all delegates on June 2nd. A public notice appeared in the form of an advertisement in six Yiddish and fifty-two Anglo-Jewish newspapers. The format and policy of the Conference Record, which appears every month, was changed. The Record is circulated among the delegates, local election committees, many of the electors and also to community leaders. It has a circulation of 12,500. The publication of the weekly Bulletin of Activities which contains a digest of the press, was resumed. This Bulletin goes to the delegates and to members of the Commissions. To date, 236 elected delegates have signified their intention to attend the second session; 5 are in doubt and 17 stated that they would be unable to be present. The national organizations have thus far designated 48 of the 120 delegates allocated to them. The election of alternates will follow the rules prescribed for the first session. National organizations will elect alternates of their own choice.

#### Program of the Session.

The arrangements have been completed for the holding of the second session in Chicago at the Hotel Stevens. A local reception committee is being organized. It appeared to the Administrative Committee that the business of the Conference could not be completed in two days. It therefore decided that the Conference should begin on Saturday night and continue through Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Announcements to this effect were made as soon as the decision was reached. It is suggested that a meeting of the Interim Committee be held on Friday morning to consider all unfinished business in preparation for the session. Except for an Oneg Shabbat, the Conference should not engage officially in social affairs or mass meetings.

Steps were taken to stimulate local meetings of delegates in the larger cities, in order to elicit in advance of the Conference suggestions of policy and program. Such conferences have already been held in the Metropolitan District of New York and in Boston. Arrangements are being made for similar conferences the first week in July in Chicago and St. Louis. Delegates have met informally in Detroit and Philadelphia and in various other communities. From these meetings, proposals to be submitted to the Conference have been forwarded to the Administrative Committee.

#### Groupings.

The Administrative Committee proposes that the same rules of procedure as prevailed in the first session shall be valid for the second session, unless amended at the first plenary session. It suggests that the principle of group formation within the Conference be continued and that a General Committee, probably reorganized in order to reflect new proportional relationships, shall act in a similar capacity in the second session.

The Administrative Committee foresaw the possibility of changes in the group allegiance of delegates. It was agreed to allow for changes in group affiliation in order to avoid organizational confusion at the opening of the Conference.



Referring to the last recommendation, Mr. Bisgyer moved, and Mr. Kusworm seconded that the group system be abolished and that in lieu thereof a Committee of Committees or some other system be set up to effectuate the procedures of the Conference.

Rabbi Eisendrath expressed the view that a definite plan for reorganization must accompany such a motion. He pointed out that the Conference composed at least partially of representatives of national organizations, and that if the group system were abandoned altogether, certain organizations would have no part in Conference decisions although they would be held responsible for them. He maintained, however, that there was room for radical change in the construction of the American Jewish Conference.

Mr. Gerber moved, and Rabbi Eisendrath seconded, that the recommendation made by the Administrative Committee with respect to the Group System as well as the motion of Mr. Bisgyer for the abrogation of the Group System and the setting up of another system in its place, shall be referred back to the Administrative Committee for further consideration by a sub-committee, to report to a subsequent meeting of the Interim Committee.

Mr. Lipsky pointed out that the latter had been considered three times by the Administrative Committee; that it was essential to the organization of the Conference how it is to be organized and "if we are going on a fishing expedition to find out how it is to be organized, we are going to find ourselves under a great deal of indefiniteness and no one can tell you what is what."

Mrs. Epstein stated that "to have any other kind of system is to recreate the whole disturbance and confusion of the Conference."

Mr. Monsky proposed that the "Interim Committee or the Administrative Committee give instructions that there shall be no solicitation of the delegates to join one or the other groups," and that there should be no reshuffling of groups.

Mr. Shulman pointed out that under the group system all groups were assured representation, and that under any other system, the majority would select the representatives from the minorities. He urged that in view of the time element, the present system be continued unless someone comes forth with a different plan.

Mr. Kramer urged that the Administrative Committee consider the matter again.

Rabbi Eisendrath argued for a compromise. He suggested that the delegates representing the national organizations be divided on the same basis of parity as existed when the Executive Committee functioned; that with regard to the 375 elected delegates, the present group system be maintained; if there were no change in this regard, that an opportunity be given for realignment. When the groups were formed, the Zionist question was uppermost; that this was no longer the case, and delegates might now be prepared to join other groups. Rabbi Eisendrath continued: "One of the things that has impeded the progress of the Conference is the fact that there has been an overwhelming majority of one particular orientation and a small and seemingly powerless minority... Nothing would be more wholesome and more apt to revitalize the Conference than the realignment of forces in the groups and I would not like to see, if the groups remain, that any order go out expressing disapproval of the endeavor to realign the various groups within the Conference."

Rabbi Miller expressed the view that it was impossible to arrive at any different formula for the purpose of proceeding with the business of the Conference.

Mr. Wertheim said that "no Democrat will be able to devise a system of how the minority shall feel like the majority. He was of the opinion that if a Committee of Committees were substituted, efforts would still be made to have the groups represented on Committees, and that abolition of the group system would "bring chaos and confusion."

Mr. Frank Goldman stated he would refer consideration of the question so that delegates could come to the Conference with only loyalties to those things which tend to a solution of Jewish problems.



Mr. Zuckerman felt that no better system could be devised than the group system.

Mr. Gerber pointed out that the matter had received due consideration so that there could be dispelled this feeling of divisiveness and the log-rolling of groups.

The motion "That the recommendation by the Administrative Committee with respect to the group system as well as the motion of Mr. Bisgyer for the abolition of the group system and the setting up of another system in its place shall be referred back to the Administrative Committee for further consideration by its sub-committee, to report to a subsequent meeting of the Interim Committee," was defeated by a show of hands, 16 to 9.

At Mr. Bisgyer's request, the statement which he presented to the Administrative Committee is attached hereto (See Exhibit A).

\* \* \* \*

The recommendation of the Administrative Committee was then adopted, and as amended by the Interim Committee, follows:

Except as a delegate notifies the Administrative Committee in writing not later than three weeks before the opening of the session that he or she wishes to retire from the group with which he or she was registered, in order to join another group, the present record of registration within groups for the first session remains valid and effective for the second session.

It is understood, however, that an alternate serving for the first time in place of a delegate who was present at the first session, shall have the right to affiliate with any group he or she may wish to join at any time prior to the Conference, as provided by the Administrative Committee.

During the discussion, Mr. Monsky suggested that there not be any solicitation letters from the various groups. Rabbi Eisendrath objected. Mr. Sack favored the formation of groups on the basis of community-elected delegates, rather than by national organizations.

\* \* \* \*

The Administrative Committee report continued:

#### Resolutions.

In order to facilitate the submission of the views of the delegates in advance of the opening of the Conference and up to July 31st, it is suggested that the Administrative Committee serve as the Committee for the preparation of resolutions to come before the Conference. In advance of the opening of the Conference, the Administrative Committee will receive and consider all recommended resolutions of the Commissions on Rescue, Post-War and Palestine and such additional resolutions as may be forwarded by any group of at least ten delegates; it being understood, however, that the Interim Committee may withhold its approval of any resolution submitted by any group of delegates if, in its judgment, such a resolution goes beyond the purpose of the call for the Conference or is not germane to the interests of the Conference. But the refusal of the Interim Committee to report any resolution shall not prejudice the right of any group of delegates to submit such a resolution direct to a standing committee of the Conference.

It should be pointed out that the rule adopted at the first session of the Conference provided that ten members of a committee (or any ten delegates) might bring up a defeated resolution on the floor of the Conference by moving a resolution to that effect.

Mr. Lipsky suggested that the figure ought to be changed: "If ten members of a committee of fifty dissent, they have a right to bring it up, but ten delegates-at-large would mean that any one member or two members could solicit signatures which I think would be inviting a great deal of difficulty. I would suggest in place of 'or any 10 delegates-at-large' that that be made 30, or 40, or 50."



Mr. Monsky remarked: "There isn't any use in serving notice on the Conference that they have a right to introduce irrelevant resolutions. This over-emphasis on the right of 10 delegates to introduce resolutions, relevant or otherwise, it seems to me, is inviting difficulty."

Mr. Lipsky asserted: "Difficulties are before us. We are not inviting them because that is the question which is being put at every meeting of delegates who say, 'Will we have the right to introduce resolutions?'"

Rabbi Miller pointed out that at the last session the General Committee had the power to nullify the work of any committee by rejecting its resolution on the ground of relevance, a practice he called "unjustifiable and undemocratic." Once a committee had adopted a resolution, its work should not have to be submitted to a committee for decision, whether that is relevant or not.

The Chair suggested that resolutions be routed through the Interim Committee, the Interim Committee then to parcel them out to standing committees after they have passed on relevance.

Rabbi Miller said this would be fairer but was still a "terrific brake - the kind of a brake to the proceedings of the Conference to which delegates have objected."

Mr. Kusworm stated that unless there was a General Committee or an Interim Committee that passes upon jurisdictional questions, "you are never going to get through the Conference... We ought to provide that no resolution on any subject not within the Call of the Conference shall be considered, and there ought to be a General Committee or some Committee to pass upon that matter."

The Chair stated: "My judgment is that the whole matter of what disposition should be made of irrelevant resolutions and how resolutions shall be ruled on ought to be referred back to the Administrative Committee for further study... I think it has become necessary for the Interim Committee of the Conference, which represents the responsible leadership of the Conference, to face in a very forthright manner, so that there will be no delusions and no deception about it, whether or not the second session of the Conference is going to consider these matters that can fairly be said to be within the Call of the agenda, or whether they are going to consider all matters, whether they are extraneous and irrelevant to the agenda or otherwise. Let's face that issue and face it at the earliest possible date. Therefore I think this ought to be referred back to the Administrative Committee, to consider and make specific recommendations without further discussion this afternoon."

Co-Chairman Wise: "One of the weaknesses of the first session of the Conference was due to the fact that many delegates felt they were denied the right to bring before the Conference matters which they regarded as relevant; the cloture rule was applied almost indiscriminately, rigidly, and even harshly. It will be a very great weakness of the Conference if delegates throughout the country are led to feel that no matter what their desires or decisions or hopes may be, the Conference is going to be rigidly closed against what its leaders imagine to be irrelevant and immaterial plans, and I want, Mr. Chairman, to warn you against that. I don't see why we must refer that back to the Administrative Committee; some simple device could be found, two or three have been proposed today."

Mr. Lipsky: "I must say that a practical situation confronts the Conference, and what is most desirable is frankness and directness of statement on the part of everybody concerned. I was faced at the meeting of delegates in New York with the question of whether the matter of the American scene could be included in the program. I had to explain... that there are certain limitations; there is a Call that was issued and certain agreements, and anything could be considered, but if you consider certain things you have to consider the consequences of the thing, that is you can consider anything, you can consider a question that will empty the hall and everybody will walk out on you - you can do it if you want to, but in all probability when you are faced with the situation, you won't do that."

Continuing, Mr. Lipsky said: "Burying the matter in the General Committee where no one knows anything at all about it and no one knows of any remedy against



the decision would be fatal to the American Jewish Conference."

Chairman Monsky: "But we can take the forthright position that this Conference was called for certain purposes and we owe it to ourselves to tell them what it is called for."

Asked by Mr. Monsky for his opinion, Mr. Lipsky said he thought the American scene a relevant question. "The defense of Jewish rights in America in everyone's mind is tied up with the defense of Jewish rights. I would not take the position that I would carry this thing through against the will of a substantial minority... There are many of those who are in favor of this: taking in the American scene, but will not do it against the minority opinion of substantial value, and wouldn't want to break up the Conference on the basis of that."

The Chair warned against the American Jewish Conference "getting away from its original and basic program and undertaking to inject new forces of divisiveness."

Mr. Lipsky stated that thousands of Jews in this country wanted to see one body representing the Jews for the defense of Jewish rights; Mr. Monsky said the Conference was not created for that purpose.

Mr. Shulman moved and Miss Evans seconded, that the two questions be referred to the Administrative Committee: 1) What method should be adopted re a minority group or a dissenting group from bringing to the floor of the Conference a question of this kind over a decision of relevancy; 2) Whether or not there should be a statement by the Interim Committee some time prior to the convening of the second session, with respect to relevancy and the defined limits and scope of consideration at the second session.

Judge Rothenberg urged that the question be thoroughly discussed between the constituent organizations and that an agreement be reached between them. He warned against fighting an issue out by a majority and minority vote, which might undermine and destroy the whole Conference.

The motion was carried unanimously.

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The Administrative Committee report continued:

The General Committee.

This leads to the suggestion that the Interim Committee serve as the General Committee. We point out that the situation in the second session differs radically from what it was in the first in this respect. At the first session, there did not exist a standing committee elected by the Conference. At the second session, however, the Interim Committee, organized on proportional lines, submitting its report and recommendations, is in a position to serve as representative of all groups within the Conference, except insofar as there may be realignments within the groups, which may change the proportions, in which case these changes will have to be registered in the Interim Committee. There should be no difficulty in having the Interim Committee serve as the General Committee for the second session and be organized and ready for action on Friday, September 1st.

Action on this proposal was deferred until the next meeting, since it was related to the prior matter.

Other Items.

The Administrative Committee has been considering the question of representation at the Conference of organizations that did not accept representations at the first session, for various reasons. These include the New Zionist Organization (Revisionist), the Agudas Hara-bonim and the Agudas Israel. It has also been giving consideration to the problem involved in the re-application of national organizations whose applications for membership were denied at the first session, i.e. International Workers' Order. At this writing, it is not in a position to make any recommendations.



The report of the Interim Committee, published in a single volume, will include the reports of the three Commissions. I. L. Kenen is serving as the Secretary for the preparation of these reports.

Following the submission of written reports by the Commissions, Mr. Lipsky proposed that steps be taken to "organize the Conference so that it becomes a functioning body, that can undertake to repair certain neglect that prevailed for some months, by establishing that which we should have established at the very beginning. At the present time, as you know, there is a Commission on Rescue, which meets by itself under its own Chairmanship and carries out its work under the supervision of a small Executive Committee. The Post-War Commission has been meeting and is engaged at the present time in studying the program; it has not yet emerged out of its study, nor has it formulated the results of its study, because it regards itself primarily as a group studying a program, and it never conceived that it was asked to be going out into the world and seeing what they can accomplish with regard to the program which has been agreed to.

The Palestine Commission operates as an autonomous unit with very slight connection with the Conference and it never comes before a reviewing body except as it may come before the Interim Committee with a report; when it comes to the Interim Committee with a report, it either reports on things that have already been done or it gives a vision of what is going to happen, but it never regulates its action in accordance with any decision of the American Jewish Conference because it is under the direction of a Committee representing all the four Zionist organizations.

The Administrative Committee stands in between now. The Administrative Committee has no function to perform with regard to any of these Commissions except insofar as they may submit something, then we read something they submit, and it may be interesting but has nothing to do with our action, because we regard the Commissions as being separate and the Administrative Committee as having a special task.

I would suggest, therefore, in order to vitalize the Commissions and have them incorporated in the Executive Branch of the Interim Committee, that the Chairmen of the Commissions be added to the membership of the Administrative Committee; that the reports of the Commissions be submitted to the Administrative Committee for advice and suggestion, and that the executive action arising out of any of the proposals of any of the Commissions as well as of the Administrative Committee and the Interim Committee shall be under the supervision of the Administrative Committee. In that way we will get an executive body prepared to take over any action that is suggested by a Commission as a unified matter.

For example, if the Post-War Commission were to come to life and undertake action in Washington, they would have their own representative. The Rescue Commission would have its own representative. If we had a Zionist representative for the Palestine Commission, then that would be the representative of the Palestine Commission. The idea would be to concentrate within the executive powers of the Administrative Committee, all the Executive action of all the Commissions, subject of course, to correction and guidance by the meetings of the Interim Committee whenever they are to be held.

This suggestion is made in the name of a group, including the Co-Chairmen of the Interim Committee, as a means for placing the American Jewish Conference in a position to face the second session, strengthened and enheartened by some activity that will be undertaken in line with our program."

Mr. Monsky formulated Mr. Lipsky's proposals as follows: "That the Chairmen of the respective Commissions shall become members of the Administrative Committee and that they shall report the activities and the actions of their respective Commissions to the Administrative Committee, and the Administrative Committee shall implement and activate the programs of those three Commissions, subject always to the review of the Interim Committee."

Miss Evans moved adoption of the motion. Carried.

NEXT INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING. Scheduled for Tuesday, August 1st, 1944.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.



A. MR. BISGYER'S STATEMENT

Noting the reference to the continuation of the group or "bloc" system in the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting of May 25, I should like to suggest reconsideration of that question in the light of experience.

The group plan was not contemplated at the Pittsburgh Conference, but was literally forced upon the Executive Committee later through circumstances beyond their control. One of the major organizations of the Conference sent letters to a large number of delegates, asking them to join a group under its name. Shortly thereafter, another organization dispatched a pledge card, requesting their adherents to sign, as such, on the dotted line. At the time, the reasons for such competition were not evident. There was no difference in ideology between the two organizations on the main issue of the Palestine Commonwealth.

Soon the country was witness to a second and different kind of election; the two organizations gathered as many adherents as possible. The Executive Committee, facing a de facto situation with two large blocs already established, decided to give official sanction to groupings. In the Committee of Five, I protested against what might be deemed an attempt at regimentation of individual convictions and against an alignment which would anticipate the results of the Conference.

Nine blocs then came into being. The country saw a wild scramble by each group for as many members as they could master. Instead of the emphasis being placed on program and objectives during the week before the Conference, some organizations concentrated their efforts on building up and solidifying the groupings. A number of delegates were torn in their loyalties by letters, telegrams and long-distance calls to shift from one group to another. The button-holing continued even during the opening sessions. The effect on the delegates was unfortunate, since at the very inception of the Conference they saw a divisive and not the unifying influence projected at Pittsburgh. But the handicap imposed on the Conference by reason of this procedure did not stop there. The program itself suffered. The groups, once organized, with few exceptions, naturally insisted on being represented in every panel of speakers. Those in charge of the program had no other choice but to place on the platform a series of long-winded, repetitious addresses which lasted hours on end and which did not point up the issues involved. The addresses in some cases were superfluous and did not rise out of the occasion itself. Delegates complained that they had little opportunity to express themselves in the plenary sessions. Anyone who had contact with the delegates either during or after the Conference must be impressed with the almost universale dissatisfaction arising from this procedure. It is fatuous to ascribe the complaints to the results of the vote on the Commonwealth, for Zionists as well as non-Zionists were equally vociferous in their criticism. The delegates felt they were attending, not a deliberative assembly, but a demonstration. In fact, the groupings served no purpose other than the convenience of appointing committees easily. The system actually solidified dissatisfaction.

Certainly the 375 delegates represented communities and many of them were elected as common representatives of a coalition of organizations and not any one group.

In the forthcoming Conference, therefore, I propose that delegates really represent their communities and not be asked to continue their allegiance to any group. A Committee on Committees, a Committee on Program, etc. could be appointed. Thereby, some attention would be paid to geographical distribution in making the actual Conference committee assignments. The Committee in charge of the Proceedings would be free to prepare the best and most effective program for the sessions without concerning itself with the nine groupings.

To perpetuate a procedure which experience has taught us to be bad, would involve the Conference in further difficulties; to face the facts and remedy the situation would breathe fresh life into the Conference from the source where it is most needed, i.e., the delegates from the communities. The Conference would be enabled to present a more solid united front to the country.



# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

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New York 17, N. Y.

## INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN

HENRY MONSKY

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

*Co-Chairmen*

MAURICE BISGYER

DAVID BLUMBERG

GEDALIAH BUBICK

NAOMI CHERTOFF

SIGMUND W. DAVID

J. DAVID DELMAN

RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN

RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH

MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN

PROF. HYMAN J. ETTLINGER

RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH

PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN

J. GEORGE FREDMAN

DANIEL FRISCH

FRANK GOLDMAN

DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN

MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN

HAYIM GREENBERG

MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN

MRS. HUGO HARTMANN

RABBI JAMES G. HELLER

HERMAN HOFFMAN

EDGAR J. KAUFMANN

CHARLES P. KRAMER

SIDNEY G. KUSWORM

HON. LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL

DR. LOUIS M. LEVITSKY

LOUIS LIPSKY

JULIUS LIVINGSTON

RABBI IRVING MILLER

LOUIS J. MOSS

DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN

HARRY A. PINE

MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL

ADOLPH ROSENBERG

DVORAH ROTHBARD

HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG

ISIDOR SACK

LOUIS SEGAL

HON. CARL SHERMAN

HERMAN SHULMAN

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

MRS. ARCHIBALD SILVERMAN

HON. MEIER STEINBRINK

HERMANN STERN

ROBERT SZOLD

MRS. MAURICE TURNER

MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT

DAVID WERTHEIM

BENJAMIN WINTER

MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE

BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

LOUIS LIPSKY, *Chairman*

MAURICE BISGYER

MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN

JANE EVANS

J. GEORGE FREDMAN

LEON GELLMAN

WILLIAM GERBER

CHARLES P. KRAMER

SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN

HERMAN SHULMAN

MEYER W. WEISGAL

DAVID WERTHEIM

July 19, 1944

## TO MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

### R E M I N D E R

The Administrative Committee

Meets tomorrow

Thursday, July 20, 1944

6 P. M.

At the Conference Offices

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



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1944

PRESENT: Louis Lipsky, Chairman; Maurice Bisgyer, Mrs. Hugo Bloomfield (guest), Samuel Caplan, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Charles P. Kramer, Rabbi Irving Miller, Samuel Rothstein, Meyer Weisgal, David Wertheim; and Meir Grossman, Ann Jarcho, I. L. Kenen and Dr. A. S. Kohanski of the staff.

MINUTES OF MEETING 7/20/44: Approved.

REPORT ON RESCUE MASS MEETING: Rabbi Miller reported on the mass meeting planned by the Rescue Commission to be held Monday, July 31st, 4:45 P.M., in Madison Square Park, 24th Street and Madison Avenue. He outlined that all organizations in the Conference, as well as the following, will participate: American Jewish Committee, Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, IWO, Jewish Peoples Committee, New Zionist Organization, American Federation of Lithuanian Jews, National Organization of Polish Jews, Union of Russian Jews, United Hungarian Jews; that the principal speakers will be: Senator Brewster, the Hon. Norman M. Littell, Dr. Wise, Mr. Monsky and Mayor LaGuardia, in addition to representatives of Jewish organizations; that adequate publicity measures had been provided to advertise the meeting and that it is expected that over 100,000 people will attend the demonstration. It was the sense of the Administrative Committee that the list of speakers be curtailed.

PALESTINE COMMISSION: Mr. Kenen informed the Committee he had no report to make. The Chair requested that the minutes record that, to date, no reply has been received from Dr. Silver, Chairman of the Palestine Commission, to the letter sent him and to Dr. Wise on July 7th.

POST-WAR COMMISSION: Dr. Kohanski reported that new members had been added to the Post-War Commission. He urged that the Co-Chairmen of the Post-War Commission, Chairmen of the sub-committees and the Chairman of the Administrative Committee get together and decide on policy and the direction the Commission is to take -- the kind of action it is to follow.

The Chair pointed out it is important the the Commission cease being a study group and develop a program of action, with the approval of the Interim or Administrative Committee, and it was therefore important for the Commission to present some report at the Interim Committee meeting next Tuesday.

PROCEDURE AT THE SECOND SESSION: The Chair reported that at the last Administrative Committee meeting, the members provisionally agreed that "any ten members in any committee may bring up a minority report for consideration in the plenum of the Conference, and that any fifty members, not members of a committee, may bring up, out of a committee, a resolution defeated there and have it placed before the plenum of the Conference".

It was moved and carried that this decision be confirmed and reported to the Interim Committee.

After discussion, it was also agreed to recommend that "any new matter offered as an amendment or substitute of a reported motion on the floor of the conference must first go to the appropriate committee for consideration and report."



It was further agreed that the tentative position taken at the last Administrative Committee meeting be confirmed, that "the Interim Committee shall make no statement in advance of the second session on the matter of relevancy".

ADDITION TO STAFF: Mr. Grossman reported that after conversations he and Mr. Konen had in Washington, Mr. Murray Frank was invited to join the staff, on trial, at a salary of \$125.00 per month, for the purpose of keeping the Conference informed of developments in Washington. Approved.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION: After full discussion, it was agreed to recommend that the second session be held in Chicago beginning Saturday night, December 2nd, and continued through Tuesday, December 5th, but that the advice of the O.D.T. be sought before the meeting of the Interim Committee.

ADMISSION OF ORGANIZATIONS APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP: It was agreed that a committee consisting of Mr. Wertheim, Mr. Weisgal and the Chair deal with the application of those organizations previously rejected and now re-applying for membership, and that all applications from new organizations go to the Committee on Credentials for consideration and report.

MEETING IN CHICAGO: The Chair asked that the minutes record the three resolutions adopted by the Chicago delegation at a meeting held in Chicago on the afternoon and evening of July 23rd, which was attended by 21 Chicago delegates and 14 from adjacent territory. The resolutions follow:

1. RESOLVED that we recommend that the delegates to the second session of the American Jewish Conference and all of the organizations participating in the Conference dedicate themselves, without reserve and without regard for their organizational autonomy, to the creation of a unified instrument which will, through its commissions, committees and other agencies, courageously, fearlessly and unselfishly translate into deeds and action the program and the purposes of the American Jewish Conference. (Four negative votes.)
2. Whereas it is our opinion that the combatting of anti-Semitism in the United States and dealing with problems related thereto should be directed and controlled by one organization in which all elements of Jewish life and all organizations in Jewish life are coordinated, so that unified action can be obtained; and whereas the American Jewish Conference holds the promise of being such an organization, BE IT RESOLVED that the combatting of anti-Semitism in the United States and dealing with problems related thereto be placed upon the agenda of the second session of the American Jewish Conference. (Two negative votes.)
3. In order to strengthen the activities of the American Jewish Conference its constituent bodies should pledge themselves not to act independently in making presentations to or negotiating with governmental agencies on matters pertaining to political action in respect of rescue work, post-war Jewish problems or problems affecting Palestine. Such presentations and negotiations should proceed only through the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference or its respective commissions. (Unanimous)

NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that since the Administrative Committee will meet next Tuesday, August 1st, prior to the Interim Committee meeting, the next regular meeting of the Administrative Committee be held on Thursday evening, August 10th.

Adjourned.



# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

## INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN

HENRY MONSKY

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

*Co-Chairmen*

MAURICE BISGYER

DAVID BLUMBERG

GEDALIAH BUBLICK

NAOMI CHERTOFF

SIGMUND W. DAVID

J. DAVID DELMAN

RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN

RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH

MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN

PROF. HYMAN J. ETTLINGER

RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH

PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN

J. GEORGE FREDMAN

DANIEL FRISCH

FRANK GOLDMAN

DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN

MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN

HAYIM GREENBERG

MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN

MRS. HUGO HARTMANN

RABBI JAMES G. HELLER

HERMAN HOFFMAN

EDGAR J. KAUFMANN

CHARLES P. KRAMER

SIDNEY G. KUSWORM

HON. LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL

DR. LOUIS M. LEVITSKY

LOUIS LIPSKY

JULIUS LIVINGSTON

RABBI IRVING MILLER

LOUIS J. MOSS

DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN

HARRY A. PINE

MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL

ADOLPH ROSENBERG

DVORAH ROTHBARD

HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG

ISIDOR SACK

LOUIS SEGAL

HON. CARL SHERMAN

HERMAN SHULMAN

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

MRS. ARCHIBALD SILVERMAN

HON. MEIER STEINBRINK

HERMANN STERN

ROBERT SZOLD

MRS. MAURICE TURNER

MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT

DAVID WERTHEIM

BENJAMIN WINTER

MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE

BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

LOUIS LIPSKY, *Chairman*

MAURICE BISGYER

MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN

JANE EVANS

J. GEORGE FREDMAN

LEON GELLMAN

WILLIAM GERBER

CHARLES P. KRAMER

SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN

HERMAN SHULMAN

MEYER W. WEISGAL

DAVID WERTHEIM

August 7, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

The Temple

E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.

Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have your letter of August 2nd and I have shown it to Mr. Lipsky.

The proposal that Mr. Lipsky made, to the effect that the Conference should now assume the initiative in seeking the adoption of the Palestine Resolutions, is, I believe, backed by all segments in the Conference. It is entirely consistent with the action taken by the Interim Committee on March 21st, when, you will recall, with only one dissenting vote, the Interim Committee adopted a resolution expressing the "hope that military authorities will soon find it possible, consistent with the realities of the situation, to withdraw their objections so that Congress may proceed to express itself on these Resolutions."

I can understand your fear that some of the organizations might feel constrained to issue public statements dissociating themselves from the Resolutions, in view of the neutral position taken by B'nai B'rith and the Union; yet I doubt very much whether any of the organizations in the Conference would dare to do this should the Conference now call for action by Congress. None of them did, in fact, when the Conference issued statements involving the Resolutions and carried on propaganda in the name of the Conference in support of them in February. None did after the Interim Committee resolution of March 21st, and certainly, none would today, in view of the action by the political parties. Very few today would want to put themselves in the same class as the Bundists or the Council for Judaism.

Mr. Lipsky's proposal was not an action taken on his own initiative and without consultation. The Administrative Committee supported him, and I am convinced that if the Conference itself were to act on this matter, Mr. Monsky would, in the discharge of his duties as Co-Chairman, deem it both an obligation and a right to become active in this regard.

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



August 7, 1944

Page Two.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver:

I wish to assure you that I am not motivated in this proposal solely by an interest in the prestige of the Conference. I am concerned (1) with the adoption of the Resolutions, and (2) a condition precedent to their adoption - the mobilization of all Jews in support of the Resolutions. I have felt from the beginning that the Zionist position is strengthened if action in its behalf is taken by the Conference rather than by the Zionists alone.

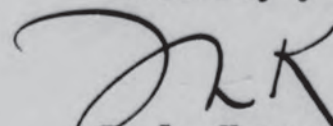
Regardless of their own personal convictions or reservations, the non-Zionists in the Conference are charged as much as are the Zionists with the implementation of <sup>the</sup> Conference resolution on Palestine. They, as well as the Zionists, have complained because the Conference was not the instrument for implementation in the past. To carry on this work without involving them is to forego an advantage which was won last September - won largely by your own vigor and tenacity.

I think the overwhelming majority of the delegates to the American Jewish Conference would welcome action of the kind now proposed. Just a few weeks ago, the delegates met in Chicago and unanimously adopted the following relevant statement:

"In order to strengthen the activities of the American Jewish Conference, its constituent bodies should pledge themselves not to act independently in making presentations to or negotiating with governmental agencies on matters pertaining to political action in respect of rescue work, post-war Jewish problems or problems affecting Palestine. Such presentations and negotiations should proceed only through the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference or its respective Commissions."

In conclusion, may I suggest that you call a meeting of the Palestine Commission at your earliest convenience? The Commission has not met since May 12th. The other Commissions, as you doubtless know, have become much more active in the last few months, and I feel that we should meet in advance of the next Interim Committee meeting, September 12th, so that we may be in a position to make a report to that body.

Cordially yours,

  
I. L. Kenen

ILK:FSK



## AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

### DIGEST OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 1, 1944 - Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York

Presiding: Co-Chairman Dr. Stephen S. Wise

Those present were: Co-Chairman Dr. Israel Goldstein, Co-Chairman Henry Monsky, Maurice Bisgyer, Samuel Caplan, Naomi Chertoff, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans (alternate for Mrs. Hugo Hartmann), Ida Cook Farber (alternate for Mrs. Rose Turner), Rabbi Simon Federbusch, J. George Fredman, William Gerber, Frank Goldman, Mrs. Israel Goldstein (alternate for Dvorah Rothbard), Charles P. Kramer, Milton Krensky (alternate for Dr. Hyman J. Ettlinger), Sidney G. Kusworm, Mrs. Joseph Landau (alternate for Mrs. Samuel Goldstein), Louis Lipsky, Dr. Samuel Margoshes, Mrs. Albert J. May (alternate for Mrs. Joseph M. Welt), Rabbi Irving Miller, Herman Quittman (alternate for Harry A. Pine), Benjamin Samuels, Louis Segal, Herman Shulman, Mrs. Herman Shulman (alternate for Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin), Hermann Stern, Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, Mrs. A. H. Vixman (alternate for Mrs. Stephen S. Wise), Meyer W. Weisgal, David Wertheim, Baruch Zuckerman.

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Dr. A. S. Kohanski, Ann Jarcho.

Guests: Mrs. Hugo Bloomfield, Ted Cook, Rabbi Adolph Fink, Mendel Fisher, Bernard Postal.

MINUTES OF INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING 6/29/44: Approved.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: On behalf of the Administrative Committee, Louis Lipsky, Chairman, submitted the following report:

#### 1. The Committee's Activities

"The enlarged Administrative Committee is now in a position to serve as the executive agency for the activities of the Commissions. The Commissions report to the Administrative Committee from time to time. The approved action is taken over by the staff of the Administrative Committee. Mr. Kenen serves as the executive officer for the Rescue and Palestine Commissions. Mr. Grossman and Dr. Kohanski are giving their attention to the Post-War Commission. The demonstration of the Rescue Commission held yesterday was organized and carried through by the staff of the Administrative Committee headed by Mr. Kenen and Mr. Grossman. We have engaged a representative in Washington on part time to keep the national office informed on political matters in which the Commissions are interested.

"The weekly bulletin sent to all delegates and members of the Interim Committee continues during the summer. The Conference Record, with a circulation of about 15,000, is also continued during the summer. 'The Proceedings of the American Jewish Conference' is now off the press. It consists of 404 pages, and includes a record of the Pittsburgh meeting, the organization of the Conference and the record of the first session held in New York, August 29-September 2, 1943. The book may be purchased for \$3.00.



"Mrs. Ann Jarcho is responsible for all correspondence with welfare funds and communities in connection with the budget.

"An initial letter has been sent to the British Board of Jewish Deputies and to the South African Board of Jewish Deputies, suggesting an exchange of information on matters of common interest."

## 2. Second session

Mr. Lipsky submitted the following recommendation by the Administrative Committee:

"The Administrative Committee recommends that the second session of the American Jewish Conference be held in Chicago, beginning Saturday evening, December 2nd and continuing through Tuesday, December 5th, and that announcement be left to the Administrative Committee."

MOTION: Mr. Quittman moved and Rabbi Miller seconded adoption. CARRIED unanimously.

## 3. Agenda

Mr. Lipsky submitted the following recommendation by the Administrative Committee:

"The Interim Committee at its last meeting referred to the Administrative Committee consideration of the question whether or not there should be a statement by the Interim Committee prior to the convening of the second session with respect to relevancy.

"The Administrative Committee, at a meeting held this morning, by a majority vote decided to recommend to the Interim Committee that it be the expressed sense of the Interim Committee that the agenda of the coming session of the American Jewish Conference and all questions presented to the Conference shall be within and limited to the scope of the original agenda as adopted at the Pittsburgh Conference, and supplemented at the first session of the Conference - namely Rescue."

MOTION: Co-Chairman Monsky moved and Mr. Kramer seconded adoption. DEFEATED 18 to 15.

MOTION: It was then moved by Rabbi Miller that:

"This Interim Committee requests the Administrative Committee to bring to the next session of the Interim Committee an agenda for the second session." CARRIED.

## 4. Admission of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, I.W.O.

Mr. Lipsky submitted the following recommendation by the Administrative Committee:

"The Administrative Committee recommends the reconsideration of the application of the Jewish section of the International Workers Order for admission as a member of the American Jewish Conference in the category of a national Jewish organization. Since the first session,



the Jewish section of the I.W.O. has established its autonomy within the federation of that order. Under the circumstances, the Administrative Committee recommends that the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the I.W.O. be admitted as a national Jewish organization within the meaning of the rules of the Conference."

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Segal and seconded by Dr. Tenenbaum that action on this recommendation be taken at the next meeting of the Interim Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Weisgal offered and Mrs. Epstein seconded a substitute motion:

"That we proceed to vote on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee." CARRIED.

MOTION: It was then moved and seconded:

"That we recommend to the next session of the American Jewish Conference that it admit the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the I.W.O."  
CARRIED 20 to 5. Mr. Fredman asked that his vote be recorded in the negative.

REPORT OF THE POST-WAR COMMISSION: Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Co-Chairman of the Post-War Commission, submitted the following report on behalf of the Commission:

1. Relationship with World Jewish Congress

"First of all, the Post-War Commission has found itself once again facing the difficulty of a proper modus operandi with the World Jewish Congress. We encountered that difficulty when we first undertook our work in the Post-War Commission. We recognized that this Commission more than any other aspect of the Conference's work would have to be coordinated with the activity of the World Jewish Congress or we would find ourselves constantly coming into conflict, reduplicating, and the like. And the wish, definitely, on the part of the Post-War Commission, was to reach a workable agreement with the World Jewish Congress. That was arrived at some time ago, and a formula was adopted, and all the material and resources of the World Jewish Congress were to be placed at the disposal of the American Jewish Conference on the condition that the spheres of activity were very logically and very naturally divided between the two. Our agreement was predicated upon the proposition that the World Jewish Congress would have access to and represent world Jewry in approach to governments other than that of the United States, but that the American Jewish Conference, speaking in the name of American Jewry, would conduct any negotiations - make representations - with the American Government and with American agencies."

"The Post-War Commission is not quite convinced that that undertaking is at present satisfactorily being carried out, and we feel that there must be a re-examination of this entire situation, and we urge that in the immediate future a conference be held between the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference, so that this understanding may be reviewed and implemented, so that we won't have the situation developing where it was found necessary in the fairly recent past that the question had to be raised as to the World Jewish Congress approaching members of the American Government with regard to problems affecting Jewry."



"Therefore we urge that the Interim Committee give the Administrative Committee the instruction to effect this understanding along the lines of the previous commitment that was made.

"I want to point out that this particular failure to implement the agreement properly eventuated in the resignation of my Co-Chairman, Dr. Greenberg. We have urged Dr. Greenberg to withhold pressing for the acceptance of his resignation pending what we hope will be a satisfactory understanding with the World Jewish Congress, but I think that perhaps this Interim Committee ought to take official recognition of this situation and urge the Administrative Committee to deal with it."

MOTION: It was moved by Co-Chairman Monsky and seconded by Mr. Shulman that:

"The Administrative Committee shall be instructed to meet with a committee of the World Jewish Congress to report fully to us at the next meeting whether or not they have come to a mutual interpretation." CARRIED.

MOTION: It was moved by Co-Chairman Monsky and seconded that:

"We urge that the resignation of Mr. Hayim Greenberg as Co-Chairman of the Post-War Commission be held in abeyance pending a solution of this problem." CARRIED.

## 2. International Bill of Rights

Rabbi Eisendrath reported that the Post-War Commission had adopted a resolution on an International Bill of Rights (statement attached), in consonance with the resolution adopted at the plenary session of the Conference, and that the Commission proposed that the Interim Committee forward it to Under-Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. in anticipation of a conference of the Big Powers being called for some time in August.

MOTION: Co-Chairman Monsky moved and Mr. Shulman seconded that:

"The Interim Committee authorize the Post-War Commission when it has completed its job, to make these representations to the United States Government." CARRIED.

## 3. Location and Registration of Displaced Jews

Rabbi Eisendrath submitted the following statement adopted by the Post-War Commission on the location and registration of displaced Jews:

"The collection of information concerning displaced Jews, their whereabouts, their family relations and their identification as to place of origin, former residence, citizenship or lack of citizenship, and similar data, is an essential preliminary step to their return, repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation. Although several international and American agencies, non-Jewish and Jewish, have already undertaken this work, it is evident that it cannot be efficiently and satisfactorily carried out through their uncoordinated efforts or on any other than an international scale. It seems advisable, too, that the registration of displaced Jews be carried out, insofar as possible, under Jewish auspices, or with the cooperation and advice of a central Jewish agency.



"Be it therefore resolved that the American Jewish Conference call together representatives of the interested Jewish agencies to consider:

- "1. The establishment of a central Jewish registry in the United States in cooperation with similar agencies abroad;
- "2. The establishment of contacts with appropriate national and international agencies operating in the same field;
- "3. The creation of machinery to gather the required information;
- "4. The preparation of a registry questionnaire;
- "5. The participation in a world Jewish registry to be established."

MOTION: It was moved by Co-Chairman Monsky and seconded by Mr. Lipsky that:

"The Interim Committee authorize or direct the Post-War Commission to initiate a call for a meeting of representatives of the various agencies active in this field with a view to bringing about a coordination of their respective activities, leaving it to any future meeting as to what our part shall be in that." CARRIED.

#### 4. UNRRA

Rabbi Eisendrath reported that the Post-War Commission would be represented at the UNRRA conference in Montreal.

NEXT INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING: Scheduled for September 12th, 1944.

Meeting then adjourned.

I.L.K.



# BULLETIN

## OF ACTIVITIES AND DIGEST OF THE PRESS

No. 21

Ab 15, 5704

August 4, 1944.

### THE INTERIM COMMITTEE.

#### Second Session; Agenda; International Bill of Rights; Admission of New Organizations.

The Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference, at its meeting on Tuesday, August 1st, considered a wide range of questions pertaining to the present and future activities of the Conference.

It received the report of the Administrative Committee, which is steadily expanding its activities; it went into the issues connected with the second session's deliberations; it approved a statement on an International Bill of Rights drafted by the Post-War Commission; it instructed the Administrative Committee to go into the matter of closer cooperation with organizations dealing with post-war problems, in order to avoid overlapping; it approved the decision of the Administrative Committee to recommend to the second session the admission of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order of the I.W.O.

The meeting was attended by thirty-four members and alternates, and presided over by Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Israel Goldstein, two of the Co-Chairmen of the Conference.

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AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

Activities of the Administrative Committee. The report of the Administrative Committee, presented by its Chairman, Louis Lipsky, dealt with the acceleration and intensification of the work of the Conference. Now serving as the executive organ of the Conference, the Administration Committee has established closer contact with the Commissions, whose personnel have been strengthened by the addition of new members. The Administrative Committee has acted upon a number of emergency matters, such as the demonstration on Monday, July 31st, in New York City. The Administrative Committee has engaged a representative in Washington to keep the national office informed of political matters in which the Commissions are concerned. Letters have been sent to the Board of Deputies of British Jews and to the South African Board of Jewish Deputies, suggesting an exchange of information on matters of common interest.

Following a thorough examination of the method of procedure to be adopted in regard to minority reports coming up on the floor at the second session of the Conference, the Administrative Committee recommended the adoption of a rule that any ten members of a given committee may take a minority report to the plenum of the Conference and that any fifty delegates, not members of a committee, may take out of committee a resolution defeated there and have it placed on the agenda of the Conference. It also recommended that any new matter offered as an amendment to or substitute for a resolution reported on the floor of the Conference must first be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.

The Administrative Committee has appointed a committee to reach an understanding with the World Jewish Congress concerning cooperation on all matters of mutual interest. The previous agreement with the World Jewish Congress already established for the American Jewish Conference priority in all relations with the American Government, its departments and agencies.

The Administrative Committee has forwarded to the American Zionist Emergency Council a proposal that when activities are renewed, in connection with the Palestine Resolutions, before Congress, such activities be carried on in the name of the American Jewish Conference.



\* \* \*

Date and Agenda of the Second Session. The Interim Committee approved the recommendation that the second session take place in Chicago before the end of the year, but left it to the Administrative Committee to announce the exact date and to make final arrangements. After a lengthy discussion on the issues of the second session, which are being widely debated by delegates throughout the country and by the press, the Administrative Committee was instructed to prepare a tentative agenda for the second session, and to present it to the Interim Committee at its next meeting in September. The question of limitations imposed upon the Conference's scope by the program adopted in Pittsburgh and later at the first session in New York, occupied the attention of the meeting. The discussion revealed considerable differences of opinion.

\* \* \*

International Bill of Rights. The Interim Committee approved the statement drafted by the Post-War Commission, expressing the view of the American Jewish Conference that, in order to safeguard the rights of Jews, the United Nations should adopt an International Bill of Rights, embodying the principles of the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter. The Interim Committee authorized the Post-War Commission to present the statement to the proper governmental authorities. The full text of the statement will be published after it is presented to the Department of State.

\* \* \*

Location and Registration of Displaced Jews. The Interim Committee approved the recommendation of the Post-War Commission that the Conference take the initiative in calling together representatives of interested Jewish agencies, to consider coordination in the field of location and registration of displaced Jews which now, with the liberation of considerable territory inhabited by Jews, has become a pressing need. The full text of the decision will be found below.

\* \* \*

Recommendation to Admit the Jewish People's Fraternal Order of the I.W.O. Following the submission of a report by the Administrative Committee, the Interim Committee decided to recommend to the next session of the American Jewish Conference the admission of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order of the I.W.O., as a member of the American Jewish Conference, in the category of a national Jewish organization. The Administrative Committee acted on the renewed application of the Jewish Section of the I.W.O., which, since the first session, has established its autonomy and changed its name from "Jewish Section of the I.W.O." to "Jewish People's Fraternal Order of the I.W.O." The final decision rests with the forthcoming second session of the American Jewish Conference.

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#### LOCATION AND REGISTRATION OF DISPLACED JEWS.

The collection of information concerning displaced Jews, their whereabouts, their family relations and their identification as to place of origin, former residence, citizenship or lack of citizenship, and similar data, is an essential preliminary step to their return, repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation. Although several international and American agencies, non-Jewish and Jewish, have already undertaken this work, it is evident that it cannot be efficiently and satisfactorily carried out through their uncoordinated efforts or on any other than an international scale. It seems advisable, too, that the registration of displaced Jews be carried out, in so far as possible, under Jewish auspices, or with the cooperation and advice of a central Jewish agency.

In consideration of the above, the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference, acting on the recommendation of the Post-War Commission, resolved to



call together representatives of the interested Jewish agencies to consider the following proposals:

1. The establishment of a central Jewish registry in the United States in co-operation with similar agencies abroad;
2. The establishment of contacts with appropriate national and international agencies operating in the same field;
3. The creation of machinery to gather the required information;
4. The preparation of a registry questionnaire;
5. The participation in a world Jewish registry to be established.

- - - - -  
NEW YORK DEMONSTRATION DEMANDS ACTION TO RESCUE EUROPEAN JEWS.

Whatever may be the practical result of the great out-door demonstration in New York City on Monday afternoon, July 31st, attended by more than 60,000 citizens of New York, the moral effect of this mass gathering on both Jewish and non-Jewish public opinion was enormous.

The demand that the United States and other United Nations move swiftly to rescue the Jews of Nazi-dominated Europe and take steps to halt further deportation from Hungary has resounded throughout the country.

The meeting was sponsored by the American Jewish Conference, its sixty-three affiliated and eight cooperating organizations, and was addressed by Dr. S. S. Wise, Rabbi Isaac Rubinstein, former Chief Rabbi of Vilna, Adolph Held, Chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, the Rev. Dr. Geza Takaro of the First Magyar Reformed Church, Henry Monsky, President of B'nai B'rith, former Supreme Court Justice Joseph M. Proskauer, President of the American Jewish Committee, Assistant U. S. Attorney General Norman M. Littell, United States Senator Ralph O. Brewster of Maine, Baruch Zuckerman of the Labor Zionist Organizations, and Rabbi Irving Miller, Co-Chairman of the Rescue Commission of the American Jewish Conference.

In his message to the gathering, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared, "I repeat to all concerned my earlier warning that those who participate in these acts of savagery shall not go unpunished." Governor Thomas E. Dewey, Republican presidential nominee, said in his message: "The heart of all America is with you in today's demonstration against the extermination of European Jews."

\* \* \*

The Declaration and Demands.

"Meeting in the shadow of a tragedy unparalleled in human history, this great gathering of American Jews reaffirms its deep faith in the cause for which the Armed Forces of our nation and those of our gallant allies are shedding their blood on all battlefields. As a result of their magnificent achievements, the day of liberation for all the enslaved peoples of the world has been hastened and is almost at hand.

Heartened as we are by these signs of approaching victory, we are nevertheless moved to despair when we contemplate that by the time the war will be won, the largest part of the Jewish populations in Europe may have been exterminated. Four millions have already been put to death and those who survive live in danger of a similar fate. The openly avowed threat of the Nazi regime to destroy every last Jew in the territories under its control today assumes gruesome reality.

Meeting under the open sky in this free City of New York, we call Heaven and Earth to witness that civilization will have suffered an overwhelming defeat if Hitler is allowed to achieve his purpose. For the Jew in every land under Nazi control was the first target of Hitler's attack on that land and subsequently on civilization itself. We declare that it is not yet too late to deny victory to Nazism also on this front and thus save thousands upon thousands for the day of liberation.



In the name of God and Humanity, and of those ideals for which the democratic world fights today, we appeal in the first instance to the President and the Government of the United States, and through them to the United Nations and to the neutral states, to employ the following measures of rescue without further delay:

1. By means of warnings, broadcasts and all other forms of communication, the Hungarian Government and people should be made to realize that they will not be allowed to escape full responsibility for the crimes now being committed on their territory; and that they themselves must make every possible effort to halt the death march and protect the Jews under their control.

2. In the light of Admiral Horthy's recent offer to the International Red Cross to release all Jewish children under ten who can obtain foreign visas, as well as adults with Palestine visas, we urge the United Nations to adopt immediately all measures leading to the evacuation of these people.

3. The protection of the United States and the other United Nations should be formally and openly extended to the helpless victims of Nazi persecution within the occupied territories.

4. Appropriate measures should be taken to induce the Axis government to equalize the status of Jews in Nazi-occupied territories, who are deprived of freedom of movement, with that of prisoners of war, military or civilian, in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1929.

5. Since Palestine is the nearest country of refuge for Jews in the Balkan countries, its doors should be fully opened to them by the Mandatory power, and Turkey, which is the most available country of transit, should be induced to open its frontiers.

6. The United States and the other United Nations should declare that all territories under their administration are open to all Jews who can be rescued and the neutral nations shall likewise declare that they will facilitate the transit of these people to the aforementioned territories.

7. Since starvation continues to be one of Hitler's most effective weapons of destruction, all means should be taken by the United Nations, consistent with the war effort, to bring food and medicaments to the endangered Jews under the auspices of the International Red Cross.

8. All measures should be taken by the military authorities, with the help of the underground forces, to destroy the implements, facilities and places where the Nazis have carried out their mass executions.

We solemnly declare that every hour of delay in implementing these measures increases the agony and suffering of those Jews who are still under Axis domination and adds new thousands to the death toll.

We cannot remain silent. We demand and confidently expect that the United States and the other United Nations will move swiftly to rescue those who can still be saved, and punish the guilty for their inhuman crimes."

\* \* \*

The Jewish press of the country commended the American Jewish Conference for the initiative it has taken in calling the demonstration and particularly for its success in uniting, through this demonstration, all elements of American Jewry in a joint effort on behalf of the Jews of Europe.

- - - - -



RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ST. LOUIS and SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DELEGATION.

At the meeting of the St. Louis and Southern Illinois delegates to the American Jewish Conference, held on July 13th, it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the Interim Committee of the Conference:

- 1) That the American Jewish Conference be headed by one person instead of a Co-Chairmanship of three.
- 2) That both the Interim Committee and the Administrative Committee be so enlarged so as to give geographical representation of the rank and file throughout the country, in addition to the already existing representation of the blocs.
- 3) That further efforts be made to take into the Conference as many of the organizations that are not within the Conference to date as are possible, within reason and without sacrifice of the principles of the Conference.

I N B R I E F .

Dr. Robert Gordis, newly elected President of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, will henceforth represent his organization as a delegate to the American Jewish Conference, and as a member on the Interim Committee. Dr. Gordis replaces Dr. Louis Levitsky, outgoing President of the Rabbinical Assembly, who was the delegate at the first session of the Conference.

Mr. Sam Berke will hereafter represent the American Federation for Polish Jews as their national delegate to the Conference, in place of Dr. Simon Segal.

J U S T P U B L I S H E D

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE**  
Its Organization and Proceedings, First Session, 1943.

An authentic record of the Pittsburgh meeting, the organization of the Conference and of the transactions of the First Session held in New York, August 29 to September 2, 1943.

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D I G E S T     O F     T H E     P R E S SSHALL IT BE THE LAST SESSION?

"Because of some untoward experience at the first session of the American Jewish Conference, certain leading Jews in America are inclined to give up the idea of making any further attempt to build a centralized, democratic Jewish leadership in America. They are inclined to regard the forthcoming second session of the Conference as the last one, being of the opinion that the main function of that session is to elect a peace delegation to represent American Klal-Israel at a Peace Conference, after which the American Jewish Conference should dissolve.

Such an approach could be explained psychologically and might even be justified, on the ground that the Interim Committee has, to everybody's despair, been lacking in fighting spirit and initiative and has generally been slow in implementing the Conference's program. However, the thought of giving up the Conference idea may be regarded as a betrayal of Jewish interests in the world...

To give up the American Jewish Conference would mean to abandon all hope for a possible democratization of Jewish life in America... The American Jewish Conference must become the arena in which to carry on a determined and continuous struggle for Jewish democracy... We must fight for the idea that the Conference is not just another central organization of Jews in America, not a temporary institution, but the supreme body, the Jewish parliament for Jewish interests...

The remnants of Jews the world over, in their last hope, are looking to us for great deeds. Let us not betray that hope..."

David Reblsky, Yiddisher Kempfer, 7.28.44

THE NEXT STEP ANTICIPATED.

"With regard to the 'unity mass meeting' sponsored by the American Jewish Conference in co-operation with such non-affiliates as the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Fraternal Order of the I.W.O., Dr. John Slawson, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, said: 'We hope that this step in collaboration in behalf of the Hungarian Jews will be a forerunner of a unified program by Jewish organizations joined together on the highest humanitarian grounds.' We hope so too. We should like to interpret the sentiment expressed by Dr. Slawson as a tacit admission of a grave error committed by the Committee in withdrawing from the American Jewish Conference. The future actions of Dr. Slawson and his colleagues will indicate how much real effort the Committee is prepared to invest toward the realization of a 'unified program by Jewish organizations joined together on the highest humanitarian grounds.' Of course, good will is mandatory on all sides."

Independent Jewish News Service, 8.4.44

COLLABORATION IS POSSIBLE.

"In a recent meeting for the purpose of discussing the Hungarian situation the American Jewish Conference was able to rise above some of the handicaps with which its initial sessions were shackled, and to receive the cooperation of a number of groups outside the Conference.

Representatives of the American Jewish Committee, the Agudath Israel, the Revisionists, the Jewish People's Committee, and the Jewish section of the International Workers' Order met with representatives of the American Jewish Conference, which comprises the rest of organized Jewish groups in the United States.

All this means that there will be a whole range of subjects of vital interest to American Jews, upon which practically every section of organized American Jewry can express an opinion and pledge its cooperation. We look forward with confidence to the strength which comes from unity, as the fruits of this collaboration."

American Hebrew, 7.28.44



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1944

PRESENT: Louis Lipsky, Chairman; Maurice Bisgyer, Samuel Caplan, Mrs. Epstein, J. George Fredman, Samuel Rothstein, Herman Shulman; Meier Grossman, Ann Jarcho, I. L. Kenen and Dr. A. S. Kohanski of the staff.

MINUTES OF MEETING 8/1/44: Approved.

X PROPOSAL OF RESCUE COMMISSION: It was reported that the Rescue Commission has scheduled a meeting for tomorrow, August 11th, of representatives of those organizations which cooperated with and participated in the Mass Demonstration for the purpose of continuing the joint action started at the mass meeting — to discuss whether a delegation should be sent to Washington to submit a program; to look into the matter of whether it is possible to create a Commission in Hungary to provide food, etc.; and to continue cooperation on rescue work.

The Administrative Committee gave its unanimous approval.

THE JEWISH REVIEW: Mr. Grossman asked authorization to make an arrangement with the Jewish Review for the next six months, to publish in its four-page weekly supplement (devoted exclusively to the activities of national Jewish organizations throughout the country) reports in connection with the American Jewish Conference.

It was moved and carried that an appropriation, not to exceed \$350.00, be made for that purpose.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECOND SESSION: Discussion as to whether a personal visit should be made to Chicago in connection with hotel arrangements for the Second Session resolved in the decision that we communicate with delegate Max Bressler of Chicago to secure the necessary preliminary information.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mrs. Jarcho reported: that income from January 1st to July 31st, 1944 was \$50,760.10 and disbursements \$44,210.58, leaving an operating surplus of \$6,549.52; that the cost of the Mass Demonstration was \$6,072.02 (excluding telephone and telegraph bills not submitted as yet), of which \$2,055.00 has to date been received from organizations which participated, leaving more than \$4,000.00 due the Conference.

In the matter of the \$5,000.00 note due Manufacturers Trust and Savings Bank on August 24th, motion was made and carried that: "the Chairman is authorized to renew this note if, in his discretion, he deems it necessary".

The Chair recommended that the financial statements hereafter reflect in some form that the definite pledges made by the Welfare Funds are assets. It was suggested they be called "Contingent Assets" or "Accounts Receivable".

RELEASE OF STATEMENT RE. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE: Discussion pertaining to release of this statement indicated it was the consensus that we communicate with the U.J.A. and the J.D.C. to issue a joint statement or one of their own, in support.



Motion was made and carried that "we make an effort to secure the support of a statement to be issued by the Conference from the U.J.A. (which includes the J.D.C. and the U.P.A.)". In the event this support cannot be secured by Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning, then this statement is to be released by the Conference itself. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Bisgyer's vote recorded in the negative.

COMMUNICATION TO CO-CHAIRMEN AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL: The Chair X reported that in reply to his letter of July 7th addressed to Dr. Wise and Dr. Silver, as Co-Chairmen of the American Zionist Emergency Council, Dr. Silver replied under date of August 2nd, stating:

"..... Mr. Lipsky should have reported that I discussed the contents of the letter with him verbally and called his attention to certain basic difficulties involved in the request - touching the attitude of the non-Zionist organizations who are members of the Conference, in case we agree to have the Congress Resolutions promoted from now on as a Conference project. I told him to inquire of these organizations if they would raise any objections, for if they do, it will certainly embarrass us..... I have been waiting to hear from him."

It was the decision of the Administrative Committee that the reply to Dr. Silver indicates that "organizations that are affiliated with the Conference will not take any offensive steps."

POST-WAR COMMISSION AND WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS: The Chair stated that there was to be a meeting between representatives of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference at 11:30 A.M. tomorrow, Friday, August 11th. Discussion centered on the business of this meeting and the Chair suggested that all approaches, contacts and relations with the American Government, its Agencies, Bureaus and Departments shall be led by the American Jewish Conference supported by the World Jewish Congress; that all approaches to other governments shall be led by the World Jewish Congress supported by the American Jewish Conference. But that in cases where there is disagreement, independent action may be taken.

After a full discussion, it was the consensus that the meeting should be held, no commitments made, and to report back to the Administrative Committee.

WAR EMERGENCY CONFERENCE: It was reported that the War Emergency Conference, postponed from last May, is now scheduled to be held on November 11th. The Chair pointed out that holding this War Emergency Conference three weeks in advance of the Second Session of the American Jewish Conference is likely to lead to a great deal of confusion. Mr. Shulman was of the opinion that it would be in order for the American Jewish Conference to act as host and perhaps invite the Board of Deputies, as the World Jewish Congress could only invite its own organizations.

It was agreed that the holding of the War Emergency Conference in advance would be untimely; and it should be postponed until after the Second Session.

POST-WAR COMMISSION: The Chair asked that the minutes record that Co-Chairman Hayim Greenberg has withdrawn his resignation.

The Administrative Committee was informed that the Post-War Commission is sending a delegation to Acting Secretary of State Stettinius on Monday, August 14th, consisting of Miss Evans, Dr. Trachtenberg and Dr. Kohanski,



to present the International Bill of Rights. It was suggested that the Co-Chairmen of the Post-War Commission and/or Chairman of the Administrative Committee should be present at this meeting. Mr. Greenberg may be persuaded to go. The Chairman had urged Mr. Greenberg to become a member of the delegation.

Discussion ensued as to whether the Interim Committee gave the Administrative Committee power regarding implementation of programs worked out by the Commissions. It was the consensus that this had already been established and did not need to be reaffirmed.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was **scheduled** for Thursday, August 24th, at 6 P.M.

Meeting adjourned.

\* \* \*





# AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

## MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: August 15, 1944

FROM: Ann Jarcho

SUBJECT: Next Administrative Committee Meeting

Please be advised that the next meeting of the Administrative Committee is scheduled for:

Thursday, August 24, 6 P. M. at the Conference Offices.

\* \* \* \* \*

A digest of the minutes of the last Administrative Committee meeting (held August 10) are enclosed herewith.

Enc.



# BULLETIN

## American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

### OF ACTIVITIES AND DIGEST OF THE PRESS

No. 23

Elul 1, 5704

August 18, 1944

#### UNITED WORKING COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE

##### Initiative of the Conference Bears Fruit

A further step toward the unification of all forces dealing with the rescue of European Jewry was made when, on August 11, the Rescue Commission of the American Jewish Conference called together representatives of all organizations which cooperated with the Conference in organizing the Mass Demonstration in New York, to discuss possibilities of continuing coordinated rescue work. In addition to cooperating organizations which participated in organizing the Demonstration, the Vaad Hatzalah (rescue organization of the Orthodox Jews) and Agudas Israel were represented at the meeting.

Rabbi Irving Miller, Co-Chairman of the Rescue Commission of the American Jewish Conference, proposed the creation of an informal committee, to be composed of the organizations represented at the meeting, for continued effort to rescue European Jewry, particularly the Jews of Hungary. After discussing ways and means of cooperation, it was decided to appoint a working committee which should represent all organizations affiliated and not affiliated with the American Jewish Conference, and which should speak on behalf of American Jewry on matters of rescue. It should also act as a delegation to appear before our Government or its agencies as the occasion may demand.

It was further suggested that an office be maintained in Washington to carry out decisions that require immediate action.

The meeting was conducted in a spirit of harmony, as all those present expressed the desire to create a united instrument for rescue activities.

Present at the meeting were: Rabbi Irving Miller, presiding; Maurice Bisgyer of B'nai Brith, Mrs. Judith G. Epstein of Hadassah, Rabbi Groszofsky of Vaad Hatzalah, Isaac Hamlin of Labor Zionist Bloc, Eugene Hevesi of American Jewish Committee, Rabbi A. Kalmanovitz of Vaad Hatzalah, Samuel L. Katz of New Zionist Organization, Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki of World Jewish Congress, Jacob Marrus of Mizrahi Organization, Mrs. David deSola Pool of Hadassah, Flora R. Rothenberg of National Council of Jewish Women, G. Sandler of Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, IWO, David S. Shecket of New Zionist Organization, David Sher of American Jewish Committee, Robert Silverman of United Palestine Appeal, Louis H. Sobel of Joint Distribution Committee (as observer) and Michael Tress of Agudas Israel.

\* \* \*

A delegation of the working committee, composed of Eugene Hevesi, Rabbi A. Kalmanovitz, I. L. Kenen (American Jewish Conference), Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, B. Sherman (Jewish Labor Committee) and Rabbi Solomon Metz went to Washington on August 16th to submit to Mr. John W. Pehle, Director of the War Refugee Board certain proposals on expediting the rescue of Jews in Europe.

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STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS PRESENTED TO STATE DEPARTMENT

A statement on the International Bill of Rights, drafted by the Post-War Commission of the American Jewish Conference and approved by the Interim Committee at its last meeting, was submitted on August 14th to the United States State Department.

A delegation composed of Hayim Greenberg of New York, Co-Chairman of the Post-War Commission of the Conference, Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg of Easton, Pa., Jane Evans of Cincinnati, Ohio, members of the Commission, and Dr. A. S. Kohanski, secretary of the Commission, were received by Under Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., to whom the statement was presented. Expressing the view of the American Jewish Conference, the delegation pointed out that in order to safeguard the basic human rights of every individual, the United Nations should adopt an International Bill of Rights and create adequate machinery for its enforcement. The delegation further emphasized that such Bill of Rights is a basic principle of world security and it expressed the hope that the proposals which it submitted be given due consideration by the Four Powers at their forthcoming discussions on post-war security.

\* \* \*

Statement on International Bill of Rights

Heretofore the principle of absolute independence of each state in determining the rights of its inhabitants has permitted certain states to discriminate between one section of its population as against another section. It has further allowed a condition to develop in which a given state could deprive certain groups of its citizens of their basic human rights in violation of the standards of such rights as accepted by the civilized world.

Until the rise of Nazi rule in Germany, the Jews in Europe enjoyed under Constitutional law equal rights with the rest of the citizens of each state. In the Central-Eastern states of Europe, the Jews as members of a minority group, together with the members of other minority groups, were further guaranteed equal status with the rest of the population, through a system of Minority Treaties, Declarations or Conventions. Among the general rights recognized in these Treaties, Declarations or Conventions were: (a) state protection of life, liberty and freedom of worship for all inhabitants; (b) equal treatment before the law and full civil and political rights for all citizens. Each state assumed these obligations as "fundamental law" not to be changed by subsequent legislation or administration, and further recognized them as of "international concern," and subject to the supervision of the League of Nations.

While these guarantees served to a certain degree in actually safeguarding the basic individual human rights of the Jews and other members of minority groups, several states, which were bound by these Treaties, were still able to discriminate against their Jewish populations and to deprive them of many of their basic equal rights. This was particularly due to the fact that the international instrumentality of enforcing those guarantees was defective and in some instances inoperative. The most flagrant breach of human rights has been perpetrated by Germany, since the advent of the Nazi Regime, in its brutal treatment of the Jewish population.



Thus the total disregard of civilized concepts of individual human rights on the part of some states resulted in acts of violence, enslavement and extermination against large sections of the population of Europe. Herein lie the roots of the international anarchy that contributed to the assault of the Axis powers on the civilized world.

In order to secure the dignity of man and his individual human rights against future violation, there must be a Bill of Rights that shall be guaranteed by the nations of the world. Such a Bill and its guarantee may be embodied in a universal covenant among the nations, or in a series of international covenants among certain groups of nations.

The American Jewish Conference, in seeking to safeguard the human rights of Jews on an equal basis with those of all other human beings, therefore, urges that the world order which the United Nations are resolved to establish have as one of its foundations an International Bill of Rights, expressing the principles of the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter, and embodying:

1. Full and complete protection of life, liberty, freedom of worship, and civil rights for the inhabitants of all countries without distinction of birth, nationality, language, race or religion.
2. Unequivocal equality of rights in law and in fact for all the citizens of every country.
3. The inalienable right of all religious, ethnic and cultural groups to maintain and foster their respective group identities on the basis of equality.
4. The establishment of appropriate and adequate national and international machinery to secure the enforcement of these rights.

\* \* \*

#### Wide Publicity Given to Conference Statement on the Bill of Rights

Both the general and the Jewish press gave wide publicity to the statement on the International Bill of Rights which was submitted by a delegation of the American Jewish Conference to the United States State Department. The statement urged the promulgation of an International Bill of Rights and the establishment of national and international machinery to secure its enforcement. The general press published substantial excerpts from the statement and the entire Jewish press carried editorials in support of its demands.



D I G E S T   O F   T H E   P R E S STHE PITTSBURGH AGREEMENT AND MORALS

"There has been a great deal of loose talk lately about the immorality of breaking the Pittsburgh Agreement...It is being argued now that to extend the scope of the American Jewish Conference still further by including in it the problem of anti-Semitism as it affects the American scene would be a breach of contract, and that of course is immoral, dishonest and smacking of duplicity, as one of the chief adherents, and incidentally beneficiary of the Pittsburgh Agreement, put it recently in an off-the-record but very heated session...

Pittsburgh is not Sinai and consequently may be approached with an attitude slightly less than veneration. But granted that the sanctity of a contract does not quite depend on geography, what is there in the Pittsburgh Agreement that cannot be changed without committing a crime bordering on moral turpitude? Let's go back to history for a little light on the subject.

The Pittsburgh Agreement was signed in the winter of 1942 in the form of a call for an American Jewish Assembly. That agreement was binding on the national organizations that signed it. Agreed. But after the original call a larger number of organizations joined in the venture, giving it a new turn. It is under this new control that the very name of the Assembly was changed to Conference and the rules and regulations governing the elections were promulgated. Then came the thousands upon thousands of electors, who participating in the elections on platforms that had nothing to do with the Pittsburgh Agreement, gave still a new turn to the American Jewish Conference. They, as well as the delegates whom they have elected, believed that the American Jewish Conference would be sovereign, that the delegates, in session assembled, could and would make their own program, decide on their own agenda. That's how the Pittsburgh Agreement was gradually supplemented and finally, I take it, supplanted by the American Jewish Conference itself.

This, to me, is good reasoning and good morals. It certainly is good democratic procedure. What is more, it is the sine qua non for the success of the Conference...Of course, many of those who invoke the Pittsburgh Agreement as if it were a part of the Holy Writ, while thundering deprecations on those who dare put the people above Pittsburgh, aren't interested in morals at all. What they want to save is not virtue but vested interests..."

S. Margoshes, The Day, N.Y.C., 8.12.44

THE MAIN TASK OF THE CONFERENCE - TO BE A TRIBUNAL.

"...The American Jewish Conference, after the pyrotechnics and excitement of last year, has not done very much to achieve what we understood was to have been its prime function, namely, to become a tribunal for all the agreements of Jewish life so that on those subjects we could speak as a Jewish community, authoritatively as a united American Jewish community. It is in this area that the Conference seems to have failed. It seems to us that the very people who were most responsible for bringing it into being are the ones who have prevented its becoming what they told us the Conference was to be. Whether it was because they are unwilling to have the Conference encroach upon their territory and speak out on subjects for which they themselves are the authoritative spokesmen or whether it was because the Conference attempted to speak authoritatively on subjects where there is no unanimity and hence no single voice could alone speak on on these subjects - we do not know. But the fact remains that to us the American Jewish Conference appears to be a nebulous institution in a foggy sort of area uttering forth a shadowy sort of sound now and then, indistinct, distant as if coming from the "shades".

"We make these statements not out of a desire to kill the Conference, but in the hope of stimulating discussion and re-examination which may lead to a renewal of life and the performance of useful functions, when the Conference reassembles in Chicago and decides to go on from there."

Jewish Ledger, August 4, 1944.



THE INITIATIVE OF THE CONFERENCE PRAISED, BUT...

"The statement on location and registration of displaced Jews by the Post-War Commission of the American Jewish Conference is a timely and highly important announcement. If that proposed plan is carried through in an appropriate manner, a great service will be rendered. It is true, such an undertaking requires enormous expenses, but I do believe that the American Jewish Conference will easily obtain the required funds, once it will start that useful work.

It is superfluous to say that I was never very much in love with the American Jewish Conference. Since its inception, I considered it an organization doomed to inactivity. I am, however, ready at any time to give credit for useful work, when such will be done. Still, I am not free of fear that said resolution, no matter how good, will not remain merely "on paper." My fears stem from my conviction that the American Jewish Conference is nothing more than a "paper organization."

Sivion, Forward, 8.12.44

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INTERNATIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS: COMMENTS.

"The memorandum on an "International Bill of Rights" submitted to the State Department by the Post-War Commission of the American Jewish Conference is a very important step...All work to safeguard and protect the rights of the Jewish people must begin now...

Another memorandum on the rights of the Jewish people in post-war Europe was submitted to the State Department by the American Jewish Committee...

This shows the regrettable split in the Jewish camp...It is, however, not enough just to regret the split...The American Jewish Committee and all the other groups that want common action in the struggle for the Jewish interests must become united within the American Jewish Conference...However, before that unity can be achieved, ways and means must be found for a workable cooperation between the American Jewish Committee and the other groups that are still outside of the Conference..."

Editorial, Morning Freiheit, 8.15.44

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"The four main demands contained in the memorandum on an "International Bill of Rights" submitted to the State Department by the American Jewish Conference are a part of the principles to be adopted by every genuine democratic country...Without these rights no democratic order could be preserved...Full and complete Jewish rights were always inter-connected with a broad democratic order...Only in a true democracy can Jews find protection of life and liberty..."

Editorial, Forward, 8.16.44

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"The formulation of the memorandum on an "International Bill of Rights" submitted to the State Department by the American Jewish Conference is both correct and all-embracing...

While the American Jewish Committee deemed it superfluous to demand national and cultural rights, the American Jewish Conference found it necessary and justly so to make that demand a specific point in its statement...The experience after World War I taught us that unless the national rights of ethnic groups are safeguarded, violations not only of civic rights but also of elementary human rights are bound to follow...

Let us hope the coming Four Power Conference will give its full attention to the memorandum of the American Jewish Conference, which it fully deserves."

Editorial, The Day, 8.16.44



# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

## INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN  
HENRY MONSKY  
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE  
*Co-Chairmen*

MAURICE BISGYER  
DAVID BLUMBERG  
GEDALIAH BUBLICK  
NAOMI CHERTOFF  
SIGMUND W. DAVID  
J. DAVID DELMAN  
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN  
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH  
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN  
PROF. HYMAN J. ETTLINGER  
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH  
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN  
J. GEORGE FREDMAN  
DANIEL FRISCH  
FRANK GOLDMAN  
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RABBI JAMES G. HELLER  
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DVORAH ROTHBARD  
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
ISIDOR SACK  
LOUIS SEGAL  
HON. CARL SHERMAN  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
MRS. ARCHIBALD SILVERMAN  
HON. MEIER STEINBRINK  
HERMANN STERN  
ROBERT SZOLD  
MRS. MAURICE TURNER  
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT  
DAVID WERTHEIM  
BENJAMIN WINTER  
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE  
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

LOUIS LIPSKY, *Chairman*  
MAURICE BISGYER  
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN  
JANE EVANS  
J. GEORGE FREDMAN  
LEON GELLMAN  
WILLIAM GERBER  
CHARLES P. KRAMER  
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
MEYER W. WEISGAL  
DAVID WERTHEIM

August 22, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

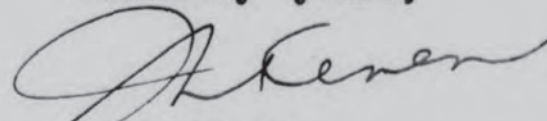
Dear Dr. Silver:

I have your letter of August 14th and Mr. Lipsky has also relayed to me the substance of your conversation with him.

Under the circumstances, I do not propose to continue the argument on the Conference sponsorship of resolutions. However, I hope that when the resolutions are revived, we can work out some method by which the Conference will participate in their advocacy.

In the meantime, may I suggest that you call a meeting of the Palestine Commission, which has not met since May? The Interim Committee has scheduled its next meeting for September 12th, and it may be feasible to call a meeting of the Palestine Commission for noon on September 11th.

Sincerely yours,

  
I. L. Kenen

ILK:FSK

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



August 23, 1944

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

My dear Mr. Kenen:

Thank you for your letter of August 22. I am sure that when the resolutions are brought up for action a proper method can be worked out whereby the Conference will receive full opportunity to cooperate and a full share of the credit. I am very eager to have the name of the Conference prominently identified with the action, and the prestige of the Conference enhanced.

Please call a meeting of the Palestine Commission for Tuesday, September 11th, at noon.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

## INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN  
HENRY MONSKY  
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE  
*Co-Chairmen*

August 24, 1944

MAURICE BISGYER  
DAVID BLUMBERG  
GEDALIAH BUBLICK  
NAOMI CHERTOFF  
SIGMUND W. DAVID  
J. DAVID DELMAN  
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN  
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH  
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN  
PROF. HYMAN J. ETTLINGER  
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH  
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN  
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DANIEL FRISCH  
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DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN  
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MRS. HUGO HARTMANN  
RABBI JAMES G. HELLER  
HERMAN HOFFMAN  
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN  
CHARLES P. KRAMER  
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM  
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL  
DR. LOUIS M. LEVITSKY  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
JULIUS LIVINGSTON  
RABBI IRVING MILLER  
LOUIS J. MOSS  
DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN  
HARRY A. PINE  
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL  
ADOLPH ROSENBERG  
DVORAH ROTHBARD  
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
ISIDOR SACK  
LOUIS SEGAL  
HON. CARL SHERMAN  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
MRS. ARCHIBALD SILVERMAN  
HON. MEIER STEINBRINK  
HERMANN STERN  
ROBERT SZOLD  
MRS. MAURICE TURNER  
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT  
DAVID WERTHEIM  
BENJAMIN WINTER  
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE  
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

LOUIS LIPSKY, *Chairman*  
MAURICE BISGYER  
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN  
JANE EVANS  
J. GEORGE FREDMAN  
LEON GELLMAN  
WILLIAM GERBER  
CHARLES P. KRAMER  
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
MEYER W. WEISGAL  
DAVID WERTHEIM

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
% The Temple  
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

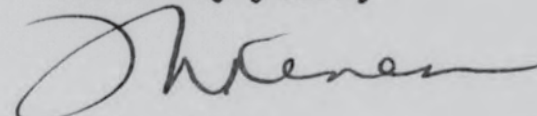
Dear Dr. Silver:

In your note to me received today, you suggest that the Palestine Commission meeting be held Tuesday, September 11th.

September 11th falls on a Monday. I would prefer to make this on Monday, if possible, providing you intend to be in the city on that day, since the Interim Committee meeting will be all day Tuesday.

However, if you meant Tuesday, September 12th, please let me know as soon as possible and I shall send out notices.

Sincerely yours,

  
I. L. Kenen

ILK:FSK

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



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1944

PRESENT: Louis Lipsky, Chairman; Maurice Bisgyer, Max Bressler (guest), Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, J. George Fredman, William Gerber, Charles P. Kramer, Rabbi Irving Miller, Samuel Rothstein, Herman Shulman, Meyer W. Weisgal, David Wertheim; Meir Grossman and I. L. Kenen of the staff.

MINUTES OF MEETING 8/10/44: Approved.

DATE OF SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE: Mr. Bressler reported that no hotel facilities were available in Chicago for December 2nd but that he had taken an option on the Stevens Hotel for November 12th, good until August 31st. Mr. Kenen reported that hotels were available in Pittsburgh and Cleveland for December 2nd. The advisability of advancing the date of the second session because of the acceleration of the war was discussed. Mr. Shulman moved for reconsideration of the date but later withdrew his motion.

Mr. Bisgyer moved that the Administrative Committee proceed with arrangements for the second session, to be held beginning Sunday, December 3 and continuing to the afternoon of December 6th, at the William Penn Hotel at Pittsburgh, or any other suitable hotel available in that city. This was carried unanimously.

It was the consensus of the meeting that no announcement be made in the press of the proposed date and place of the second session before Labor Day, but that an announcement to that effect go forward to the delegates.

AGREEMENT WITH WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS: Following a meeting between representatives of the World Jewish Congress and a sub-committee of the Administrative Committee consisting of Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Bisgyer and Mr. Grossman, the World Jewish Congress submitted its proposals for collaboration. Mr. Bisgyer moved that a copy of this statement be sent to the members of the committee and that the matter be considered at the next meeting of the Administrative Committee. This was carried.

REPORT OF RESCUE COMMISSION: Rabbi Miller asked that his following report be incorporated in the minutes. He stated:

"In pursuance of what I regarded as my authority and duty as co-chairman of the Rescue Commission, certain things took place within the past two weeks and certain things have happened as a result. I would like this Administrative Committee to take formal action with respect to these things, and if the Administrative Committee will feel that it will have greater freedom of choice, at the same time, I present my resignation.



"This committee will recall that early in the year, the Interim Committee authorized the Rescue Commission to invite to participate in its work other Jewish organizations interested in rescue work. The Interim Committee went a step further and granted the Rescue Commission a certain measure of autonomy in order that other organizations not affiliated with the Conference should feel a greater measure of freedom in joining with the Rescue Commission.

"I did not act upon these instructions of the Interim Committee but rather upon a specific resolution passed by the Rescue Commission, when I invited all Jewish organizations, without any exception, in New York City, to attend a conference on Monday night, July 17th at the Biltmore Hotel to discuss the Jewish situation in Hungary. The action of the Commission authorizing me to call this meeting specifically stated that I was to call 'all' Jewish organizations, and I proceeded to do so without any exceptions. Accordingly, I invited also the Jewish Peoples Committee and the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order. At that very evening I was remonstrated with by the representatives of the Jewish Labor Committee who asked me what authority I had to do so. My answer was that I thought I acted by authority of the resolution.

"That conference resolved upon two things: (1) to sponsor the demonstration and (2) that following the demonstration all Jewish organizations participating were to be called again into conference to provide for a joint delegation to submit to the appropriate authorities the results of the demands adopted at the demonstration. All Jewish organizations with the exception of the Agudas Israel and the Agudas Harabonim participated in the demonstration. I think that the American Jewish Conference received its full share of credit in the press and in public opinion for that demonstration.

"Then I reported to the Administrative Committee that I was to call, the very next day, a meeting of all the organizations that participated in the demonstration to plan further action. Such a meeting was called. It was well attended. Every Jewish organization was present, including for the first time, the J.D.C., American Jewish Committee and the U.P.A. It was truly a representative gathering of Jewish organizations.

"I asked that body to authorize me to appoint a committee of five or six which would symbolize that unity that was evident at the meeting that Friday, and that that committee should be of an informal character -- an ad hoc committee -- to act on the Hungarian situation on such political matters as the committee shall agree upon. I was given that authority unanimously. I appointed such a committee, which consisted of Mr. Shulman and myself representing the Rescue Commission, Mrs. Epstein who in turn appointed Mrs. Pool to represent Hadassah, Mr. Pat of the Jewish Labor Committee, Mr. Hevesi of American Jewish Committee, Rabbi Kalmanovitz of Vaad Hahatzala and Rabbi Frankel of Agudas Israel. Also, Dr. Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress. The Agudas Israel called up and asked to be invited.



"That committee met two days afterwards and agreed upon a certain program which was to be submitted by a joint delegation to the War Refugee Board. An appointment was made with Mr. Pehle. Dr. Kubowitzki, Mr. Hevesi, Mr. Sherman of the Jewish Labor Committee and Rabbi Kalmanovitz went, and also Mr. Kenen, who pointed out to Mr. Pehle that this delegation was symbolic of 'all' American Jewry. A full discussion was had. A comprehensive report of that conversation was gotten out by Mr. Kenen. A memorandum was to be drawn up in the name of all these organizations. The committee met again Friday to consider such a memorandum. A memorandum was finally agreed upon. When it was completely agreed upon (in every instance, the representative of the American Jewish Committee went back to his committee and continued to go forward with each step as it developed) Mr. Pat in behalf of the Jewish Labor Committee observed that this memorandum was to be submitted in behalf of the American Jewish Conference and in cooperation with other organizations not affiliated with the Conference i.e. the Agudas Israel of America, American Jewish Committee, Jewish Peoples Committee, Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, New Zionist Organization, Union of Orthodox Rabbis and Vaad Hahatzala, and also the Agudas Harabonim. We then listed all the organizations of the Conference.

"Mr. Pat demanded that either we strike out the Jewish Peoples Committee and the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order or the Jewish Labor Committee would not sign the memorandum. I told him that I had no right to strike out the name of any other organization which had been called in good faith to a meeting and had participated in the meeting and had agreed upon being represented and which agreed to sign such a memorandum. Mr. Pat insisted that he would not sign it under such conditions, whereupon the American Jewish Committee and the Agudas Israel representatives said that the situation created a new circumstance in which they would have to report back to their committees for approval. I said that the American Jewish Conference would sign this memorandum and I gave them until tomorrow to tell me what their organizations would do.

"On Tuesday, the Agudas Israel sent us a telegram that they approved the memorandum and would sign it. The American Jewish Committee also approved the memorandum. On the other hand, the Jewish Labor Committee met and decided that they would not sign the memorandum and of course, at the same time, served notice that this represented practically a breaking point with the Conference, that its whole relations were jeopardized as a result.

"I felt I had no authority to scratch the name of two organizations or to withhold the sending of such an important memorandum until this Administrative Committee would meet. I instructed Mr. Kenen, since I had the signatures of all organizations, that we are to submit the memorandum. It was submitted without the names of the Jewish Labor Committee and its affiliated organizations.



"I am aware of the fact that this has created a situation which may prove to be quite embarrassing to the Conference and I don't want the Conference to suffer for any action on my part. I therefore want to put this on record. I would like this Administrative Committee to approve the action I took, or if it chooses to repudiate it I shall be glad to resign and spare the Conference the embarrassment of this new situation."

Mr. Shulman stated that as co-chairman of the Rescue Commission he had concurred in all actions that had been taken.

Mr. Kramer moved that the acts of Rabbi Miller be in all respects approved. This was unanimously carried.

Mr. Bisgyer moved that the Administrative Committee go on record as commending the Rescue Commission for its activities, and this was unanimously carried.

STATEMENT ON RETRIBUTION: Mr. Kenen reported that a statement on punishment of war criminals was to be sent to the Secretary of State in the name of the Conference. This statement was approved by the committee and Miss Evans was given the authority to edit it.

AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION: Mr. Lipsky submitted a proposed agenda for the second session, a copy of which is attached. After discussion, Mr. Kramer moved that copies of the proposed agenda be forwarded to each member of the Administrative Committee and that a special committee be appointed to be known as the Program Committee which shall report at the next meeting, and at the same time receive such recommendations as are made from the members of the Administrative Committee to be incorporated in a general report. This motion was carried. The chair appointed Mrs. Epstein, Mr. Fredman and Mr. Shulman as members of the Program Committee.

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS: Miss Evans, at the request of the Research Staff of the National Peace Conference, asked that the Administrative Committee authorize the printing of 1500 copies of its statement on International Bill of Rights to be distributed by the National Peace Conference to key discussion leaders. She also asked permission to re-edit the statement. These requests were granted.

The meeting was then adjourned to September 7th.



PROPOSALS FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS  
AND AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE  
SUBMITTED BY WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

It is the purpose of the proposed arrangement between the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference to establish the closest cooperation between the two organizations on a basis of mutual confidence. The following clauses are meant to be illustrative of the ways.

The two bodies can act together in the areas of activity which they both cover, but it is hoped that with the development of cooperation, additional methods of common action will suggest themselves.

1. There shall be a constant exchange of confidential information between appropriate departments of the two organizations in all matters touching post-war plans and rescue efforts.

2. A joint planning and drafting commission is to be set up for the consideration of post-war problems and the drafting of statements and proposals. The commission is to be composed of an equal number of members from each body and is to have at its disposal the results of the studies made by the Institute of Jewish Affairs. The results of the work of the joint committee are to be submitted to the appropriate organs of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference, for their consideration.

3. All representations which both bodies have agreed shall be formally submitted to the American Government shall primarily be submitted by the American Jewish Conference, which shall specify that these representations have the endorsement of the World Jewish Congress. Similarly all representations which both bodies have agreed shall be formally submitted to foreign governments and agencies in the territory of the United States shall primarily be submitted by the World Jewish Congress, which shall specify that these representations have the endorsement of the American Jewish Conference. Every effort shall be made to secure united action in all such representations, but in case of a failure to agree, each organization shall be entitled to act on its own behalf.

4. The World Jewish Congress retains its right to represent the communities and organizations affiliated with it in dealing with all foreign governments and international agencies. In all such representations reference to the endorsement of the American Jewish Conference shall be made, unless there is a disagreement between the two bodies or the American Jewish Conference regards it as unnecessary.

5. The World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference shall each appoint a member of its Executive or Administrative Committee to act as liaison officer with the other bodies. It shall be the duty of such officers to promote the closest cooperation between the two bodies and to arrange for each body to invite representatives of the other to attend its meetings on appropriate occasions.



PROPOSALS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE SECOND SESSION  
of the  
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

SATURDAY NIGHT - DECEMBER 2nd

1. First meeting of the General Committee
2. Registration of delegates

SUNDAY AFTERNOON - DECEMBER 3rd - 2:00 o'clock - FIRST SESSION

1. Opening of the meeting by a temporary chairman to be named by the Interim Committee.
2. Submission of Credentials Report by Charles P. Kramer, Chairman of Committee on Elections. Motion to be made to accept report and to refer to a special Committee on Credentials all contests and claims.
3. Proposals of the General Committee for the election of a praesidium.
4. Chair to be taken by a member of the praesidium.
5. Submission of the report of the Interim Committee, prefaced by addresses of twenty to thirty minutes by the Co-Chairmen.
6. Submission of the report of the Rescue Commission, to be prefaced by addresses of twenty minutes each by the two Co-Chairmen.
7. Submission of the report of the Post-War Commission, to be prefaced by an address of twenty minutes each by Hayim Greenberg and Rabbi Eisendrath.
8. Submission of the report of the Commission on Palestine, to be prefaced by an address by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman.
9. Proposals of the General Committee for the naming of the committees of the Conference.
10. An address by \_\_\_\_\_, reviewing the general Jewish situation as it appears today.
11. Adjournment.

~~MONDAY~~ EVENING - DECEMBER 3rd - 8:30 P.M. - SECOND SESSION

1. Proposals of the General Committee with regard to rules of procedure.
2. General debate on the reports, one-half of the time to be arranged for with the groups, and the balance to be opened to the delegates from the floor.

MONDAY AFTERNOON - DECEMBER 4th - 2:00 P.M. - THIRD SESSION

1. Continuation of the general debate.
2. Resolutions reported by the Committee on Rescue of the Conference. Discussion and action.



MONDAY EVENING - DECEMBER 4th - 8:30 P.M. - FOURTH SESSION

1. Resolutions reported by the Committee on Post-War of the Conference. Discussion and action.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON - DECEMBER 5th - 2:00 P.M. - FIFTH SESSION

1. Resolutions reported by the Committee on Palestine of the Conference. Discussion and action.
2. Resolutions reported by the Committee on Organization of the Conference. Discussion and action.

TUESDAY EVENING - DECEMBER 5th - 8:00 P.M. - SIXTH SESSION

1. Resolutions reported by the General Resolutions Committee of the Conference. Discussion and action.
2. Resolutions of the Finance Committee of the Conference.
3. Elections
4. Final addresses at the closing of the Conference.



# AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Administrative Committee      DATE: 8/25/44

FROM: I. L. Kenen

SUBJECT:

I am enclosing the minutes of the meeting of the Administrative Committee on August 24th.

May I remind you that the next meeting of the Administrative Committee will be on Thursday, September 7th at the Conference office.



August 25, 1944

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

My dear Mr. Kenen:

The meeting of the Palestine Commission  
is to be held on Monday, September 11, noon.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK





# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

## COMMISSION ON PALESTINE

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

*Chairman*

August 28, 1944

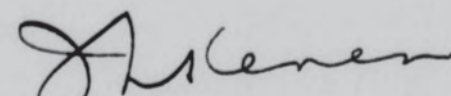
JACOB ALSON  
GEDALIAH BUBLICK  
RABBI A. SIMON FEDERBUSCH  
RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF  
RABBI WOLF GOLD  
DR. ROBERT GORDIS  
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN  
ISAAC HAMLIN  
RABBI JAMES G. HELLER  
HON. H. P. KOPPLEMAN  
MAX A. KOPSTEIN  
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
HON. SAMUEL MELLITZ  
DR. MAX NUSSBAUM  
HON. BERNARD A. ROSENBLATT  
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
ISIDOR SACK  
MAX J. SCHNEIDER  
MRS. ALBERT P. SCHOOLMAN  
HON. CARL SHERMAN  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
DR. BENJAMIN SHWADRAN  
WILLIAM I. SIEGAL  
MRS. SIMON SOBELOFF  
ROBERT SZOLD  
DAVID M. WATCHMAKER  
DAVID WERTHEIM

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have today called a meeting of  
the Palestine Commission for Monday, September 11th  
at 12:00 noon at Siegel's Restaurant, 209 West 38th  
Street near 7th Avenue. We are holding it in a  
kosher restaurant in view of complaints from the  
Mizrachi on luncheons at the Biltmore.

Very cordially yours,

  
I. L. Kenen

ILK:s  
enc.



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

DIGEST OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 12, 1944 - Biltmore Hotel, New York City

Presiding: Co-Chairman Henry Monsky

Those present were: Co-Chairman Dr. Israel Goldstein, Co-Chairman Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Maurice Bisgyer, Naomi Chertoff, David J. Delman, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Jane Evans, J. George Fredman, Daniel Frisch, Leon Gellman, William Gerber (alternate for Julius Livingston), Frank Goldman, Mrs. Samuel Goldstein, Rabbi Robert Gordis, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Rabbi James Heller, Charles P. Kramer, Sidney Kusworm, Louis Lipsky, Isidore Margolis (alternate for Rabbi Simon Federbusch), Rabbi Irving Miller, Dr. Samuel Nirenstein, Mrs. David de Sola Pool, Herman Z. Quittman, (alternate for Harry A. Pine), Adolph Rosenberg, Dvorah Rothbard, Samuel Rothstein, Benjamin Samuels, Louis Segal, Carl Sherman, Herman Shulman, Mrs. Herman Shulman, (alternate for Mrs. Moses P. Epstein), Justice Meier Steinbrink, Hermann Stern, Rabbi M. A. Stern (alternate for Rabbi William Drazin), Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, Mrs. Maurice Turner, Meyer W. Weisgal, William Weiss (alternate for Dr. Samuel Nirenstein in afternoon), Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, David Wertheim, Mrs. Stephen S. Wise, Baruch Zuckerman.

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Dr. A. S. Kohanski, Ann Jarcho.

Guests: Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Oscar Leonard, Mrs. Albert J. May, Bernard Postal, Mrs. A. H. Vixman.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: On behalf of the Administrative Committee, Louis Lipsky, Chairman, submitted the following report:

1. Second Session

"Following the decision of the Interim Committee on August 1st to hold the second session on December 3-5, the Administrative Committee learned that arrangements at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago were found to be inapplicable for the new date. Efforts were made by Mr. Bressler of Chicago, acting for the Administrative Committee, to secure another hotel to serve as convention headquarters, but no other hotel was found available for the new date.

"The Administrative Committee therefore decided to hold the second session of the Conference in Pittsburgh, which had been indicated as second choice when the original decision was made. Arrangements have been made with the William Penn Hotel. The sessions will begin on Sunday afternoon, December 3rd and continue through Tuesday, December 5th.

"Utilizing the same procedure when the first date was announced, the Administrative Committee has sent official notices to the delegates asking them to register their intention to attend. Thus far, about seventy delegates have replied in the affirmative."

MOTION:

Mr. Bisgyer moved that the action of the Administrative Committee fixing the date of the second session on December 3-5 at Pittsburgh be approved. CARRIED unanimously.



## 2. Agenda for Second Session

"The Interim Committee at its last meeting directed the Administrative Committee to submit proposals for the agenda of the second session. A draft has been prepared and copies have been distributed."

MOTION: Following discussion, Mr. Lipsky moved and Mr. Segal seconded:

"That the provisional agenda reported by the Administrative Committee (see attached) be accepted in principle and form and that all matters here discussed are referred back to the Administrative Committee for a further, more definite report."

The motion was amended to provide that the item "general debate on reports" be changed to read "general debate on reports and Conference" and that more time be provided for the debate. CARRIED.

## 3. Commissions

"The Administrative Committee has had an opportunity at its meetings to review the activities of the three Commissions. They made their reports from time to time on important matters under consideration by them. The Rescue Commission has continued the united action which was begun with the Madison Square Park mass meeting and the Administrative Committee has approved its plans. The Post-War Commission has submitted a statement on an International Bill of Rights, approved at the last meeting of the Interim Committee, to the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, and a second statement on the punishment of war criminals was submitted to our Government following approval by the Administrative Committee.

"Reports of the activities of these Commissions and of the Palestine Commission will be made at today's meeting.

## 4. Relationship Between American Jewish Conference and World Jewish Congress

"The relationship between the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress was under consideration at meetings of the Administrative Committee. A sub-committee of the Conference met with a sub-committee of the Congress and the Congress then submitted tentative proposals for collaboration. These proposals were discussed at a full meeting of the Administrative Committee and referred to a special committee, which was authorized to report to the Interim Committee today.

## 5. Legislative Action

X "At its last meeting, the Administrative Committee voted to register opposition to the resolution now pending in Congress providing for emergency rescue shelters in Palestine, on the ground that this resolution, which is sponsored by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, is inconsistent with the Rescue Resolution of the American Jewish Conference, which urges that Jews reaching Palestine shall be entitled to make their permanent home in that country. Similar action was taken by the Palestine Commission at its meeting yesterday."



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS AND CREDENTIALS: Mr. Kramer reported in behalf of the Committee on Admissions and Credentials:

1. Application for admission of the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation.

Mr. Kramer reported that this group had made a similar application prior to the first session and that the then Executive Committee had unanimously ruled that this was not a national organization "within the definitions which we had laid down for such an organization." He stated that there was nothing in any subsequent communication which would "lead me to recommend otherwise than has been recommended, that this organization be not deemed a national organization."

2. Application for admission of the American Federation of Lithuanian Jews.

Mr. Kramer stated that this was "more or less a local organization and while it may be doing a very fine work," he had found nothing in the record to provide for its admission to the Conference, and he recommended that, adhering to the general policy and definition of national organizations, the Interim Committee refuse admission.

3. Application for admission of the Rumanian American Jewish Active Committee, Inc.

Mr. Kramer reported that this organization is local in scope and apparently is doing the same work which is done by the United Roumanian Jews of America, which is a member of the Conference, and that it would be "bad faith to admit this organization." He recommended against admission.

4. Application for admission of the Federation of Palestinian Jews of America.

Mr. Kramer stated that he had found nothing which would entitle this organization to the classification of a national organization.

MOTION: Mr. Kramer moved acceptance of his report. CARRIED.

MOTION: Mr. Gellman moved that the Federation of Palestinian Jews of America be admitted to the Conference.

Chairman Monsky ruled that the motion was out of order, in view of the adoption of the report of the Committee on Admissions and Credentials.

MOTION: Mr. Zuckerman moved and Mr. Segal seconded that the Administrative Committee be asked to reconsider the question of whether an organization, if found to be a good and valid one, organized after Pearl Harbor, may be admitted to the Conference.

The Chair interpreted the motion to mean that the question was merely being referred to the Administrative Committee without expressing the sense of the Interim Committee on the matter. CARRIED.

MINUTES OF INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING 8/1/44: Mr. Kramer objected to the minutes of the previous meeting on the ground that they contained a number of excerpts from statements made at that meeting. He expressed the view that "either none of the excerpts be contained in the minutes or the entire speeches or arguments which were made by each of the advocates for or against, should be included."

Chairman Monsky: "Minutes ought to reflect only action taken. If there is no objection, the minutes will be referred back to the Administrative Committee for revision, with instructions that hereafter, the minutes presented to us ought to be a recording or a report of the action taken by the Interim Committee, deleting all the debate."



AGREEMENT WITH WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS: Mr. Shulman reported that a sub-committee of the Administrative Committee, consisting of Mr. Bisgyer, Rabbi Miller and himself, had agreed upon proposals for collaboration between the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress. (See attached.) Supplementing this statement, Mr. Shulman stated:

"First with respect to representations to our own government, it is the mutual feeling that where we have a complete agreement with respect to the proposals to be made, as a general rule we would indicate in our representations that these proposals have the approval of the World Jewish Congress. We shall add other organizations as we make further arrangements with them. There may be instances where that is not advisable, and, therefore, it is not a fixed rule, but rather an understanding that would be followed in the normal course of business.

"Similarly, where representations are made by the World Jewish Congress to some foreign government, if there is complete agreement and there is no objection voiced by us, they ought to be free to say that the proposal submitted by them has the endorsement of the American Jewish Conference.

"The American Jewish Conference, although it is not stated - it is clearly understood - retains its own right to make proposals, representations, and to negotiate with such inter-governmental agencies as may be established to deal with the problems of the peace.

"It is necessary that the Conference designate a small committee to represent the Conference, to be given sufficient authority to deal with the day-by-day work of the Conference in its relation to the World Jewish Congress, and, therefore, this agreement contemplates the appointment by the Interim Committee, or by some other committee, of two or three people who would have such authority. That is not stated here, but it is a condition of the agreement because the World Jewish Congress feels that it must have two or three people with whom it can be in constant contact in order to work out the day-by-day work."

MOTION: Mr. Kramer moved adoption of the report.

Chairman Monsky suggested that the motion be broad enough to authorize the appointment of a joint planning committee. He expressed the view that this could best be done by the Administrative Committee.

Mr. Kramer accepted the suggestion.

Mr. Fredman: "Mr. Chairman, may I ask as to what will be the procedure in the event a representation is made to the American Government and the Secretary of State suggests that we send our representation to the British Government and some other foreign governments?"

Chairman Monsky: "We have the right to do that."

Mr. Fredman requested that this be noted in the minutes.

Mr. Shulman added that "in international conferences, we have absolute freedom of action."

Chairman Monsky stated that the Administrative Committee will be authorized to appoint a working committee to carry on the daily work in addition to the joint planning committee. The motion was CARRIED.



REPORT OF THE RESCUE COMMISSION: On behalf of the Rescue Commission, Rabbi Irving Miller, co-chairman, submitted the following report:

The Commission had entered upon a new phase of its existence since the last meeting of the Interim Committee. In July, it had called "the most successful all-city conference held in New York in a long time" to consider the sponsorship of a mass demonstration in connection with the Hungarian situation. All Jewish organizations, both within and without the Conference, had attended. The demonstration had been held in Madison Square Park, attended by at least 50,000 people, twice the capacity of Madison Square Garden.

Following the demonstration, Jewish organizations had been invited to send representatives to another meeting, at which it was unanimously voted to authorize Rabbi Miller to appoint an actions committee of four to five people "symbolic of the unity of American Israel, touching upon the problem of rescue", to meet and act daily on rescue work.

The Joint Distribution Committee had sent observers to both meetings.

The rescue actions committee had carried on its work, had kept in close touch with the situation and had sent two representative delegations to Mr. John Pehle, executive director of the War Refugee Board, who had expressed pleasure that unity had been achieved.

There had been cooperation in the drafting of the memorandum to the War Refugee Board, and later when Mr. Pehle had suggested that there were certain matters that he could not disclose to even four or five people, but that he wished that the group would agree upon one person to whom he could then speak a little more freely, there had been no difficulty in arriving at such a basis. Such confidential conversations had been held with Mr. Pehle and with Mr. Morgenthau. Continuing, Rabbi Miller said:

"The nature of these conversations makes it difficult to speak fully, but in general I would say that this actions committee and the Rescue Commission of the Conference concerned themselves with the important task of impressing upon the American Government the need to carry into effect, at the earliest possible moment, even if only in token form, the agreement which the American and British Governments made with Horthy of Hungary. Horthy had offered to evacuate certain categories from Hungary. The American and British Governments, in a joint statement, had agreed to accept the offer and to hold themselves responsible for the protection and maintenance of every person evacuated from Hungary, including the responsibility of finding a home for them.

"We emphasized the need for evacuating children and we suggested that, if possible, airplanes be put at the disposal of certain neutral powers which would make several flights to Hungary and bring out some children, particularly since Sweden offered to take in 10,000 immediately and Spain had offered to take in 500.

"We were disturbed by indications which seemed to be forthcoming from the War Refugee Board that their policy was changing or at least was veering away from evacuation and toward the possibility of ameliorating the position of the Jews where they were. We felt that such a policy, if actually followed up would be disastrous, would lead to further deportations, would



make it perhaps seem that the American and British Governments were not sincere when they said that they were accepting Horthy's offer, and that even for the protection of the Jews who would have to remain, since an evacuation of half a million is of course judged to be almost impossible, it was necessary to arrange such a token evacuation, and so our principal memorandum divided itself along these three lines: (1) of arranging for some evacuation of children - we put that in the first category, because that would appeal to the imagination of the people more readily than anything else; (2) of arranging for a partial evacuation of adults, especially those who had passports to Palestine, and we asked that those passports be used quickly and expeditiously for the sake of such a partial evacuation; and (3) we asked that all provisions be made for the International Red Cross to care for those who would have to remain in Hungary.

"The International Red Cross has been allowed to send a delegation to Hungary but it has told us that it was hampered in its activities because of a lack of funds.

"We called the attention of the War Refugee Board to the fact that some time ago, at the request of Dr. Goldmann on behalf of the World Jewish Congress, the American Government had promised and undertaken to give the International Red Cross the sum of four million dollars and had undertaken to see that the British Government would match that sum. Mr. Breckinridge Long took advantage of this to plead before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, during the hearings on the Gillette Resolutions, that the American Government was doing all it could for the refugees, and cited this offer as proof of that fact. But, of course, nothing has been done. We reminded the War Refugee Board of that fact and urged that such funds be placed at the disposal of the Red Cross.

"I am sorry to say that nothing along these lines has been done, Mr. Chairman. Such evacuation has not taken place. The latest excuses from the War Refugee Board and the Government are to the effect that the key is not in their hands; that they are willing, that Horthy may be willing, but that the Gestapo holds the key to the gates of Hungary and that they will not be opened under any conditions, that the Gestapo is making it impossible for a Jew to leave Hungary...

"With the outbreak of the war between Rumania and Hungary, the situation has worsened again for the Jews of Hungary because during the past few months, the War Refugee Board estimated that close to 17,000 Jews may have succeeded in escaping into Rumania by their own efforts; that avenue of escape is also closed, of course.

"You know the difficulties that the British are putting in the way with respect to Palestine certificates and the only encouraging thing that I can report is that the International Red Cross was given the green light to go ahead and not let money stand in the way of doing everything that it possibly can in Hungary.

"I want to report that Mr. Morgenthau was very helpful, very generous in his estimate of the whole situation, exceedingly anxious to be of service, and thanked us for coming to him."



Mr. Shulman, co-chairman of the Rescue Commission, supplementing Rabbi Miller's report, stated:

"One of the most pressing things is to have the Conference get busy with our Government and the British Government, to see that the ruling with regard to Palestine visas is changed and modified. At the present time, those certificates are given only to Jews who escape directly from Nazi-occupied countries. Obviously the Rumanian situation, the Bulgarian situation, is such that it is impossible for them to come out.

"There are, however, a number of Jews in Italy and in other parts of the world. These Jews have been described by Mr. Shertok, the head of the Political Bureau of the Jewish Agency, as safe, but physically and morally broken, and it is imperative that they be given the right to go to Palestine, not only because of what it would do for them, but also by removing them from Southern Italy, it would open up greater facilities for Jews to escape through Yugoslavia and other countries.

"Obviously the present policy of the British Government to restrict the issuance of certificates to Jews who come out of Nazi-occupied territory enables them to continue this policy of delay and thus to avoid coming to grips with the decision of the White Paper going into effect when the remaining certificates are used up.

"As far as the remaining picture is concerned, it seemed to me we must all realize that at this moment the Russian Armies are probably doing more toward rescuing the Jews of Hungary than any effort we can make; we ought to face that realistically, and of course, it is encouraging to read the report today that negotiations for an armistice have been started by representatives of the Hungarian Government.

"We have reason to believe, that the Nazis may be so occupied that they may not be able to carry out the renewed program of deportation."

REPORT OF POST-WAR COMMISSION: On behalf of the Post-War Commission, Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, co-chairman, reported as follows:

1. International Bill of Rights

The Commission's statement on an International Bill of Rights had been presented to Under-Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., who promised to forward it to the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, by the Sub-Committee on Political Status of the Post-War Commission, consisting of Hayim Greenberg, Dr. Joshua Trachtenberg, Jane Evans and Dr. Alexander S. Kohanski. It had received very favorable and extensive editorial comment and had been printed and distributed to members of Congress and to all Embassies, and to twenty-five organizations engaged specifically in peace work and post-war planning. The National Peace Conference had included the statement in its speakers' kit going to some forty organizations. Rabbi Eisendrath continued:

"The one criticism of the statement of the American Jewish Conference that I have noted was that there were two statements presented covering similar ground, one by ourselves and the other by the American Jewish Committee, and the question was asked, if the American Jewish Committee could be drawn into consultation on the rescue program, why was no attempt made on the part of the Post-War Commission of the Conference to do likewise?



"It was also alleged that the American Jewish Conference timed its resolution merely because the resolution had been presented by the American Jewish Committee. That latter has been officially denied and repudiated.

"As far as the question of the two statements is concerned, there was fundamental difference between the two statements, the Conference statement including reference to group rights as well as individual rights, which was not contained in the American Jewish Committee report. That does not mean in my mind that there might not have been an area in which common agreement might have been reached and I think that possibly since the Rescue Commission has been working out a basis of cooperation with other organizations, not members of the Conference, that that area should be explored by our Post-War Commission likewise."

## 2. Punishment of War Criminals

A statement on punishment of war criminals had been forwarded to Secretary of State Cordell Hull and had received "widespread" and "on the whole, favorable comment."

The Commission had decided to embark on an active publicity and propaganda campaign to bring the statement on the punishment of war criminals to all groups working in the field, specifically the peace groups and the post-war planning groups, this to be carried on by the Conference or in concert with others who share the Conference viewpoint.

## 3. Restoration of Rights to Jews

Rabbi Eisendrath submitted a statement on restoration of rights to Jews in Europe. In the Post-War Commission there had been considerable disagreement among the experts on the debatable question of what might be called specific Jewish rights or group rights. The sub-committee still had not reached agreement on the question of group rights so far as the ultimate resolution of the particular issue was concerned, but they believed that certain intermediate and immediate considerations should be voiced and they had therefore drawn up the statement on restoration of rights to Jews in Europe, which had received unanimous indorsement both of the Sub-Committee on Political Status and of the Commission.

MOTION: Rabbi Eisendrath moved and Mr. Lipsky seconded that the statement be approved by the Interim Committee and that it be forwarded to the proper authorities. During the ensuing discussion, a number of revisions in phraseology were suggested and the motion was then CARRIED. The statement attached herewith is the final draft submitted to Secretary of State Hull on September 14th.

## 4. UNRRA

Rabbi Eisendrath reported that the Commission intended to send a delegation to the forthcoming session at Montreal and it was intended shortly to meet with representatives of the World Jewish Congress to arrange for cooperation.

## 5. Restoration of Jewish Rights in Roumania

Rabbi Eisendrath reported that the United Roumanian Jews of America had asked the Conference to join in a statement to the Roumanian Government, through the State Department, regarding the restoration of Jewish rights in Roumania. They had



brought to the attention of the Conference that mere restoration of the Constitution of 1923 would not suffice, and there must be more specific reference to the abrogation of acts subsequent to 1923. Continuing:

"I take it that the Interim Committee would not approve of a joint statement of the Conference or the Post-War Commission with a member agency of our organization. I think the United Roumanian Jews would be satisfied if we issued the statement ourselves, and this is being turned over to our subcommittee on Political Status to examine the matter further. I take it that I am correct in the interpretation that a joint statement would be out of order."

Chairman Monsky: "Unless the Chair hears comment to the contrary, that will be the order."

REPORT OF PALESTINE COMMISSION: I. L. Kenen submitted the following report in behalf of the Palestine Commission:

"The Palestine Commission met yesterday and received a report on the activities carried on by the American Zionist Emergency Council during the summer to secure the adoption of Palestine planks by the two political parties.

"Following discussion, the Commission agreed that in the future work of the American Zionist Emergency Council, greater emphasis and scope should be given to the American Jewish Conference, within the area of the resolutions adopted by the Conference.

"The Commission considered legislation introduced by Senator Thomas of Utah and sponsored by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, calling for the establishment of emergency refugee shelters in Palestine similar to the Oswego free port. Because such shelters are inconsistent with the conception of Palestine as a Jewish National Home and contrary to the rescue resolution adopted by the American Jewish Conference, which provides that Jewish refugees entering Palestine shall have a right to make their home in that country, the Commission voted opposition to these resolutions. It recommends to the Interim Committee that the Congressional sponsors be so notified in the name of the Conference and that they be urged to support instead the Wagner-Taft and Wright-Compton resolutions.

"In connection with these resolutions, the Commission was informed that the Emergency Council was seeking the approval of the Administration in advance of any action in Congress. This procedure was approved by the Commission and it was also agreed that should the Administration in Washington decline to give clearance for the resolution, the question should be considered anew by the Commission of the Conference before any further action is taken by the Council."

MOTION: A motion was formulated by Chairman Monsky to approve the recommendations of the Palestine Commission, with the understanding that any public opposition to the emergency refugee shelter legislation will be accompanied by a statement that will avoid any misapprehension that the Conference is opposed to opening the doors of Palestine to the few who might possibly be brought in under the resolution.  
CARRIED.



WITHDRAWAL OF RESIGNATION OF HAYIM GREENBERG: Chairman Monsky stated that the resignation of Mr. Greenberg as co-chairman of the Post-War Commission, presented at the last meeting, had been withdrawn and was no longer before the Interim Committee for consideration.

NEXT MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE: Miss Evans moved that the next meeting be on October 24th. CARRIED.

Meeting then adjourned.

I. L. K.





# MISSING PAGE (S)





created in the hour of trial of the Jewish people the world over.

The public interest in the Conference, stimulated by the national office, should be augmented by a stimulus coming from the delegates throughout the country. The eight weeks remaining until the second session convenes in Pittsburgh should be utilized by the delegates for an energetic and concerted campaign of enlightenment and clarification of the accomplishments of the Conference and the tasks ahead.

The material available in the Conference Record, the Bulletin and the various documents issued during the past year supply adequate material for a proper evaluation of the American Jewish Conference.

\* \* \*

Delegates throughout the country should call, without delay, meetings of electors, communal leaders, representatives of the press and other men and women of all segments of Jewish life, for a discussion of the positive achievements and future prospects of the American Jewish Conference. This is not only consistent with the delegates' duty to their constituencies, but is also essential for the clearing of the atmosphere prior to the second session in Pittsburgh. Such discussion will distinguish the Conference from ordinary conventions and will bring to the fore the democratic character of the American Jewish Conference, which is backed by 22,500 electors and 63 national organizations, representing over 2,225,000 American Jews.

Fiction, whether friendly or unfriendly, should be dissipated from the minds of the public. Facts, both positive and negative, should be presented to the public with candor, and widely publicized.

The future of the Conference is in the hands of the delegates. They must concentrate during the next eight weeks on the dissemination of correct information and on a proper clarification of the issues confronting the Conference.

#### THE COMPOSITION OF THE INTERIM AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

In view of the changes that have taken place in the composition of the Interim Committee and the Administrative Committee, we give below a complete list of the membership as constituted to date:

**INTERIM COMMITTEE: Co-Chairmen:** Dr. Israel Goldstein, Henry Monsky, Dr. Stephen S. Wise; **Members:** Maurice Bisgyer, Naomi Chertoff, Sigmund W. David, J. David Delman, Rabbi William Drazin, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Prof. Hyman J. Ettlinger, Rabbi Simon Federbusch, Prof. Hayim Fineman, J. George Fredman, Daniel Frisch, Leon Gellman, Frank Goldman, Dr. Solomon Goldman, Mrs. Samuel Goldstein, Rabbi Robert Gordis, Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Rabbi James G. Heller, Herman Hoffman, Edgar J. Kaufmann, Charles P. Kramer, Sidney G. Kusworm, Hon. Louis E. Levinthal, Louis Lipsky, Julius Livingston, Dr. Samuel Margoshes, Rabbi Irving Miller, Dr. Samuel Nirenstein, Harry A. Pine, Mrs. David deSola Pool, Adolph Rosenberg, Dvorah Rothbard, Hon. Morris Rothenberg, Samuel Rothstein, Isidor Sack, Benjamin Samuels, Louis Segal, Hon. Carl Sherman, Herman Shulman, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Hon. Meier Steinbrink, Hermann Stern, Robert Szold, Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, Mrs. Maurice Turner, Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, David Wertheim, Mrs. Stephen S. Wise, Baruch Zuckerman.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: Chairman:** Louis Lipsky; **Members:** Maurice Bisgyer, Samuel Caplan, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, J. George Fredman, Leon Gellman, William Gerber, Hayim Greenberg, Charles P. Kramer, Sidney G. Kusworm, Rabbi Irving Miller, Samuel Rothstein, Max J. Schneider, Herman Shulman, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Meyer W. Weisgal, David Wertheim.

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DELEGATES APPOINTED BY ORGANIZATIONS TO ATTEND SECOND SESSION

<u>Delegates</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>(First List)</u>
Sam Berke*	American Federation for Polish Jews	
Rudolf Callman	Amer. Fed. of Jews from Central Europe	
Rabbi J. X. Cohen*	American Jewish Congress	
Jacob Leichtman	" " "	
Louis Sturz	" " "	
Robert Silverman(*for above)	" " "	
Miss Milly Brandt	American Jewish Congress, Women's Div.	
Mrs. A. H. Vixman*	" " " "	
Mrs. A. C. Schneiderman	" " " "	
Sidney G. Kusworm	B'nai B'rith	
Henry Monsky	" "	
Maurice Bisgyer*	" "	
Mrs. I. C. Farber	" " Women's Supreme Council	
Mrs. M. Turner	" " " " "	
Mrs. A. Woldman	" " " " "	
Rabbi S. B. Freehof	Central Conference of American Rabbis	
Rabbi James G. Heller	" " " "	
Irving Fellerman	Free Sons of Israel	
N. Greenbaum	" " "	
Max Ogust	" " "	
Moshe Furmansky	Hashomer Hatzair	
Alexander Goodman	Ind. Order Brith Sholom of Baltimore	
Hon. Mark Eisner	Jewish Educational Organizations	
Morris Rivlin	Jewish Writers & Journalists	
Mrs. Albert J. May*	National Council of Jewish Women	
Mrs. J. M. Welt	" " " "	
Mrs. Karl J. Kaufmann	" " " "	
Mrs. Simon E. Sobeloff (*for above)	" " " "	
Miss Jane Evans	National Fed. of Temple Sisterhoods	
Mrs. Hugo Hartmann	" " " "	
Mrs. L. Rosett	" " " "	
H. J. Fliegel	B'nai Zion	
N. Ben Dov Waldman*	" "	
Judge B. A. Rosenblatt	" "	
Carl M. Dubinsky	Progressive Order of the West	
Sol Goldman	" " "	
Rabbi J. H. Lookstein	Rabbinical Council of America	
Rabbi William Drazin	" " "	
Charles Sonnenreich	United Roumanian Jews of America	
Leo Wolfson	" " " "	
H. P. Kopplemann	United Synagogue of America	
Michael Stavitsky*	" " " "	
S. Rothstein	" " " "	
Mrs. Samuel Spiegel	Nat'l Women's League of Un. Synagogue of A.	
Miss Sarah Kussy*	" " " "	
Mrs. I. L. Giffen*	" " " "	
Miss Gertrude Summer	Junior Mizrahi Women's Organization	

\*Alternates

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D I G E S T   O F   P R E S S   C O M M E N T S .SURVIVAL OF AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE - CONFERENCE'S TASK.

"If the situation of Jewry required the original convening of the Conference, it surely requires it now. Yet we venture to question whether the leaders of the Conference are altogether correct in assuming that a second session, similar in its scope and function to the first, is calculated to advance to any considerable degree the causes to which it is dedicated.

When the Conference adjourned in September, 1943, it had passed a number of resolutions dealing with Palestine, post-war Jewish rights, and rescue. Those resolutions were widely publicized; but the question then arose: Did the Conference thereby completely fulfill its function, or was the Conference expected, through its Interim Committee, to press for the implementation of those resolutions? Was the Conference, in other words, to be regarded as merely an opinion group, or was it to be also an action group?...

If the Conference was an opinion group, what further need was there for the various committees and for another meeting? The consensus of American Jewry was registered. It was on the record... If, on the other hand, the Conference was an action group, then why should its efficacy have been weakened by the continued functioning of those national organizations whose work serves merely to duplicate the work of the Conference? To put it plainly: either the Conference should have met once and once only to obtain for certain national organizations a vote of confidence from the American Jewish community, or the Conference should have been granted authority to act in the place of the hitherto overlapping and competing organizations. But for every national organization to go along as though there were no Conference, and for the Conference to proceed as though there were no national organizations is to add to the confusion...

The American Jewish Conference has a vital function to perform in this, its forthcoming second meeting. It is a function in which, at present, its spokesmen have indicated no interest, but one in which we are certain many of the communities throughout the land would be deeply interested. That function would be to call into being an American Jewish Assembly dedicated to the creative survival of Jewish life in America. The term "Assembly" is used advisedly, for that bears the connotation of permanence... Such an Assembly would serve as a sort of constitutional convention for American Jewry, to establish a more perfect union, an intelligent, carefully planned and efficient framework for the Jewish community of the United States. Perhaps not all the delegates would favor this move. This should not deter those who are concerned with the problem from forging ahead... We call upon the delegates to the forthcoming sessions in Pittsburgh to give voice to those purposes and to work for their realization."

The Reconstructionist, 10.6.44.

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THE HOPES AND WISHES OF THE 'AVERAGE JEW'.

"While a small minority has written off the Conference as a failure, the average Jew is hopeful that the Conference will overcome the obstacles that have been placed in its way, and that it will emerge as the representative and authorized agency of American Jewry, both in the protection of their interests in regard to Palestine, and in the reconstruction of Jewish life in European lands.

Should the Conference at this time fail to rally the necessary enthusiasm and support, it is only a matter of time when a second effort will have to be made to create a similar agency for a similar purpose. It is clear that the average Jew will not tolerate for much longer the rugged individualism and the resultant chaos and confusion that prevails among our national organizations. He will not put up indefinitely with the kind of leadership that is so jealous of its trade mark and its exaggerated claims that it will not give up an iota of its pretensions and organizational pride for the greater good of the Jewish community...



10.6.1944.

The American Jewish Conference aimed to put an end to this tragi-comedy. The average Jew senses what was at stake and gave the Conference his loyalty and enthusiasm. Not in decades did a more representative gathering of Jews meet in so earnest a mood as did the assembly of 501 delegates at the first session of the Conference. The measure of its failure is the measure of individualism run riot on the part of our national organizations."

Rabbi Saul E. White, Emanu-El, San Francisco, 9.22.44.  
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#### THE CONFERENCE SHOULD LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM.

"While the Conference has waged splendid campaigns to save the Jews of Europe and to restore rights and liberties to Jews in liberated countries, it has not yet assumed leadership on another important front, namely, in the fight against anti-Semitism in the United States. The Conference, by virtue of its outstanding position in American Jewish life, should step forward to give leadership to the growing movement to combat the menace of pogroms in America. The resolution adopted at the first session of the Conference in August, 1943, calling for the outlawing of anti-Semitism "by international conferences and national legislation" gave the Conference the mandate to assume leadership in the fight to rid our country of this fascist menace. The Conference will be fulfilling its duty and will realize the hopes of the Jewish people that one organization would assume the leadership and give guidance to this immensely important struggle."

Action Digest of the J. P. C., September, 1944.  
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#### A SUGGESTION FROM THE EXTREME ORTHODOXY.

"The International 'Bill of Rights' for the protection of lives, religious freedom and civic rights for the inhabitants of all the countries, without distinction of origin, nationality, language, race or religion, as formulated by the American Jewish Conference, is a sound one. It demands "the inalienable right of all religious, ethnic and cultural groups to maintain and foster their respective group identities on the basis of equality."

Nevertheless, that formulation avoids going into details, and does not say in what form the religious, ethnic and cultural groups should obtain their rights through legislation. In my opinion, this should be elaborated upon, since one assumes in principle the possibility of a unified representation in the demands for Jewish rights in Europe... This should be considered, though at the present moment there is no uniform opinion on that. But an understanding is in the realm of possibility."

J. Rosenheim, Jewish Voice of Agudath Israel,  
October, 1944.  
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#### N.C.R.A.C. TO TRY FOR 'ORDER'.

"There is a possibility that hit and miss tactics by national Jewish organizations could have more effect than if one overall committee waited on the UNRRA officials, but it is very likely that what one Jewish delegation asks will be opposed to what another delegation comes to seek, so that once again a group disposed to do what it can to alleviate the plight of suffering Jews does not know which way to turn.

If the American Jewish Conference doesn't prove able to bring some coordination into the American Jewish groups when they appear before ruling bodies, and the B'nai B'rith, having been burned once, as it may consider, won't tempt fate again, then perhaps the National Community Relations Advisory Council might step into this field and try to bring some kind of order into it."

The Jewish Post, Indianapolis, 9.29.44.  
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THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



WRHS



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 - 5th Ave., New York



Gentlemen:

shall  
I shall not attend the meeting of the Interim  
Committee scheduled for Tuesday, October 24th, 1944,  
at 10:00 A.M. at the Biltmore Hotel, New York City.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_



## AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

October 6, 1944

TO: I. L. KENEN

DATE:

FROM: Interim Committee Meeting

SUBJECT:

Please take note that the next meeting of the Interim Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 24th, 1944, at 10:00 A.M., at the Biltmore Hotel, New York City.

Will you please fill in and return the attached card?

Enclosed are copies of the minutes of the Interim Committee meetings of August 1st and September 12th.



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE  
MINUTES OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1944

PRESENT: Louis Lipsky, Chairman; Samuel Caplan, Mrs. Moses Epstein, Miss Jane Evans, J. George Fredman, Leon Gellman, William Gerber, Hayim Greenberg, Charles Kramer, Rabbi Irving Miller, Samuel Rothstein, Herman Shulman, David Wertheim; and Meir Grossman, Ann Jarcho, I. L. Kenen and Dr. Alexander S. Kohanski of the staff.

MINUTES OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 9/21/44: Approved.

PRINTED REPORTS: Mr. Kenen reported that it was planned to publish a book of about 96 pages to contain the reports of the three Commissions (now in preparation) and of the Interim Committee, the latter to be an introduction to the reports of the three Commissions.

MOTION: The Administrative Committee recommends to the Interim Committee that it be authorized to prepare the Interim Committee report, to be written from a repertorial point of view. CARRIED. It was agreed that a summary of the Interim Committee report be prepared in Yiddish.

DELEGATES' REPLIES TO CALL FOR SECOND SESSION: The Chair reported that to date 273 replies from communities have been received; 253 answered in the affirmative, 16 in the negative, and 4 undecided. Of the appointed delegates, 47 replied.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE: Discussion on admission to the Conference of new organizations was followed by the MOTION: That all matters now before the Credentials Committee dealing with admission of organizations be referred back to the Credentials Committee for a definitive report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Administrative Committee. CARRIED.

Mr. Gellman MOVED: That negotiations with Agudas Harabbonim and the Revisionists be re-opened. Mr. Shulman amended the motion to add Agudas Israel as well. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Caplan moved that a formal offer of re-admission be extended to the American Jewish Committee. TABLED. 5 to 3.

Rabbi Miller MOVED that the Chair appoint a committee of three to study the situation regarding the American Jewish Committee's independent action in the field of post-war problems, and to recommend modus operandi. CARRIED.

SPEAKER FOR SECOND SESSION: It was MOVED and CARRIED that following a clarification of the Board of Jewish Deputies' attitude to American Jewish organizations, an invitation be extended to Prof. Selig Brodetsky to speak at the second session.



AGENDA FOR SECOND SESSION: The Chair pointed out that many questions are being raised, especially by the Jewish Press, pertaining to the second session and its agenda within the scope laid down by the Interim Committee and that we should be prepared with decisions. Rabbi Miller MOVED that: "The Chair be authorized to call an informal pre-Conference meeting of Co-Chairmen, Chairmen of Commissions, and in addition thereto, the representatives of Groups, for the purpose of orientating ourselves on the matters which will come before the Conference." CARRIED.

APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING AND WORKING COMMITTEES: The Chair designated I. L. Kenen and Meir Grossman to represent the Conference on the Conference-Congress "working" committee. It was agreed that the Conference and the World Jewish Congress each appoint five members to the Planning Committee. The Chair appointed the following to represent the Conference: Miss Evans, Mr. Hayim Greenberg, Dr. Kohanski, Mr. Shulman and Dr. Trachtenberg.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES: Mr. Kenen reported that memoranda had been sent to Viscount Halifax and Secretary of State Cordell Hull and that a letter had gone to the American Federation of Polish Jews deprecating that organization's independent action during the recent session of UNRRA. A copy had been sent to the Jewish Labor Committee after it was learned that this organization had submitted an independent memorandum to the State Department.

Mr. Kenen also reported that an off-the-record report on rescue matters would be given by Dr. Joseph Schwartz of the J.D.C. at the Rescue Commission meeting tomorrow.

REPORT OF UNRRA MEETING: Miss Evans reported that the major work in Montreal was done by the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference, and that the final statement adopted was word for word that of the World Jewish Congress in which the American Jewish Conference had joined and agreed. Miss Evans pointed out that the important question now is our future attitude towards the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees.

At the suggestion of the Chair, the meeting adopted a formal resolution of gratitude and appreciation to Miss Evans and Dr. A. S. Kohanski, the Conference representatives at UNRRA, for their accomplishments at the UNRRA Session in Montreal.

MEMORANDUM RE FRENCH JEWS: A Memorandum from Maurice Bisgyer, proposing that the newly formed French Jewish Committee be invited to the second session, was introduced by Mr. Gerber. Action was deferred until the next Administrative Committee meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 19th, 1944, 6 P.M. at the Conference offices.

Meeting adjourned.



# AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Administrative Committee      DATE: Oct. 12, 1944

FROM: I. L. Kenen

SUBJECT:

Enclosed are the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting of October 5th, 1944.

Please take note that the next meeting of the Administrative Committee will be held on Thursday, October 19th at 6:00 P.M. at the Conference office.

*I. L. Kenen*



# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

## COMMISSION ON PALESTINE

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

*Chairman*

JACOB ALSON  
GEDALIAH BUBLICK  
RABBI A. SIMON FEDERBUSCH  
RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF  
RABBI WOLF GOLD  
DR. ROBERT GORDIS  
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN  
ISAAC HAMLIN  
RABBI JAMES G. HELLER  
HON. H. P. KOPPLEMAN  
MAX A. KOPSTEIN  
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
HON. SAMUEL MELLITZ  
DR. MAX NUSSBAUM  
HON. BERNARD A. ROSENBLATT  
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
ISIDOR SACK  
MAX J. SCHNEIDER  
MRS. ALBERT P. SCHOOLMAN  
HON. CARL SHERMAN  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
DR. BENJAMIN SHWADRAN  
WILLIAM I. SIEGAL  
MRS. SIMON SOBELOFF  
ROBERT SZOLD  
DAVID M. WATCHMAKER  
DAVID WERTHEIM

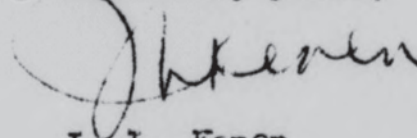
October 18, 1944

### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON PALESTINE:

I am enclosing a draft of the report of the Commission on Palestine, which will be submitted to the Commission for its approval at its meeting at the Biltmore Hotel on October 24th, Tuesday at 8:45 A.M.

This report is confined to an account of the developments of the past year and does not contain recommendations for future action. These are to be embraced in a separate report which will be submitted at the Conference.

Sincerely yours,



I. J. Kenen  
Secretary

ILK:fsk  
Enc.



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1944

PRESENT: Herman Shulman, presiding in the absence of Louis Lipsky, who was ill, Samuel Caplan, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, J. George Fredman, Hayim Greenberg, Charles P. Kramer, Rabbi Irving Miller, Samuel P. Rothstein, David Wertheim.  
Staff: Meir Grossman, Ann Jarcho, Dr. A. S. Kohanski and I.L. Kenen.

MINUTES OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 10/5/44: Approved.

COMMUNICATION FROM NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM requesting Conference support of Congressional action outlawing anti-semitism. It was the consensus that this is outside the scope of the Conference and that the organization be so notified.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DELEGATES REGISTERING CHANGE OF GROUP AFFILIATION following official notice that such changes must be recorded before November 10th.

David Geffen of Utica, New York  
From Congress bloc to General Zionist

David S. Landes, of Philadelphia, Pa.  
From Congress bloc to Mizrachi

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND ELECTIONS: Mr. Kramer, Chairman, reported that negotiations had been opened with the Agudas Israel of America and the Union of Orthodox Rabbis looking to their affiliation with the Conference. Mr. Grossman, who carried on these negotiations, stated that Rabbi Eliezer Silver of the Agudas Israel of America said that this question would be discussed at a meeting of the organization this week. The Union of Orthodox Rabbis informed Mr. Grossman, through Rabbi Rosenberg, that it was holding a convention on November 19th, and it was suggested that an official letter be sent to the convention inviting the participation of the organization.

Following discussion, it was moved that the Administrative Committee recommend to the Interim Committee that three seats be offered to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and two seats to the Agudas Israel, with the understanding that should the latter find this unacceptable, the matter is to be reviewed again. Motion CARRIED with Messrs. Fredman and Kramer voting in the negative on additional seats for Agudas Israel and asking so to be recorded.

Mr. Grossman was authorized to continue the negotiations in the light of this motion. He was also empowered to resume negotiations with the New Zionist Organization, with the understanding that we are prepared to allow two seats to this organization if necessary.



Mr. Kramer moved that the Administrative Committee recommend to the Interim Committee favorable action on the application of the National Association of Jewish Center Workers for affiliation with the Conference, the organization to be granted one seat. Motion CARRIED.

Mr. Kramer reported that 309 of the 379 elected delegates had reported to date, with only 19 stating that they were unable to attend the second session.

Mr. Kramer stated that after October 24th an effort would be made to contact by telephone and telegraph all delegates from whom no word had yet been received.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE: It was agreed that a committee appointed by the Chairman should meet with a committee of the Jewish Labor Committee and discuss its future relationship with the American Jewish Conference.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE: Rabbi Miller reported that following the last meeting of the Administrative Committee, the Chair had named a committee to consider the future relationship of the American Jewish Committee to the American Jewish Conference. The committee consisted of Mrs. Epstein, Mr. Kramer, and himself as Chairman. At a meeting of the committee, attended by Mrs. Epstein and Rabbi Miller, it had been agreed to recommend that a formal invitation be sent to the American Jewish Committee to re-enter the Conference, inasmuch as the areas of disagreement are narrowing and the areas of agreement are much greater than before. Mr. Kramer, who had been unable to attend the meeting, submitted a dissent because he felt the American Jewish Committee would not join the Conference and that the public airing of a disagreement, which would follow, would be injurious to the Conference and would not add to its prestige or stature. He suggested as an alternative the initiation of exploratory talks. Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Shulman and seconded by Mrs. Epstein that it be recommended to the Interim Committee that a formal letter of invitation to rejoin the Conference be sent to the American Jewish Committee. Mr. Rothstein asked that no publicity be given at the time of the transmission of the letter. This suggestion was accepted. Motion CARRIED 7 to 2.

INVITATION TO PROFESSOR SELIG BRODETSKY: Following receipt of a communication to the effect that Professor Selig Brodetsky of the British Board of Jewish Deputies, was coming to this country in December, it was moved and seconded that an invitation be sent inviting Professor Brodetsky to the second session to present an analysis of the situation of the Jewish people. It was agreed that if the three co-chairmen of the Interim Committee concurred, the invitation be sent immediately without waiting for a meeting of the Interim Committee. Motion CARRIED.

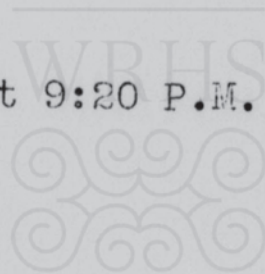


MONDAY NIGHT MEETING: In view of the fact that a number of Conference leaders are unable to attend the informal pre-Conference session scheduled for Monday evening, October 23rd, it was agreed that this meeting be postponed and fixed for Tuesday evening, if possible.

RULES OF PROCEDURE: The attention of the Administrative Committee was called to the fact that a number of proposals on procedure, previously submitted to the Interim Committee and recommitted, had not yet been acted upon by the Administrative Committee. Consideration of these was referred to the informal meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday evening.

EMERGENCY WORLD JEWISH CONFERENCE: It was agreed that the Conference members of the Joint Planning Committee act as a nucleus of the Conference delegation of observers to the forthcoming Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.





CONFIDENTIAL

PALESTINE COMMISSION

of the

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

Minutes of Meeting held Oct. 24, 1944

PRESENT: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, presiding; Dr. Abba Abrams, Jacob Alson, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Isaac Hamlin, Rabbi James G. Heller, Max J. Schneider, Mrs. Albert P. Schoolman, Herman Shulman, Dr. Benjamin Shwadron, David Wertheim, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, and I. L. Kenen, Secretary.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 9/11/44: Approved.

PALESTINE COMMISSION REPORT:

The Commission reviewed the draft of the Palestine Commission Report presented by the sub-committee. A number of suggestions were submitted and it was agreed that a new draft of the report be prepared immediately and distributed to the members of the Commission, who were requested to send in all suggestions or changes to the Chairman by October 30th, 1944.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SECOND SESSION:

The sub-committee was directed to bring to the next meeting of the Commission its recommendations to be presented to the second session.

RESOLUTIONS:

It was agreed that resolutions welcoming President Roosevelt's and Governor Dewey's statements on Palestine endorsing a Jewish Commonwealth be drafted and transmitted to the Interim Committee.

I.L.K.

fsk  
10/26/44



# AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Administrative Committee      DATE: Oct. 25, 1944  
FROM: I. L. Kenen  
SUBJECT:

I am enclosing the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting of October 19th.

The next meeting of the Administrative Committee will be on Thursday, November 2nd at 6:00 P.M. at the Conference office.

*I. L. Kenen*



# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

## COMMISSION ON PALESTINE

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

*Chairman*

JACOB ALSON  
GEDALIAH BUBLICK  
RABBI A. SIMON FEDERBUSCH  
RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF  
RABBI WOLF GOLD  
DR. ROBERT GORDIS  
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN  
ISAAC HAMLIN  
RABBI JAMES G. HELLER  
HON. H. P. KOPPLEMAN  
MAX A. KOPSTEIN  
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
HON. SAMUEL MELLITZ  
DR. MAX NUSSBAUM  
HON. BERNARD A. ROSENBLATT  
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WILLIAM I. SIEGAL  
MRS. SIMON SOBELOFF  
ROBERT SZOLD  
DAVID M. WATCHMAKER  
DAVID WERTHEIM

October 26, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

% The Temple

E. 105th St. at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

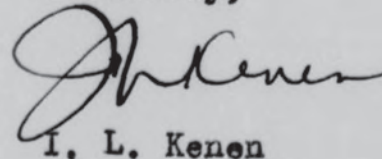
Dear Dr. Silver:

Yesterday, I rearranged and revised the Palestine Commission report in its entirety and we rushed out copies to all members of the Commission so that they would have them today and so that they would have enough time to send in their suggestions and revisions by Monday, October 30th, when you will be in New York.

While I accepted a number of Mr. Shulman's suggestions, I am opposed to revising the treatment of the President's statement and the events preceding it.

Since the report must go to the printer very shortly, if it is to be out on time, I would like to suggest that we meet on Monday for final approval of the draft. I will telephone you some time Monday morning.

Cordially,

  
I. L. Kenen

ILK:fsk



# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

## INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN  
HENRY MONSKY  
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE  
*Co-Chairmen*

MAURICE BISGYER  
NAOMI CHERTOFF  
SIGMUND W. DAVID  
J. DAVID DELMAN  
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN  
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH  
MRS MOSES P. EPSTEIN  
PROF. HYMAN J. ETTLINGER  
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH  
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN  
J. GEORGE FREDMAN  
DANIEL FRISCH  
LEON GELLMAN  
FRANK GOLDMAN  
DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN  
RABBI ROBERT GORDIS  
HAYIM GREENBERG  
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN  
MRS. HUGO HARTMANN  
RABBI JAMES G. HELLER  
HERMAN HOFFMAN  
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN  
CHARLES P. KRAMER  
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM  
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
JULIUS LIVINGSTON  
DR. SAMUEL MARGOSHES  
RABBI IRVING MILLER  
DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN  
HARRY A. PINE  
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL  
ADOLPH ROSENBERG  
DORAH ROTHBARD  
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN  
ISIDOR SACK  
BENJAMIN SAMUELS  
LOUIS SEGAL  
HON. CARL SHERMAN  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
HON. MEIER STEINBRINK  
HERMANN STERN  
ROBERT SZOLD  
DR. JOSEPH TENENBAUM  
MRS. MAURICE TURNER  
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT  
DAVID WERTHEIM  
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE  
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

## Administrative Committee

LOUIS LIPSKY  
*Chairman*  
MAURICE BISGYER  
SAMUEL CAPLAN  
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH  
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN  
JANE EVANS  
J. GEORGE FREDMAN  
LEON GELLMAN  
WILLIAM GERBER  
HAYIM GREENBERG  
CHARLES P. KRAMER  
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM  
RABBI IRVING MILLER  
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN  
MAX J. SCHNEIDER  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
MEYER W. WEISGAL  
DAVID WERTHEIM

October 31, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
% The Temple  
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I met with Dr. Wise today and he had only a very few suggestions to make in connection with the Palestine Commission Report. A couple of verbal changes that he suggested had been anticipated. He makes the following proposals:

In the next to the last line on Page 2, he objects to the word "aggressive" and I suggested that we might use "direct".

On Page 4, in the last paragraph, he asks that I name the delegation which went to Hull (which would mean a repetition since I named them in the Interim Committee Report which precedes this) and he wants the word "fight" changed in the fourth line. I suggested the word "campaign".

On Page 15, he suggests that the sentence referring to the President's March 28th statement be revised to read: "He accepted the military objection to action at this time as nothing more than a temporary bar."

On Page 28, after the reference to the Democratic convention, he dictated the following insertion, beginning with "....Dr. Goldstein, all of whom addressed the Committee on Resolutions at the committee meeting which dealt with the Palestine plank. On October 11th, Dr. Wise conferred with the President, who promised to send a statement on Palestine, including an endorsement of the Palestine plank, to the 47th Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America, to be read by Senator Robert F. Wagner, Chairman of the American Palestine Committee."

The last page would be changed accordingly, in order to eliminate repetition. I made it clear to Dr. Wise that the reason I had omitted any reference to his visit to President Roosevelt is that I thought it detracted from the

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



Page Two.

October 31st, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver:

force of the President's message to disclose to the public that the message had been solicited. However, he feels very strongly that his name should be mentioned. I told him that we had revised the last paragraph to include his name, but he felt that the matter should be handled in the way that he suggested.

Sincerely yours,



I. L. Kenen

ILK:fsk

P.S./ I am enclosing a clean copy of the Palestine Commission Report should you have none available. This does not include the corrections which have been made during the past few days.



# American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Commission on Palestine

November 2nd, 1944

C  
O  
P  
Y  
  
Dr. Stephen S. Wise  
40 West 68th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Wise:

I sent on your suggestions for revision of the Palestine Commission report to Dr. Silver. He agrees on a number of the changes that you urged and these are being made.

However, he does not believe that the paragraph recording your visit to the President should be inserted. Reference to your visit to the President will be included in the final chapter, the first paragraph of which will read as follows:

"The culmination of this impressive mobilization of American public opinion in behalf of the commonwealth resolution came on October 15th when President Roosevelt, who had received Dr. Wise at the White House on October 11th, sent a message to the Forty-Seventh Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America, in which he declared that efforts will be made to effectuate the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic commonwealth and pledged his assistance to bring about its realization.

"Conveyed by Senator Robert F. Wagner, chairman of the American Palestine Committee, to the convention, the message of the President declared: ."

Sincerely yours,

I. L. Kenen  
Secretary

ILK:s



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF MEETING  
of  
SUB-COMMITTEE OF PALESTINE COMMISSION  
Friday, November 3, 1944

PRESENT: Jacob Alson, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Isaac Hamlin, Carl Sherman,  
and I. L. Kenen, Secretary.

RECOMMENDATION TO SECOND SESSION: Mr. Kenen was authorized to draft a  
resolution, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on  
November 20th, covering the following points:

1. Recognition of public opinion and President Roosevelt's  
statement on the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.
2. Recommend acceleration - action now.
3. Suggestion that the American Jewish Conference send a  
delegation to London and Palestine.
4. Request for aid from inter-governmental bodies to help  
in the economic reconstruction of Palestine.
5. Reaction to partition.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.





AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MEMORANDUM

To: The Delegates to the American Jewish Conference  
and its Affiliated Organizations

November 6, 1944

The office of the American Jewish Conference has received many inquiries from delegates and constituent bodies who have asked for guidance on the attitude to adopt towards a "Declaration of Human Rights" recently submitted by the American Jewish Committee to persons of Jewish and non-Jewish faith for their approval and signature.

The matter was discussed by our Administrative Committee, which authorized the issuance of a memorandum explaining to our delegates and constituent organizations the implications of the above-mentioned "Declaration," as far as the needs of post-war Jewry are concerned.

Sincerely yours,

*Louis Lipsky*

Louis Lipsky, Chairman  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

\*\*\*\*\*

An Analysis of the "Declaration of Human Rights"  
of the American Jewish Committee

To understand the purpose of the "Declaration of Human Rights" issued by the American Jewish Committee, one must view it in the light of the objects of this organization. According to its Charter, "the object of this corporation [American Jewish Committee] shall be, to prevent the infraction of the civil and religious rights of Jews, in any part of the world; to render all lawful assistance and to take appropriate remedial action in the event of threatened or actual invasion or restriction of such rights, or of unfavorable discrimination with respect thereto; to secure for Jews equality of economic, social and educational opportunity; to alleviate the consequences of persecution and to afford relief from calamities affecting Jews, wherever they may occur;..."

The "Declaration of Human Rights" of the American Jewish Committee comes at a time when "the consequences of persecutions" of Jews have been the most catastrophic in their entire history. This "Declaration", therefore, inevitably has direct bearing on the object of the Committee "to alleviate" those consequences and "to afford relief from calamities affecting Jews..." Does this "Declaration" fulfill the requirements of Jewish reconstruction after the war?

To rebuild the shattered lives of the surviving Jews of Europe, specific measures must be applied in accordance with the specific needs of the Jewish population, which has gone through an ordeal as no other people has. The case of the Jews of Europe is a unique one and must be treated as such.



The American Jewish Conference at its first session in September 1943, without dissent, adopted resolutions on post-war reconstruction of European Jewry. These resolutions express the views of the overwhelming majority of American Jewry. They point to the specific needs of the Jews of Europe, as individuals and as a group. The resolutions call for the promulgation of an international bill of rights, for the outlawing of anti-Semitism, the relief and rehabilitation of the Jewish populations according to their distinctive needs, the punishment of those who have committed crimes against them, the indemnification for their lost and despoiled personal and communal property. The Conference has since also issued statements concerning the application of its resolutions to the specific needs of the Jews in Europe, the restoration of given rights to them and the general improvement of their status.

If, then, the "Declaration of Human Rights" submitted by the American Jewish Committee, couched as it is in universal terms, without mentioning the Jews at all, purports to offer a solution to the grave problems faced by the Jews of Europe, it is inadequate and misleading. By commission as well as omission, it goes contrary in many respects to the demands of the great majority of American Jews, as formulated by the American Jewish Conference. The authors of the "Declaration" must state in no uncertain terms whether this is the sole basis for their program on the post-war rehabilitation and reconstruction of European Jewry.

But apart from this question, the Committee's "Declaration of Human Rights," even as a statement of universal principles, contains proposals which not only will not meet the needs of the Jews of Europe, but may turn out to be detrimental to their needs. The following is a brief analysis of the several points of the document.

## II.

In the preamble, the "Declaration" recognizes "the individual human being as the cornerstone of our culture and our civilization." Nowhere in the entire text is there provision made for the basic rights of all religious, ethnic and cultural groups as such. By this omission, the "Declaration" fails to express the desire of the vast majority of Jews, as well as of other minority groups, to maintain and foster their group identity.

In Paragraph 3, the reason given for "international concern to stamp out infractions of basic human rights" (including the right to life), is that such infractions, or persecutions, throw "upon the peace-loving nations the burden of relief and redress." It may be interpreted that in cases where the peace-loving nations do not have this burden, they need not be concerned about persecutions. A state may thus organize the extermination of a whole section of its population, without interference from the "peace-loving nations," since the dead do not need "relief and redress."

The next three paragraphs of the "Declaration" deal with particular circumstances resulting from racial and religious persecutions and from the exigencies of a war of extermination. One need not enter here into a discussion whether questions of redress, the right to "return" and to immigration belong in a general statement of "Human Rights." For, the proposals in these



paragraphs concern only the victims of those circumstances and not all the other "individual human beings," to whom human rights should also be guaranteed. However, the proposals may not serve the needs even of the people for whose benefit they are intended.

In Paragraph 4, "fair redress" is requested only for "those who have suffered under the Hitler regime." No mention is made of Hitler's satellites and associates under whose regimes the Jews have suffered as much and in whose countries a great number of the surviving Jews of Europe now find themselves.

In Paragraph 5, "the opportunity to return" is suggested only for "those who have been driven from their land of birth." But nothing is said about the return of those who were not born in the lands they were driven from, but lived there for decades and regarded them as their homes. The governments of Luxembourg and Belgium, for example, have announced that they would welcome the return of Jewish refugees from these countries, including non-citizens who were former residents. The proposal of the Committee asks less than what the Jews of Europe are entitled to and which some of the European governments have already granted them.

In the same proposal it is further suggested that those who return to "the land of their birth" should be "unaffected in their rights by the Nazi despotism." The fact that in some countries their rights were grievously affected prior to the Nazi despotism and have since been so affected also by other oppressors, is not taken into consideration in the Committee's proposals. Such disregard of reality may jeopardize the political status of Jews in some regions of post-war Europe. Furthermore, there is no indication what is meant by "their rights," whether those they were guaranteed after the first World War or the universal ones proposed in Paragraph 1. The problem of restoration of rights to Jews in Europe and of further improvement of their political status, is fundamental to their reconstruction after the war. It cannot be covered by the phrase "their rights" without specification, for such a bare phrase lends itself to misinterpretations which may be harmful to the Jews in some European countries.

In Paragraph 6, it is proposed that "to those who wander the earth unable or unwilling to return to scenes of unforgettable horror shall be given aid and comfort to find new homes and begin new lives in other parts of the world. This must be made possible by international agreement." The whole complex problem of migration in general, and of Jewish migration and resettlement in particular, is far from being covered by this general proposal. The designation "those who wander the earth" leaves doubt as to which category or categories of persons it includes. Must a person be in the actual state of wandering in order to be given aid in finding a new home? What about the Jews who find themselves in their former countries in Europe but do not wish to remain there because of the "scenes of unforgettable horror" they have experienced? Shall they not be given an opportunity to start their lives anew somewhere else? According to the Committee's proposal, these Jews are not entitled to "aid and comfort to find new homes."

What is more important, the proposal raises the question



of "free immigration" at a time when most countries of immigration want to open their doors only to those whom they consider "selected" immigrants. Where Jewish resettlers who may not fall within the categories of "selected immigrants" will go, the proposal does not consider. Moreover, the "Declaration" proposes that the finding of new homes "must be made possible by international agreement." Does this mean that all nations should agree to admit immigrants regardless of their present immigration laws and policies? Such a proposal may embarrass some major countries and, as proven in the past, reduce to a minimum the aid they might give to wanderers in finding new homes. Rather, international agreements must be reached with reference to specific groups of people and definite countries of immigration. The proposal submitted in the "Declaration," being so universal, may prove altogether ineffective.

### III.

To sum up, the "Declaration of Human Rights" submitted by the American Jewish Committee, in so far as it may be applied to the specific problems of post-war Jewish reconstruction, does not greatly help to solve these problems and in many respects may even hinder their solution.

The general problem of safeguarding human rights has been the subject of study and discussion by many national organizations interested in the planning of peace. The Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, headed by Dr. James T. Shotwell, issued in its Fourth Report (May 1944) a comprehensive statement on the issues involved, and advocated the establishment of a Commission on Human Rights. The question of an international bill of rights will probably be considered by the Big Powers who drew up the Dumbarton Oaks Statement and by all the United Nations at their future conferences. It seems, therefore, that a Jewish organization whose object it is to protect the civil and religious rights of Jews, should in dealing with the question of human rights, indicate how this question is related to the specific needs of Jews in given parts of the world.

Attention is called to the Statements on an "International Bill of Rights" and on the "Restoration of Rights to Jews in Europe," recently issued by the American Jewish Conference. These Statements analyze the specific aspects of the rights of Jews in the light of past experiences and offer concrete proposals as part of a more inclusive program of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Jewish people in the post-war era.



APPENDIX

Text  
of the  
"Declaration of Human Rights"

Submitted by the American Jewish Committee  
386 Fourth Avenue, New York City

"With the inevitable end of Hitler, the struggle begins, not of tank and plane, but of heart and soul and brain to forge a world in which humanity may live in peace.

"This new world must be based on the recognition that the individual human being is the cornerstone of our culture and our civilization. All that we cherish must rest on the dignity and inviolability of the person, of his sacred right to live and to develop under God, in whose image he was created.

"With this creed as our foundation, we declare:

1. That an International Bill of Human Rights must be promulgated to guarantee for every man, woman and child, of every race and creed and in every country, the fundamental rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
2. No plea of sovereignty shall ever again be allowed to permit any nation to deprive those within its borders of these fundamental rights on the claim that these matters are of internal concern.
3. Hitlerism has demonstrated that bigotry and persecution by a barbarous nation throws upon the peace-loving nations the burden of relief and redress. Therefore it is a matter of international concern to stamp out infractions of basic human rights.
4. To those who have suffered under the Hitler regime because of race or creed or national origin, there shall be given fair redress.
5. To those who have been driven from the land of their birth there shall be given the opportunity to return, unaffected in their rights by the Nazi despotism.
6. To those who wander the earth unable or unwilling to return to scenes of unforgettable horror shall be given aid and comfort to find new homes and begin new lives in other parts of the world. This must be made possible by international agreement.

"Thus, anew, may we justify the ways of God to man. Thus we may take a vital step forward on the long road to which civilization seeks to create a world based upon the common fatherhood of God and the common brotherhood of man."



# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

## COMMISSION ON PALESTINE

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

*Chairman*

JACOB ALSON  
GEDALIAH BUBICK  
RABBI A. SIMON FEDERBUSCH  
RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF  
RABBI WOLF GOLD  
DR. ROBERT GORDIS  
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN  
ISAAC HAMLIN  
RABBI JAMES G. HELLER  
HON. H. P. KOPPLEMAN  
MAX A. KOPSTEIN  
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
HON. SAMUEL MELLITZ  
DR. MAX NUSSBAUM  
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HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
ISIDOR SACK  
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HON. CARL SHERMAN  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
DR. BENJAMIN SHWADRAN  
WILLIAM I. SIEGAL  
MRS. SIMON SOBELOFF  
ROBERT SZOLD  
DAVID M. WATCHMAKER  
DAVID WERTHEIM

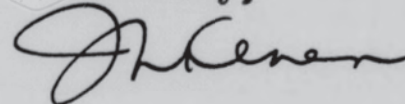
November 8, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Shall we call a breakfast meeting  
of the Palestine Commission in advance of the  
Interim Committee meeting scheduled for Monday,  
November 27th?

Sincerely,



I. L. Kenen

ILK:fsk



# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

## INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN  
HENRY MONSKY  
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE  
*Co-Chairmen*

MAURICE BISGYER  
NAOMI CHERTOFF  
SIGMUND W. DAVID  
J. DAVID DELMAN  
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN  
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH  
MRS MOSES P. EPSTEIN  
PROF. HYMAN J. ETTlinger  
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH  
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN  
J. GEORGE FREDMAN  
DANIEL FRISCH  
LEON GELLMAN  
FRANK GOLDMAN  
DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN  
RABBI ROBERT GORDIS  
HAYIM GREENBERG  
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN  
MRS. HUGO HARTMANN  
RABBI JAMES G. HELLER  
HERMAN HOFFMAN  
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN  
CHARLES P. KRAMER  
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM  
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
JULIUS LIVINGSTON  
DR. SAMUEL MARGOSHES  
RABBI IRVING MILLER  
DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN  
HARRY A. PINE  
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL  
ADOLPH ROSENBERG  
DVORAH ROTHBARD  
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN  
ISIDOR SACK  
BENJAMIN SAMUELS  
LOUIS SEGAL  
HON. CARL SHERMAN  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
HON. MEIER STEINBRINK  
HERMANN STERN  
ROBERT SZOLD  
DR. JOSEPH TENENBAUM  
MRS. MAURICE TURNER  
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT  
DAVID WERTHEIM  
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE  
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

## Administrative Committee

LOUIS LIPSKY  
*Chairman*  
MAURICE BISGYER  
SAMUEL CAPLAN  
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH  
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN  
JANE EVANS  
J. GEORGE FREDMAN  
LEON GELLMAN  
WILLIAM GERBER  
HAYIM GREENBERG  
CHARLES P. KRAMER  
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM  
RABBI IRVING MILLER  
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN  
MAX J. SCHNEIDER  
HERMAN SHULMAN  
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
MEYER W. WEISGAL  
DAVID WERTHEIM

November 10, 1944

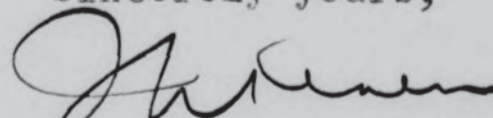
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Ansel Road at E. 105th St.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am enclosing a draft of the Palestine Commission report. Will you please read this with particular reference to the chapter on "Inside Palestine."

I will telephone you Monday for any changes which you may have to suggest.

Sincerely yours,

  
I. L. Kenen

ILK:s  
enc.

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



## AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Monday, November 27, 1944 - Biltmore Hotel, New York City

The meeting opened at 11:10 A.M. with Mr. Henry Monsky presiding.

Those present were: Dr. Israel Goldstein, Maurice Bisgyer, Rabbi William Drazin, Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, Louis Fabricant (alternate for Julius Livingston), Mrs. Ida Cook Farber (alternate for Mrs. Maurice Turner), J. George Fredman, Daniel Frisch, William Gerber (alternate for Sidney G. Kusworm), Frank Goldman, Mrs. L. Golub (alternate for Mrs. Samuel Goldstein), Rabbi Robert Gordis, Nathaniel Greenbaum (alternate for Hermann Stern), Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Louis Lipsky, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Samuel Rothstein, Flora Rothenberg (alternate for Mrs. Joseph M. Welt), Max J. Schneider, Louis Segal, Herman Shulman, Justice Meier Steinbrink, Herman L. Weisman (alternate for Judge Louis E. Lewinthal), William Weiss (alternate for Dr. Samuel Nirenstein), Rabbi David Wice (alternate for Benjamin Samuels).

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman and Mrs. Ann Jarcho.

Guests: Jacob Alson, Helen Raebeck, Bernard Postal.

#### I. MINUTES OF MEETING OF OCT. 24, 1944 - Approved.

#### II. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - On behalf of the Administrative Committee, Mr. Lipsky, Chairman, reported as follows:

##### A. Communications

1. Letter from the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, welcoming our offer "for the mutual exchange of information and consultation on common problems."

2. Cable from Mrs. Archibald Silverman, urging that the Conference take a position in opposition to the territorial project in Kimberley, Australia. Referred to the standing Committee on Post-War at the second session.

##### B. Second Session

1. Attendance - The Conference delegates who had not yet responded to previous communications had been sent special delivery letters and telegrams, and the record showed that of the 379 community delegates, 318 had stated that they were coming, 44 had been succeeded by new delegates and alternates, and only 17 had not yet acted. Of the 124 organization delegates, 104 had been named. The only organization which had not yet designated delegates was the Jewish Labor Committee with 16 delegates.



## 2. Participation of Organizations

a. Jewish Labor Committee - An announcement had appeared in the press that the executive committee of the Jewish Labor Committee had voted, 38 to 20, to withdraw from the Conference "if the Communists are admitted to membership in the Conference." The press announcement implied that the decision of the Jewish Labor Committee was contingent upon action by the Interim Committee. Mr. Grossman, of the Conference staff, then called Mr. Jacob Pat of the Jewish Labor Committee and Mr. Pat sent a communication to Mr. Grossman. (See Appendix A) Action on this was deferred until later in the meeting.

b. Union of Orthodox Rabbis - A letter inviting this organization to participate in the session was sent to the convention of that body but no answer had been received.

c. No answer has been received from the Agudas Israel and the New Zionist Organization (Revisionist).

## 3. Program of the Conference

a. It had originally been intended that an address be delivered at the second session on a review of the general Jewish scene by Professor Selig Brodetsky of the British Board of Jewish Deputies, but Professor Brodetsky had cabled that he would not arrive in the United States in time for the meeting.

b. The program agreed upon by the Administrative Committee was in line with the agenda originally approved by the Interim Committee. The Co-Chairmen of the Commissions had agreed on the manner in which their reports would be submitted, and the Administrative Committee suggested that the Co-Chairmen of the Interim Committee agree among themselves on the division of their time and the manner in which they would present the report of the Interim Committee. Following discussion, it was agreed that all three co-chairmen would report, each to have twenty-five minutes.

It was also agreed to send invitations to Ignacy Schwartzbart, Sydney S. Silverman M.P., and a representative of the Palestinian Delegation attending the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress, to be designated by that Delegation, each of the three speakers to be invited to address the Conference for twenty minutes.

## 4. Invitations to the Session

a. Invitations had been extended to the World Jewish Congress to send observers to the second session, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann of the World Jewish Congress and Dr. Bernard Joseph of the Jewish Agency for Palestine had also been invited to attend as guests. It was not intended that they should make formal addresses at the plenary sessions but would be in a position to give statements to the standing committees of the Conference.

b. It was agreed to extend a general invitation to all the delegates attending the War Emergency Conference to come to the second session.



5. Budget - The Administrative Committee had approved a budget of \$9,000 for the expenses of the session. Because of the high cost of printing, it was decided not to publish a daily Conference Record, as was done at the first session, but in lieu of that, a daily Bulletin would be issued to the delegates each morning.

6. Reports - The Report of the Interim Committee and the three Commissions had been printed and mailed to all delegates in time for its receipt in advance of the session.

7. Groupings - In accordance with a decision of the Interim Committee on June 29th, 1944, all delegates were notified of their right to change their group affiliations, providing they acted before November 10th. Only 22 changed their group adherence, but a new group, the Independent Group, headed by Alex F. Stanton and Arnold Ginsburg of Philadelphia was organized. It consists of 14 members.

Subsequent to November 10th, six delegates requested that they be recorded as members of the Assembly Bloc, which is headed by Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg of Easton, Pa., and Gus Kaplan of Harrisburg, Pa.

One delegate wired the Conference office that he was withdrawing from his present group and reserved the right to make his affiliation later. In that connection, there is a communication from Mr. Jefferson Peyser, in which he insists on the right of delegates to make their decisions as to groupings after the November 10th deadline.

The Administrative Committee took the position with respect to the Assembly Bloc and Mr. Peyser's communication that the matter was outside its jurisdiction and that it was a matter which the General Committee will have to decide at the second session.

New delegates and alternates had been notified of their right to register in the groups under a rule of the Interim Committee, permitting them to do so up to the opening of the session. A letter had been sent to the new delegates and alternates, asking them to register as quickly as possible, and informing them that unless they register on or before December 1st, when the General Committee meets, the General Committee will assume that they are members of the groups to which their predecessors belonged.

It will be essential that the registration of delegates' groups be completed by December 1st, so that the standing committees may be organized as quickly as possible and announced at the opening session. The leaders of groups had been notified of their right to make substitutions in the standing committees and only a few changes had been made as of this time.

## 8. Joint Planning Committee

1. Rumania - The Joint Planning Committee of the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress had held a number of meetings. Joint action has been taken in connection with the situation of the Jews of Rumania and the Post-War Commission will report to the session on this.



2. American Jewish Committee - The American Jewish Committee had circulated a Declaration on Human Rights, which was in conflict with the post-war program of the American Jewish Conference. A number of inquiries were received at the Conference office and at a meeting of the Joint Planning Committee, it was the consensus that the Conference should inform its delegates and its constituent organizations of the shortcomings of the Committee's statement. A memorandum was prepared by the Conference and was circulated among the delegates. In this connection, attention was called to the fact that a communication had been received from the Jewish Peoples Committee, whose representatives were present at the CIO Convention, advising the Conference of the text of a resolution adopted by the CIO, which concludes as follows:

"We also reiterate our wholehearted support to the program of the American Jewish Conference and we endorse the International Bill of Rights proposed by the Conference, a document which urges the enforcement of the equal and national states rights of all ethnic and national groups in the peace to come."

It was pointed out that the American Jewish Committee's proposal was before the CIO Convention and was rejected.

D. The Commissions - The Post-War Commission had adopted a statement on the proposal to unify a Jewish Delegation and it was prepared to report on this later in the meeting.

The Commission on Palestine had also prepared resolutions for submission to the second session.

III. REPORT OF THE PALESTINE COMMISSION - In the absence of Dr. Silver, who was called away to Washington, Mr. Kenen submitted the drafts of two resolutions which had been considered by the Palestine Commission at a meeting immediately preceding the meeting of the Interim Committee. (See Appendix C and D) There was general discussion on the resolutions, at the conclusion of which the Chair stated that no action by the Interim Committee was called for.

IV. JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE - Mr. Grossman reported that there had been a meeting between representatives of the Jewish Labor Committee and a small committee representing the American Jewish Conference about three weeks ago. At this meeting, the Jewish Labor Committee had asserted that the Interim Committee had no legal right to recommend the admission of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, IWO, because the Conference was in a state of recess. The Jewish Labor Committee was asked what were its intentions, whether it intended to participate fully in the American Jewish Conference, ie: whether it intended to rejoin the Interim Committee, but it did not reply.

It was pointed out that the letter of the Jewish Labor Committee to Mr. Grossman referred to one thing: if the IWO will be admitted, the Committee will withdraw from the Conference, or rather it will not participate in the next meeting. It was Mr. Grossman's opinion that should the Interim Committee decide to withdraw its recommendation, the Jewish Labor Committee would probably go to the Conference and eventually rejoin the Interim Committee.



The Chair made it clear that at the meeting with the Jewish Labor Committee no offers had been made to that body, but that it was merely pointed out to it that it was hardly in a position to object in view of the fact that it was not a full participant in the Conference.

Following a discussion, the Chair stated:

"I think what we ought to do is to advise the Labor Committee that the status of the American Jewish Conference with respect to the Jewish People's Fraternal Order of the IWO is exactly the same as it always has been and will so remain until the second session of the Conference, acting through its instrumentalities, the General Committee or the Plenary Session, shall take a position with respect thereto.

"Therefore, there isn't any basis for their attempted withdrawal because that is prejudging the action of the second session of the Conference, and that their letter to the Interim Committee will be referred to the General Committee, and the second session of the Conference along with our recommendation, and they are invited and will be given the opportunity of course to present any objections that they have."

Mr. Lipsky moved the approval of the statement made by the Chair and that a letter to that effect be sent to the Jewish Labor Committee. Following discussion, the Chair stated:

"I think that the motion ought to be that the Chairman and a committee of two, whom he will appoint, shall be authorized to send a suitable answer to the Jewish Labor Committee with respect to this matter. One thing we have determined: we are not reconsidering our recommendation; our recommendation stands."

There was no objection and the motion was adopted. (See Appendix B for the letter which was sent to the Jewish Labor Committee.)

V. REPORT OF THE POST-WAR COMMISSION - Reporting for the Post-War Commission, Rabbi Eisendrath stated:

"The most important matter to come before you is the question that I introduced at the last meeting of the Interim Committee: that the Conference should take the initiative in calling some manner of Council of Jewish representation or whatever it might be called, to present as unitedly as possible, the post-war demands or requests or plans of the Jewish communities throughout the world.

"The American Jewish Conference, we believe, has shown an example to other communities in unifying a great part of American Jewish life, and we feel that we are in an admirable position to take the leadership in bringing together other communities, bringing other communities together with us.



"Considerable discussion has taken place in the Post-War Commission and likewise in the Joint Planning Committee of the Conference and the Congress; there has been much disagreement as to the precise wording of whatever resolution the Post-War Commission should present to the second session of the Conference in this regard. The difficulty arises primarily in relation to the party to do the inviting."

Rabbi Eisendrath then read a draft of the statement adopted by the Post-War Commission for submission to the second session of the Conference. (See Appendix E) He explained that there was disagreement; the representatives of the World Jewish Congress did not agree with the formula reached by the Post-War Commission and in the Joint Planning Committee, where both the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference were represented, the phraseology adopted had been:

"In accordance with these resolutions, it is proposed that the two organizations invite the cooperation of any other Jewish organization prepared to participate in the furtherance of a common policy on post-war Jewish reconstruction."

"In other words, the Joint Planning Committee proposed," it was stated by Rabbi Eisendrath, "that the two organizations shall jointly or on a basis of parity as it were, issue these invitations - the Congress and the Conference. And the Post-War Commission says that in line with the existing working agreement between the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress, it is proposed that invitations be extended to representative Jewish bodies."

Following general discussion, Rabbi Eisendrath's report was accepted and no action was taken on it.

VI. - It was agreed that an appropriate resolution be drafted extending greetings to Dr. Chaim Weizmann on his seventieth birthday.

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned.)

\* \* \* \* \*

These minutes are confined to a record of action taken and reports submitted and only such statements as are essential for a clarification of the record. Abstract of discussion is excluded by decision of the Interim Committee on September 12th, 1944.

I.L.K.

12/14/44  
FSK



APPENDIX A

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE  
175 East Broadway  
New York, N.Y.

November 20, 1944

Mr. M. Grossman  
American Jewish Conference  
521 Fifth Avenue  
New York 7, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Grossman:

In accordance with our telephone conversation, I am hereby writing to you of the decision of the National Executive Committee of the Jewish Labor Committee concerning the forthcoming Second Session of the American Jewish Conference.

As you will undoubtedly recall, representatives of the Jewish Labor Committee - N. Chanin, I.H. Goldberg and myself - several weeks ago told the committee of the American Jewish Conference which was composed of H. Monsky, D. Wertheim, M. Bisgyer and yourself, the reasons why the Jewish Labor Committee is unable to agree with the decision of the Interim Committee to recognize the communist front organization - Jewish Section of the International Workers Order - as a Jewish national body and to admit it into the American Jewish Conference. It is needless, therefore, for me to reiterate them in this letter.

The question whether we should or should not participate in the Second Session of the American Jewish Conference was thoroughly considered by the National Executive Committee of the Jewish Labor Committee in connection with the decision of the Interim Committee to open its doors to the communist front organization. After a thorough discussion our National Executive Committee decided to inform the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference that the Jewish Labor Committee will not participate in the Conference if the latter will go into a partnership with the communists.

Sincerely yours,

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Jacob Pat, Executive Sec'y.



APPENDIX B

November 28, 1944

Mr. Jacob Pat  
Executive Secretary  
Jewish Labor Committee  
175 East Broadway  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Pat:

The Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference, at a meeting yesterday, considered your objection to the admission of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the IWO to membership in the Conference and your decision not to participate in the Conference if that organization is admitted.

We wish to point out to you that the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the IWO has no status in the American Jewish Conference at this time and that situation will continue until the second session of the Conference, which is the only body entitled to act on the matter one way or the other. The action of the Interim Committee, taken on August 1st, 1944, is a recommendation to the second session, a recommendation motivated by the fact that the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order has changed its structure and has removed the disabilities which disqualified it last year under the eligibility rules of the Conference.

Inasmuch as the Jewish Labor Committee, to our regret, has abstained from participation in the Interim Committee, we have not had the benefit of its counsel or its point of view during the entire year.

We note that your protests are concerned with ideological questions which are not covered by the eligibility rules of the Conference. Needless to say, the decision of the Interim Committee to recommend favorable action on the application of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order does not imply, as you state, the going into a "partnership" with that body or its alleged ideology. Neither the Conference as a whole nor the Interim Committee enters into partnership with the constituent organizations of the Conference; nor is either subject to a veto by any one of these organizations. The Interim Committee is an agency of the Conference. The Conference was established as a representative body embracing all major national Jewish membership organizations and communities throughout the country, irrespective of views and differences on ideological matters.



Appendix B - Page 2

Your letter to the Interim Committee will be referred to the General Committee at the second session, along with the recommendation previously made by the Interim Committee. We trust that notwithstanding the attitude you have taken, your delegates will be present and will participate in both the meetings of the General Committee and the plenum, so that your position may be presented to its best advantage.

Since you believe that the issue involved is of such great importance to the future of the Conference, we believe that you owe it to the Conference and to yourself to present all the facts so that the delegates may be in a position to weigh the matter fairly and fully.

In conclusion, may we say that we regret your decision. We hope that it is not final and that you will reconsider so that the Conference may go forward as a united body, serving the needs of world Jewry which must transcend all other considerations.



Sincerely yours,

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

By I. L. KENEN  
I. L. Kenen  
Secretary

ILK:fsk

CC: Adolph Held



## APPENDIX C

Draft

Resolution

November 27, 1944

Speaking for the millions of American Jews who are represented in this gathering, we, the delegates to the second session of the American Jewish Conference, hail, with gratification, the declaration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, of October 15, 1944, in support of the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

We record our satisfaction that, in the fifteen months since the first session of the Conference, the Palestine resolution adopted at that meeting has won warm and sympathetic indorsement from all sections of American public opinion. America's voice has now been heard and it has become clear that the viewpoint of American Jewry, as voiced by the Conference in that resolution, has the support of the American people as a whole.

The President's statement of October 15th expressing his conviction "that the American people give their support to this aim" and giving his pledge to "help bring about its realization" constitutes a clear and explicit reaffirmation of America's traditional friendship for Jewish aspirations in Palestine, and strengthens our hope that the United Nations will act soon to implement the historic right of the Jewish people to rebuild Palestine as the Jewish Commonwealth in the new world of freedom to be established.

We trust that the United States Congress will soon be officially recorded in favor of the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth in accordance with the platform declarations approved by both the Democratic and Republican parties in the summer of this year. To that end, we urge the early adoption of the resolutions asserting the objectives of these platform declarations and now pending in Congress.

\* \* \*

The time has now come for decisions by the United Nations which will serve to fulfill the commitments undertaken by the nations of the world at the conclusion of the last world war and in reliance upon which the Jewish people have invested their labors and their hopes and their resources to erect in Palestine, the foundations for their restoration and renaissance, and to transform it into a land where the Jewish people may build a haven for their homeless and a sanctuary for their survival.

The policies now persistently pursued by the Mandatory Power in Palestine - the White Paper of 1939 with its indefensible restrictions on immigration and colonization - are a continuing violation of the promise of the Mandatory pledged in the



Balfour Declaration and are in contravention of the trust which was conferred by the League of Nations upon the Mandatory by virtue of its undertaking in the Balfour Declaration. These policies retard and obstruct the orderly and progressive growth of the Jewish National Home and all but liquidate the rights of the Jewish people. The United Nations, pledged to the observance of a moral order among the peoples of the world cannot long continue to condone this breach - a breach dictated by the Nazi aggression in the decade of disorder prior to the outbreak of the war; the Jewish people must not be asked to continue long to endure it.

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

The measures here urged constitute the essential prerequisites for the attainment of a Jewish majority and for the re-creation of the Jewish Commonwealth.

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

\* \* \*

In the re-creation of the Jewish Commonwealth, which must embrace an undivided and undiminished Palestine, the development of that country should be assisted by the intergovernmental bodies charged with the post-war rehabilitation of peoples and countries ravaged by the war.

The Jewish people, decimated and all but destroyed in more than a decade of Axis fury, must be restored to a normal life in the post-war reconstruction. In that process of restoration, great numbers will seek to rebuild their lives in Palestine, and their settlement in that country should be aided by the creation of the requisite social and economic conditions by the United Nations.

\* \* \*



Appendix C - Page 3

The war now approaches its end and the forces of Hitlerism are being defeated. The freedoms which men have always cherished are being regained and the lights of liberty are now being rekindled in lands blacked out by brutality. But as the peace-loving peoples of the world are being restored to their native lands to live again as free men, the Jewish people, the first to be marked for destruction in the Axis war of extermination, counts its millions of dead but remains uncounted in the rolls of peoples whose future liberation has been guaranteed by the pledges of the democratic powers.

We are on the very eve of tomorrow's peace. But there will be no peace for the Jewish people until the day of its restoration in its historic homeland and its rebirth as a free people.

We pray that that day is not far removed. We ask that those statesmen and leaders who are vested with responsibility for the rebuilding of a civilized world shall now grant renewed assurance that the hopes of the Jewish people for the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth shall soon be realized.





#### APPENDIX D

With the adoption of the Palestine Resolutions at this and the previous session of the American Jewish Conference, an obligation is imposed upon the Conference to undertake all possible measures looking to the implementation of these resolutions.

Representing as it does the largest Jewish community in the world, and conscious of the responsibility of that community, the Conference directs the Interim Committee or whatever continuing body is created to carry on the work of the Conference, to assume a major part in the task of re-establishing the right of the Jewish people to Palestine and in the re-establishment of Palestine as a place where the Jewish people can be restored to a free and democratic life.

It must assist in the mobilization of the Jewish people in the United States, and public opinion in this country and throughout the world, and must seek the assistance of intergovernmental bodies, to assure that the doors of Palestine, once they are open, will actually receive Jewish immigrants; that the land of Palestine and its natural resources, once they are freed from present administrative restrictions, shall be colonized and developed to the maximum: in short, the progressive enlargement of Jewish social and economic opportunity to make the Jewish Commonwealth a living organism. The future development of Palestine calls for engineering industrial and fiscal enterprises which challenge the vision of the Jewish people - a challenge which must be met by the democratic world.

The Interim Committee, moreover, must further and intensify educational and political work in behalf of Jewish rights to Palestine in this country and throughout the world and it must present the position of the American Jewish Conference to the heads of the leading United Nations, as soon as practicable.

In the performance of its duties, the Interim Committee shall act in consultation and co-operation with the Jewish Agency for Palestine.



## APPENDIX E

### DRAFT OF STATEMENT PREPARED BY POST-WAR COMMISSION FOR SUBMISSION TO SECOND SESSION

The first session of the American Jewish Conference went on record in favor of requesting recognition by the United Nations of a Jewish representation, for the purpose of advice and cooperation on agencies that have been and will be set up by the United Nations to deal with the problem of relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and other aspects of post-war reconstruction.

The Conference further resolved to cooperate with representatives of European Jewry and with other organizations and agencies in the implementation of its program, and therefore in accordance with these resolutions and in line with the existing working agreements between the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress it is proposed that invitations be extended to representative Jewish bodies throughout the world, prepared to participate in the furtherance of a common policy on post-war Jewish reconstruction.

It is contemplated to establish for the period of peace settlements, a joint working body designed to coordinate and as far as possible combine representations of post-war Jewish needs before international conferences, councils and agencies of the United Nations.

The proposed joint working body shall operate through the established machineries and personnel of the constituent organizations and/or through any other machinery and personnel that may be available and appropriate. The broad policies of this body, its manner of operation and extent of activities, including the creation of new machinery, shall be agreed upon by its constituent organizations at the time of its formation.

The joint working body shall seek to establish a relationship of cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, with due consideration of the Jewish Agency's special international status.

These recommendations shall be presented by the Post-War Commission to the second session of the American Jewish Conference. At this session, the Conference, upon adoption of the recommendations, shall empower its executive organ to be established by the second session to carry them into effect.



December 3, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Kenen:

Mr. Edward J. Schweid would like very much to receive a copy of the PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE. Will you please send it to him, by return mail, if possible, directly to his residence? His address is 14918 Shaker Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Thanks very kindly.

Most cordially,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.



# American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

December 12, 1944

Mr. Edward J. Schwaid  
14913 Shaker Boulevard  
Shaker Heights, Ohio

Dear Ed:

It is nice to have heard from you even indirectly. I have a letter today from Dr. Silver's secretary, informing me that you want to get a copy of the Proceedings of the American Jewish Conference.

I would very much like to send you a complimentary copy, but I am compelled to charge \$3.00 inasmuch as the Conference spent more than \$10,000. Let me know whether you want to make that much of an investment for your library.

Do you ever come to New York? Please be sure to call me if you do.

Give my regards to your father and mother, to Haskell and Marge.

Cordially,

I. L. Kenen

ILK:fsk

C  
O  
P  
Y



# American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

## INTERIM COMMITTEE

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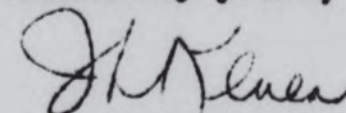
December 13, 1944

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE:

After consultation with Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mr. Henry Monsky and Dr. Stephen S. Wise, co-chairmen of the former Interim Committee, and Mr. Louis Lipsky, chairman of the former Administrative Committee, I am authorized to notify you that the new Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference will hold its first meeting on Friday, January 12th, 1945, at 10:00 A.M. in New York at the Hotel Biltmore.

Will you please fill in the enclosed card notifying us whether you can be present? Enclosed are the minutes of the last meeting of the Interim Committee.

Sincerely yours,



I. L. Kenen

ILK:fsk  
Enc.

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