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American Zionist Emergency Council, American Jewish
Conference, 1945-1946.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND INTERIM COMMITTEES DATE: August 9, 1945

FROM: I. L. Kenen

SUBJECT:

Enclosed are the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of August 6th, 1945 and of the Interim Committee meeting of June 25th, 1945.

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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

XV.

Monday, August 6th, 1945

PRESENT: Maurice Bisgyer, Charles P. Kramer, Jacob Marrus (alternate for Leon Gellman), Mrs. Louis Rosett (alternate for Jane Evans), Samuel Rothstein, and Alex F. Stanton.

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, David Sherman, Dr. Frank Barth, Allen Roberts, Sylvia Gilman, and Florence Strauss.

It was moved by Mr. Stanton that Mr. Kramer act as chairman in the absence of Mr. Lipsky. CARRIED.

It was agreed that in the absence of a quorum, the meeting be deemed informal.

Committee on Reorganization - Mr. Kenen reported that the Conference had heard from all groups on the organization of the committee to consider the future organization of the American Jewish Conference, with the exception of the General Zionist Group.

Committee for the Recovery of Jewish Cultural Property in Europe - This Committee is being organized by the Conference and the World Jewish Congress and will concern itself with the recovery of objects of art and culture in Europe. Many organizations which have a special interest in this field have been invited to appoint representatives.

Canadian Jewish Congress - Mr. Kenen read a telegram from Saul Hayes of the Canadian Jewish Congress, stating that while it is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, it is not bound by its decisions, and requesting that the Canadian Jewish Congress receive direct invitation to participate in the Joint Committee. Mr. Kenen informed Mr. Hayes that the matter will probably be discussed in London since both Mr. Lipsky and Mr. Grossman were informed of the telegram before they left.

Food Conference - The Americans United for World Organization, Inc. has invited the Conference to appoint a representative to attend Emergency Conference on World Food Crisis on August 7th at Washington, D. C. Mr. Bisgyer will attend.

Immigration Hearings - Mr. Sherman reported that at the last meeting of the Committee on Rescue, the Chairman and secretary were authorized to attend the hearings held by Congressman Dickstein on the question of immigration. Congressman Dickstein is particularly interested in taking away the German quota of 27,000 and reallocating it among stateless persons. Many organizations are opposed because (1) it might bar victims of Nazis who are of German origin; (2) it might bar children of slave labor born in Germany; (3) it might lead to a revision of the whole quota system which would be even less satisfactory than at present.

In accordance with Judge Nathan D. Perlman's suggestion, who thought it unwise for any Jewish group to testify at these hearings, Mr. Sherman prepared a letter to Congressman Dickstein, setting forth the Conference point of view on this question.

After discussion, it was agreed that the draft of the letter be submitted to Judge Perlman and should it meet with his approval, be sent to Congressman Dickstein.

Appointment of Liaison Officers

A letter had been received from Major Davidson Sommers of the War Department, advising the Conference that the U. S. military authorities will permit the Conference "to appoint at their own expense, and under UNRRA auspices, a limited number of special representatives who are satisfactory to the United States Group, Control Council, Germany, to assist with problems of Jewish stateless and non-repatriable persons in the U.S. zone of Germany."

Mr. Kenen and Mr. Bisgyer met with members of the UNRRA staff at Washington and were informed that these representatives would have to serve for at least six months and should be persons of experience in the field of group and social work.

In view of the fact that several applications had already been received, it was agreed that a committee of five be set up to deal with the question of appointees to represent the American Jewish Conference in Europe, and that Mr. Monsky be authorized to appoint the committee. It was also agreed that this project be financed solely by the Conference through its funds, and that the Committee of Five and the Finance Committee be authorized to seek ways and means of raising this additional sum of money.

The meeting then adjourned.

F. Strauss

8/7/45

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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Monday, June 25, 1945 - Biltmore Hotel, New York City

IV.

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

The roll was called and the following were present: Dr. Israel Goldstein, Louis Lipsky, Co-Chairmen; Maurice Bisgyer, Max Bressler (alternate for Dr. Samuel Margoshes), Sam Caplan (alternate for Dr. Stephen S. Wise), Mrs. Hava Cohen (alternate for Mrs. Samuel Goldstein), Aaron Droock, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans (alternate for Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath), Ida Cook Farber (alternate for Frank Goldman), Daniel Frisch, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman, Sidney G. Kusworm, Mrs. Arthur Laufman (alternate for Mrs. Maurice Turner), Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Leo H. Lewitz (alternate for Sigmund W. David), Rabbi Irving Miller, Hon. Nathan D. Perlman, Aaron Riche (alternate for Jefferson E. Peyser), Mrs. Louis A. Rosett (alternate for Adolph Rosenberg), Dvorah Rothbard, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Samuel Rothstein, Rubin Saltzman (alternate for Albert E. Kahn), Benjamin Samuels, Max J. Schneider, Herman Shulman, Mrs. Herman Shulman (alternate for Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin), Charles Sonnenreich, Alex F. Stanton, Hermann Stern, Mrs. A. H. Vixman (alternate for Mrs. Stephen S. Wise), Ralph Wechsler (alternate for Prof. Hayim Fineman), William Weiss (alternate for Dr. Samuel Nirenstein), David Wertheim, Baruch Zuckerman.

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brin, Saul Hayes, Abraham Machinist, Bernard Postal, Mrs. S. Spiegel.

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Dr. A. S. Kohanski, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, Murray Frank, Mrs. Sylvia Gilman, Rabbi David Sherman, Frank Barth, Allen Roberts.

I. MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 11, 1945 - Approved.

II. REPORT ON SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report detailing the activities of the American Jewish Conference at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, and of the joint committee of the Conference, Board of Deputies of British Jews, and World Jewish Congress. Along with this report were distributed texts of documents submitted by the organizations at San Francisco. (This report is being printed and copies are to be distributed to all delegates and affiliated organizations.)

III. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Louis Lipsky, Chairman, submitted a report of activities since the last meeting of the Interim Committee. Text of Mr. Lipsky's report is attached.

IV. RESOLUTION ON UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

After the submission of the foregoing reports, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

"The new Charter of the United Nations Organization is a great step forward in the struggle of civilized mankind for progress through peace and order. We hope that this Charter will speedily be ratified by the fifty nations represented at the San Francisco Conference, and first among them by the United States.

"Once again the people of the world look to this country for the leadership it gave so splendidly in the war. Prompt ratification by the United States will have the invaluable psychological effect of assuring the new Organization of the enormous prestige and physical power of this nation, make certain speedy ratification by the other nations and thus enable the new Organization to start without delay its work for a better organized world.

"Speed is essential because unity in peace is just as important as it is in war.

"The Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference therefore urges the United States Senate to ratify, without delay, the Charter of the United Nations."

V. REPORT OF RESCUE COMMITTEE.

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Grossman reported as follows:

1. Oswego Camp.

Together with the World Jewish Congress, the Conference had intervened to avert deportation of the refugees at Oswego. Dr. Fineman, Chairman of the Rescue Committee, and Dr. Arie Tartakower of the World Jewish Congress, had met with Earl Harrison, the American member of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. The matter is now being considered by a subcommittee of the House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization.

2. Jews in Liberated Areas in Europe.

Early in May the Conference had received a cable from the Board of Deputies of British Jews describing the terrible situation of liberated Jews who were still kept in camps without care and without freedom of movement, urging the establishment of a Jewish section in the Division for Civil Affairs at Allied Headquarters, and requesting intervention with the American authorities.

The proposal had been submitted to Congressman Celler, who had called a conference of Jewish Congressmen and representatives of the War Department, UNRRA, State Department, and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. To these officials it was proposed that Jewish liaison officers be appointed to help stateless and displaced persons. Subsequently, on May 12, Congressmen Celler, Kopplemann, Rayfiel, Dickstein, Weiss and Rabin joined in the following cable to General Eisenhower:

"Reliable reports reaching us from Europe describe position tens of thousands of Jewish survivors liberated from concentration and slave camps as of utter helplessness and bewilderment due

to absence of Jewish liaison officers with sympathetic awareness of their special needs, mentality, language difficulties. We are greatly concerned lest lack of proper handling and understanding of special requirements of these victims of Hitler, who suffered more because of longer detention and harsher treatment may further imperil their precarious position. Especially applies to irrepatriable Jews and orphans. We, therefore, consistent with military security and requirements respectfully submit for your favorable consideration proposal to appoint special Jewish liaison officers under military assignment and control to act as consultants at Allied Military Headquarters and/or in the field, dealing with displaced persons and their repatriation and resettlement. You will aid helpless and stateless people and at the same time encourage greater order and cooperation. Such liaison officers would lessen your burden. American Jewish Conference, representative body of American Jewry, and British Board of Jewish Deputies, spokesmen of British Jews, and World Jewish Congress representing thirty-five Jewish communities throughout the world, acting jointly are prepared to submit panel of reliable, trained liaison officers for your selection. The undersigned members of House of Representatives deeply interested in situation join in above recommendation. May we have the privilege of your reaction. We are grateful to you and your staff and men for the courageous and masterful leadership that ensure us victory."

On May 29 the following reply was received from General Eisenhower:

"Condition of Jewish survivors which is subject of your cable has received attention to these headquarters and steps being taken to give best possible care. UNRRA and Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees both concerned with problem. UNRRA now making arrangements with volunteer welfare agencies to handle specific welfare problems and such organizations as can do a specific job of aiding in care, repatriation or resettlement of displaced persons should arrange with UNRRA for use of their personnel in general it is policy of this Headquarters that all volunteer organizations working in general shall be coordinated by UNRRA. I appreciate the sentiments you have expressed regarding me and my staff."

A week later a memorandum asking for the appointment of liaison officers was sent to UNRRA and this was followed with a supplementary memorandum on June 15. On June 20, Mr. Grossman and Mr. Frank, of the Conference Staff, called on UNRRA officials insisting on action. Later an appointment was arranged with Director-General Herbert H. Lehman for June 27.

In the meantime, following the meeting with UNRRA officials on June 20, the Conference representatives met with the War Department. Following this meeting it had been decided to submit a detailed memorandum within a day or two

to Secretary of War Stimson. (During the meeting with the War Department we had been advised to address ourselves to the American authorities who would govern the American zone of occupation; the British Jews to take similar action with the British authorities; the French Jews with the French authorities; etc.)

Following the submission of the report, the Chair stated that, in the absence of any discussion to the contrary, the action of the Committee would be approved, and the Committee authorized to continue its contacts with UNHRA and the War Department.

3. Rumania

At the request of the United Rumanian Jews, the State Department had been asked to obtain information about the reported arrest of Dr. Wilhelm Filderman, Rumanian Jewish leader, and to intervene if the report were accurate. A wire had been sent to Under-Secretary of State Grew, who had replied that the report was untrue. More recent reports insisted that Dr. Filderman and other leading Jews had been arrested. (Mr. Charles Sonnenreich supplemented this report, stating that activities against Dr. Filderman grew out of his insistence on the restoration of Jewish property and rights.)

Following the report, the Executive Committee was authorized, without objection, to do everything possible to assist in the Filderman case.

VI. REPORT OF THE POST-WAR COMMITTEE.

On behalf of the Committee and in the absence of Rabbi Eisendrath, Chairman, Miss Evans reported as follows:

1. War Crimes.

A committee representing the Conference and the Congress had held an off-the-record meeting with top officials concerned with this problem. The committee included Judge Nathan Perlman, Dr. Alexander Kohanski and Dr. Jacob Robinson. The government spokesman was greatly interested in the facts on the extermination of European Jewry, asked for additional information, stated that the trials would probably be held this summer, and expressed doubt that there would be any status for amicus curiae. He favored the over-all indictment of Nazis because of the crimes against the Jews.

2. United Nations Charter.

The Post-War Committee recommended that the Conference urge the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Charter.

3. Recovery of Jewish objects of Art, Culture, etc., in Europe.

The Committee recommended that the Conference in cooperation with the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the World Jewish Congress, and the Jewish Agency approach the proper sources in the United States Government to request that Jewish objects of art and culture in Europe be secured, gathered together in one place, and placed under one agency to act as trustee until some future time when its disposition can be determined properly.

The recommendation was approved, and it was further agreed that the cooperation of other agencies be invited.

4. UNRRA.

The Committee recommended that the Conference send two representatives to the UNRRA Conference to take place in London, and that in choosing the representatives the need for continuity of previous contacts with UNRRA be considered.

This was agreed to.

VII. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNITED JEWISH REPRESENTATION.

On behalf of the Committee Judge Rothenberg, Chairman, reported that as a result of negotiations carried on prior to the San Francisco Conference, a joint committee was organized in San Francisco consisting of representatives of the American Jewish Conference, the World Jewish Congress, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews. At San Francisco, representatives of these organizations met jointly and frequently to discuss the day-to-day business of the Conference. Continuing, Judge Rothenberg stated:

"This body of men and women which met in San Francisco as the joint delegation was a very competent group which was alert to everything that happened in San Francisco, very earnest in their consideration of the matters that came before the Conference, and I think that it was a representative committee of which all of us have every right to feel deeply gratified.

"The joint meetings were presided over by Mr. Lipsky, with his usual competence, and we had, of course, the leadership of Mr. Monsky at all these meetings.

"We also had a press conference as a result of these meetings of the joint delegation which was an outstanding event, and we were very happy to have as our official representative conducting that conference Mr. Monsky, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann in behalf of the Jewish Agency. About 200 of the leading press people were present and I think it was an occasion at which the representatives of the national and the international press received information with regard to the Jewish position such as they probably never had before.

"I think it may be said that this joint committee met all of our expectations. I had occasion to be in Europe at the time of the last World Peace Conference when a body of Jewish delegations representing the Jews of the world was formed. I think I may say with accuracy that the joint committee which we had at San Francisco, while it did not represent as many Jewries of the world, because unfortunately many of the Jewish communities have been destroyed, was a most representative committee. We had in the person of Dr. Robinson one of the most eminent legal experts, and there were also present a number of our own lawyers, who, I think, may claim some fair share of ability and legal expertness. I think that history will say, at least to those who will take the time to examine the proceedings at San Francisco, that insofar as we were able to present the Jewish claims upon the Conference (we know how limited the agenda was) it was done by this joint committee. Whatever rights we had to safeguard under the Charter - the rights of Jewish people under the Mandate in

connection with the possible transfer of the Mandate to a trusteeship, the furthering of fundamental human rights, and the bringing about the adoption of an International Bill of Rights by the San Francisco Conference - were ably handled by this joint committee."

At San Francisco the question of future cooperation between the three bodies had been considered, and all three bodies had expressed a desire to continue cooperation, although they may want to make certain changes. At a meeting in New York City on May 25 of representatives of the Conference and the Board, the Board had expressed satisfaction with the joint cooperation, but were of the opinion that in view of the forthcoming peace conferences the cooperation of other bodies, including those that did not agree on the Jewish Commonwealth, should be enlisted. They had felt that an agreement could be arrived at whereby the matter of Palestine, on which the three cooperating bodies are united, would be left to the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Basis for extended cooperation would, therefore, be as follows:

a. Unified consultations and unified action on matters outside the province of the Jewish Agency;

b. All participating bodies should agree not to take any action on Palestine except on the advice or with the consent of the Jewish Agency.

It had also been proposed that there be a conference in London of the three bodies during August.

The minutes of the May 25 meeting state:

"After an exchange of views on the subject, the consensus among those present was favorable to the plan of the Board to call the next meeting of the United Jewish Representations in London within a short time to discuss current problems and also to entertain proposals regarding invitations to other bodies.

"There would be no opposition to the Board negotiating with other groups, but with the proviso that invitations to them for consultation with the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress should be made only if they will agree to abide by the decisions of the Jewish Agency in all matters relating to Palestine. If the new bodies do not agree with the views of the Jewish Agency, they should abstain from any public acts of disapproval or dissent."

Rabbi Miller asked why the World Jewish Congress had not been invited to the meeting. Judge Rothenberg explained that the Board had desired a meeting with the Conference first.

A discussion on the feasibility of this proposal followed, with Mr. Lipsky, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Rothstein, Rabbi Miller, Mr. Droock, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Shulman, Mr. Monsky, Judge Perlman and Mr. Lowitz participating.

Judge Rothenberg then offered the following resolution:

"The Interim Committee, having heard the report of the Committee on United Jewish Representation, expresses its gratification at the collaboration of the World Jewish Congress, the Board of Deputies

of British Jews, and the American Jewish Conference at San Francisco and approves with satisfaction the continuation of such collaboration in the future.

"The Interim Committee authorizes the participation of the American Jewish Conference in a planned conference at London touching future program of the work of the American Jewish Conference."

This was adopted.

Judge Rothenberg then proposed the following motion:

"The Interim Committee is of the opinion that all questions touching the widening of representation in the joint committee be deferred until the London meeting of the three bodies."

After discussion, Mr. Lipsky suggested that this be phrased as follows:

"We suggest that the question raised by the Board of Deputies of British Jews with regard to the composition of the joint committee be deferred for consideration to the meeting in London."

This was agreed.

VIII. RESERVATIONS ON PALESTINE RESOLUTION.

Miss Evans stated that there was great dissatisfaction over the fact that the Conference, in its representations to the public, was not protecting the minority viewpoint of organizations neutral on the Palestine Resolution. She asked that a committee be appointed to sit with the responsible leaders of these groups to find a formula to be used consistently and to be mutually satisfactory. Mr. Lipsky moved the appointment of such a committee. This was agreed.

IX. REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Aaron Droock, Chairman, reported that he had established a committee of some fifty people throughout the country to assist in fund raising in the communities. He stated that \$51,500 had already been received from communities outside New York, \$22,625 from the organizations, and \$26,000 from the City of New York, and that under Mr. Max Schneider's leadership it was expected that \$100,000 would be raised in the City of New York. He expressed belief that the Conference budget of \$250,000 would be raised, pointing out that some of the leading cities had not yet had their campaigns or made their contributions.

He recommended that Max Schneider, Abraham Machinist, Aaron Riche, Arthur Brin and Max Bressler be made members of the Interim Committee. The Chair pointed out that there was no provision for additional cooptions to the Interim Committee, and suggested that those named by Mr. Droock be invited to attend the Interim Committee meetings as guests. It was so agreed.

The meeting then adjourned.

F. Strauss

August 9, 1945

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REPORT BY LOUIS LIPSKY, CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Before touching on the report, I think it is my duty and I think the duty of the Co-Chairmen, to call the attention of the members of the Interim Committee to the fact that we owe a debt of obligation to Mr. Kenen for having served in the capacity of the Secretary of our delegation, and having been present in San Francisco from the time a few days before the Conference until the very last moment, and having managed through administrative skill to have all the threads that bound together the Jewish delegations in the hands of a representative of the American Jewish Conference. He did his work, I think, to the satisfaction of everybody that was concerned with the work in San Francisco and I think we owe him a vote of thanks for his services.

Further, that it is the intention of the office to compile a complete account of what took place in San Francisco from the point of view of the American Jewish Conference.

Since the last meeting of the Interim Committee on April 11, the activities of the American Jewish Conference have centered in San Francisco. Inasmuch as there will be separate reports on the San Francisco meeting, this report will be brief. The staff has prepared a factual statement on San Francisco which you will find in your folders, along with a number of other documents which were submitted to the UNCIO.

While the United Nations Conference engaged the larger part of our interest in the national office, a number of activities have been carried on by the staff in New York. These include our intervention in connection with the desperate situation of Jews now in liberated territories, and negotiations with UNRRA, our cooperation with members of the U. S. Congress in an appeal to General Eisenhower, and our activities in connection with the situation in Rumania. We have also been concerned with efforts in behalf of the Jewish refugees in Oswego, and we have met with Justice Jackson on the punishment of war criminals.

There have been two meetings of the Committee on United Jewish Representation, and a continuation of the negotiations with the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress. More detailed reports on all these matters will be submitted to you.

Two documents have been issued. "Program for Jewish Post-War Reconstruction" and "Jews in Liberated Europe", under the direction of Dr. A. S. Kohanski, our Director of Research. In this connection, I regret to report that Dr. Kohanski has notified us that he is leaving for another position on August 1st. He will be succeeded by Dr. Frank Barth, an attorney and journalist, and former reference librarian at the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, who has already taken up his duties with the Conference.

Under the direction of Rabbi David Sherman, the Conference has carried on its activities in the communities far more intensively than in the past. In cooperation with the American Zionist Emergency Council, 88 community meetings were held on the eve of the San Francisco Conference. Since the Conference, there have been scheduled meetings in about ten cities - one of them in New York tonight - at which reports will be given of our work in San Francisco.

Since the last meeting of the Interim Committee, under the direction of Mr. Allen Roberts, who is in charge of radio programs, the American Jewish Conference has been on the air on thirty broadcasts - one a coast-to-coast hookup. On this network program tribute was paid to the work of the American Jewish Conference. Since June 1st alone, Conference representatives have spoken on 14 programs - most of them in reference to San Francisco. We will be on another coast-to-coast program on July 24th.

The Conference and its associated Organizations enjoyed a paramount position in the press throughout the San Francisco Conference, and much has been done to establish the Conference as the central organization representing the American Jewish community in post-war matters.

Mr. Grossman has compiled a list of forthcoming international gatherings which should be in the thought of the members of the Interim Committee in considering the problem that will be raised later on with reference to the further action of the Conference in connection with international affairs. The following is a list of the principal conferences of the immediate or early future at which questions pertaining to Jewish interests will or may be considered:

Meeting of the Big Three in the vicinity of Berlin around mid-July.

Following the Big Three conversations it is expected that there will be either an all-European Peace Conference or a series of conferences dealing separately with different phases of the war settlement.

There is also scheduled, at a date not yet given, a meeting of the League of Nations to consider the question of transfer to the new International Organization the assets and, so-to-speak, the liabilities of the former League of Nations which will be liquidated.

There will be the third meeting of the UNRRA whose tasks lie urgently ahead of it in Europe, in London on August 7th.

The Inter-American Economic Conference, concerned first of all with the problem of bringing about an orderly return to a peacetime economy throughout the hemisphere, will convene about November 15th or thereabouts.

The first meeting of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization will take place this fall, as soon as the necessary ratifications of the convention drawn up at Hot Springs in 1943 are completed.

The regular Inter-American Conference, which has been postponed since 1943 because of the war, is due to be held this fall or this winter, probably at Bogata.

Finally, the interim machinery of the United Nations World Organization will begin functioning shortly. The fifty-nation preparatory body will meet immediately at the close of the San Francisco Conference and will authorize a fourteen-nation Executive Committee to begin its work in London in about six weeks.

Approximately a dozen lesser conferences, some semi-official, in which the Government will participate informally, are to be held in the next few months to deal with such issues as safety at sea, education, and health, in which we are very remotely concerned.

I think this list of meetings gives an indication as to certain action that would have to be taken by the American Jewish Conference together with its associates in the joint committee.

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N.Y.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY

Co-Chairmen

MAURICE BISGYER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
DANIEL FRISCH
LEON GELLMAN
HON. LEWIS GOLDBERG
FRANK GOLDMAN
DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN
MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN
DR. ROBERT GORDIS
HAYIM GREENBERG
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN
MRS. HUGO HARTMANN
DR. JAMES G. HELLER
ALBERT E. KAHN
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN
MRS. BARNETT E. KOPELMAN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
ISRAEL KRAMER
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
DR. SAMUEL MARGOSHES
MORTIMER MAY
RABBI IRVING MILLER
DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN
HON. NATHAN D. PERLMAN
JEFFERSON E. PEYSER
HARRY A. PINE
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
ADOLPH ROSENBERG
DORAH ROTHBARD
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
BENJAMIN SAMUELS
LOUIS SEGAL
HERMAN SHULMAN
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
EDWARD S. SILVER
SIMON E. SOBELOFF
CHARLES SONNENREICH
ALEX F. STANTON
HON. MEIER STEINBRINK
HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD
DR. JOSEPH TENENBAUM
MRS. MAURICE TURNER
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

Executive Committee

LOUIS LIPSKY

Chairman

MAURICE BISGYER
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
JANE EVANS
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
LEON GELLMAN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
HON. NATHAN D. PERLMAN
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
HERMAN SHULMAN
MRS. HERMAN SHULMAN
ALEX F. STANTON
HERMANN STERN
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Silver:

I hesitated to participate in the discussion at the Executive Committee meeting of the Emergency Council yesterday, but I would like to submit to you my views on the proposed audience with the President.

Last week a representative of the Conference saw Congressman Sabath for further details on his talk with the President. According to this report, Sabath denied saying that the Jews preferred to stay in their countries of origin as he was quoted in the "Daily Mirror". Truman told Sabath that in view of the conflict and opposition to the establishment of Palestine as a national Jewish Homeland, particularly the opposition of the Arabs who seem to have the support of Great Britain, Truman will make all efforts to obtain the cooperation from the nations of the world to assure protection, fair treatment and justice for the Jewish people. If that is accomplished, there will be no need for mass immigration to Palestine. To this Sabath is alleged to have replied that Jews will appreciate his efforts but they will continue to strive and fight for a homeland in Palestine and for removal of immigration restrictions from their homeland.

Sabath also said that Truman is very much obsessed with the fear of bloodshed in the Near East and does not want to involve this country at all.

Sabath further stated that Truman hinted indirectly that not all Jews are for a Jewish Palestine and the Jews are not united on the subject. Sabath thinks he referred to Rosenwald's group and also to the embarrassments caused by Bergson and his followers.

Ever since Truman made his statement I have been of the belief that a broadly representative committee of the American Jewish Conference should visit Truman to convey to him the fact that the great majority of American Jews are actually united on this subject. I think this is of great importance in view of the

August 28, 1945

RECEIVED

NOTED BY	REFER TO
DATE	DATE
	AUG 29 1945
ANSWERED	

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.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver - 2
August 28, 1945

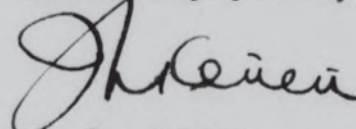
activities of the American Jewish Committee and the American Council for Judaism, both of which have been seeking to make a distinct impression on the President and the Department of State. I think it is a disservice to our cause if we do not utilize the American Jewish Conference to disabuse Truman of any exaggerated notions that he might have of Jewish disunity. In this undertaking, of course, the Emergency Council could work through the Conference, as was done effectively in San Francisco.

You will recall that the last time Dr. Wise saw President Roosevelt the American Jewish Committee hurried in and as a result the public was left with the impression that there were two factions - Zionist and anti-Zionist. It was at that meeting that Proskauer obtained Roosevelt's approval for status for the Committee at San Francisco, and it was only after a struggle that we succeeded in winning a place there for the American Jewish Conference.

We did a great deal at San Francisco and since to impress upon public officials that the Conference represents the overwhelming majority of American Jews and that the Committee was a minority affair. On the same theory it seems to me the approach to the President should be made through the American Jewish Conference. A committee to see the President might be composed of yourself and Dr. Wise and the three Co-Chairmen of the Conference. This would be a strong delegation.

I hope that you share my view. I know that it is a view held by many people in the Conference and that was expressed in the past following the disclosure of visits to the White House.

Sincerely yours,



I. L. Kenen

ILK:lf

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCEMINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

XVI.

Thursday, August 30, 1945

PRESENT: Louis Lipsky, Chairman; Samuel Caplan (alternate for Dr. Wise and Judge Perlman), William M. Gerber (alternate for Maurice Bisgyer), Dr. Israel Goldstein, Jacob Marrus (alternate for Leon Gellman), Judge Morris Rothenberg.

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, Sylvia Gilman, David Sherman, Dr. Frank Barth and Florence Strauss.

MINUTES PREVIOUS MEETING 8/6/45 - Approved.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

1. Liaison officers - Mr. Kenen reported that the Executive Committee at its meeting on August 6th had set up a Personnel Committee to interview candidates to go abroad for the Conference. A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Marrus, Kenen and Sherman had met and the following names were submitted to UNRRA:

Major Alfred Fleishman
Mr. Hans Lamm
Mr. Samuel L. Sar
Chaplain Herschel Schacter

The Conference has written to the War Department requesting the release of Major Fleishman and Chaplain Schacter in order to enable them to undertake this work.

Since the War Department authorized the Conference to appoint six liaison officers, Dr. Wise requested that the remaining two places be given to Chaplain Robert Marcus and Miss Sylvia Neulander who would represent the World Jewish Congress.

Mr. Kenen quoted from a letter which had been sent to UNRRA on August 17th listing the aims and responsibilities of the group:

- a. To aid in every way possible the restoration of the morale of Jewish displaced persons; to establish contact with them so that they may understand that their brethren in America and other free countries are deeply concerned in their welfare and their future; to render counsel and advice with regard to problems of resettlement and to assist displaced persons in the recovery of self-respect through the establishment of self-governing community organization in the camps and centers, and to encourage them to undertake useful activities and make personal decisions.
- b. To study and report on the actual conditions which obtain among displaced persons, their location and number, their age distribution, physical condition and psychological attitudes, their own plans and desires for the future, and to make regular reports on these subjects to the American Jewish Conference, so that it may be in a better position to formulate and project concrete proposals for their rehabilitation.

- c. To make representations to competent authorities on all matters affecting the welfare of the displaced persons; to protect whatever rights they have and to promote, insofar as possible, the expansion of these rights; to interpret to displaced persons the purposes and functions of UNRRA; to interpret to UNRRA and other authorities special Jewish needs and problems and to secure their recognition.
- d. To furnish spiritual, cultural and vocational guidance and inspiration.

A letter had been received from Mr. Droock criticising this project and the expenditure of this sum of money. He felt that the same thing could be accomplished through the J.D.C. and the World Jewish Congress.

Mr. Kenen stated that the Interim Committee at its last meeting had approved this project by implication. The cost is estimated at \$40,000 at the maximum. Salaries are to be set at \$4500 per year for single persons and \$5600 per year for married persons, plus all expenses. The group will wear the UNRRA uniform and will be billeted with either the Army or UNRRA. UNRRA is now working with the military authorities in Europe to clear stipulations and as soon as this has been done the group will apply for passports.

It was the consensus that the group should be given definite instructions, that one of the group should be appointed to act as leader - possibly Major Fleishman or Chaplain Marcus - and that regular reports should be made to the Conference.

2. Committee for Recovery of Cultural Property in Europe - To date four organizations have replied to the invitation of the American Jewish Conference to appoint representatives on this committee.

3. Washington Office - The Conference is contemplating opening a Washington office and several candidates are being considered in this connection.

4. Oswego - Rabbi Sherman talked with Congressman Dickstein regarding the Jewish refugees at Fort Ontario. He read a letter which had been sent to the State Department, Department of the Interior, and the Attorney General. There is at present an understanding among these departments that these people will be sent to Canada and then allowed to apply for admission to the United States under the regular quota system, but the agreement is waiting for President Truman's approval, and at present the camp at Oswego is still in operation.

5. Meeting with Earl Harrison - Mr. Bisgyer and Mr. Kenen met with Mr. Harrison shortly after his return from Europe. Mr. Harrison stated that the great majority of displaced Jews were opposed to repatriation and that most of them wished to go Palestine.

6. Publications of the Conference - "The Proceedings of the Second Session of the American Jewish Conference" and the "Report on San Francisco" have been published and are now available for distribution.

FOOD FOR EUROPE CONFERENCE

Rabbi Sherman reported that Americans United had invited the American Jewish Conference to join with them in urging that food be sent to Europe this winter to prevent starvation. The Rescue Commission was authorized to participate in the meetings of this group and to cooperate with them wherever practicable.

REPORT ON LONDON

Mr. Lipsky reported on the consultations which had been taking place in London among the American Jewish Conference, the World Jewish Congress and the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

A joint memorandum outlining proposals regarding the Jewish position in the liberated countries has been drafted (copies of this memorandum have been distributed to all delegates of the American Jewish Conference) and was submitted to UNRRA by the three bodies. Representatives of the various governments were approached with the request that they give their support to the suggestions outlined in the memorandum.

During the discussion of the forthcoming trials of the Nazi war criminals it was reported that Dr. Weizmann, Professor Brodetsky and Dr. Lauterpacht had occasion to meet with Justice Jackson who had declared that while it would not be possible to have a Jewish prosecutor at these trials, Dr. Weizmann may be invited to act as the witness for the Jewish case. It was decided to assist Dr. Weizmann in the preparation of the brief and to form a special commission representing the Jewish Agency for Palestine, World Jewish Congress, American Jewish Conference, and Board of Deputies of British Jews to cooperate with Dr. Weizmann who would thus be in a position to act as the spokesman for these bodies.

The problem of reparations and indemnification was thoroughly discussed. Dr. Bernard Joseph of the Jewish Agency has submitted the views of the Jewish Agency on this subject. The representatives of the American Jewish Conference suggested the setting up of a financial instrument which would act as a recipient of the reparations granted to the Jewish people. It was decided to appoint a special commission of experts in London to go into the matter thoroughly and to draft a memorandum which will be subject to the approval of all parties concerned.

To attain closer contact among the three cooperating bodies which would lead to speedy action, it was agreed to set up three-man secretariats in London and New York representing the American Jewish Conference, the World Jewish Congress and the Board of Deputies of British Jews. The joint secretariats would act under instruction of the respective bodies, make proposals as to steps to be taken in the light of developments, and initiate action. It is important that the American Jewish Conference be represented in the London secretariat since there will be many important international gatherings and intergovernmental conferences there.

Dr. Goldstein moved that Mr. Kenen be appointed to go to London as the American Jewish Conference representative for a period of four weeks to two months. CARRIED.

The Chair suggested that a wire be sent to Mr. Grossman to ascertain the agenda of the coming meetings of the Foreign Ministers and the Intergovernmental Committee to decide whether any action by the joint committee is indicated. It was also suggested that a public announcement be made of Dr. Weizmann's appearance at the war criminals' trials, as well as the fact that we are sending a group of representatives into the American zone of Germany.

INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING

The date of the next Interim Committee Meeting has been set for Thursday, October 4th, at 10:30 A. M. at the Biltmore Hotel, New York City.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to call the next meeting of the Executive Committee for September 13th.*

The meeting then adjourned.

F. Strauss

* The date of the next meeting of the Executive Committee Meeting has been changed to September 20th.



9/6/45
FSK;dk
afce/23076

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

MAURICE BISGYER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
DANIEL FRISCH
LEON GELLMAN
HON. LEWIS GOLDBERG
FRANK GOLDMAN
DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN
MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN
DR. ROBERT GORDIS
HAYIM GREENBERG
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN
MRS. HUGO HARTMANN
DR. JAMES G. HELLER
ALBERT E. KAHN
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN
MRS. BARNETT E. KOPELMAN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
ISRAEL KRAMER
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
DR. SAMUEL MARGOSHES
MORTIMER MAY
RABBI IRVING MILLER
DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN
HON. NATHAN D. PERLMAN
JEFFERSON E. PEYSER
HARRY A. PINE
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
ADOLPH ROSENBERG
DORAH ROTHBARD
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
BENJAMIN SAMUELS
LOUIS SEGAL
HERMAN SHULMAN
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
EDWARD S. SILVER
SIMON E. SOBELOFF
CHARLES SONNENREICH
ALEX F. STANTON
HON. MEIER STEINBRINK
HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD
DR. JOSEPH TENENBAUM
MRS. MAURICE TURNER
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

Executive Committee

LOUIS LIPSKY
Chairman

MAURICE BISGYER
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
JANE EVANS
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
LEON GELLMAN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
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HON. NATHAN D. PERLMAN
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
HERMAN SHULMAN
MRS. HERMAN SHULMAN
ALEX F. STANTON
HERMANN STERN
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

September 20, 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am happy to note in the minutes of the Emergency Council that you are proposing that representatives of the Conference be included in the delegation to the President should he accede to the request for an audience. I believe that it is desirable that the delegation be as broad and representative as possible.

I learned at last night's meeting of the Emergency Council Executive Committee that the President has not yet agreed to the request for a meeting, and I am wondering whether the Conference could be helpful in this respect. I may be mistaken, but it was my impression that after the President saw Dr. Wise in April there was a report that he was ready to see the representatives of other Jewish bodies. These meetings, however, did not materialize. I assume that the President was advised that there were many Jewish organizations, and that there might be some difficulty if he picked one over another. There is just the bare possibility that this may explain the present reluctance. If that is true, it might be worthwhile to submit the request for a meeting in the name of the Conference, at the same time pointing out to the President and his advisers the representative character of the Conference - a fact of which the State Department is now well aware in view of the work that was done by us before and during the San Francisco Conference.

Sincerely yours,

I. L. Kenen
I. L. Kenen

ILK:lf

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

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

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

MAURICE BISGYER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH
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DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LOUIS LIPSKY
Chairman
MAURICE BISGYER
AARON DROCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
JANE EVANS
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
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MRS. HERMAN SHULMAN
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DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
135 STOCKTON STREET ~ ROOM 739 ~ BUTLER BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO 8, CALIFORNIA
PHONE DOUGLAS 7717

September 28, 1945

TO THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

In view of the emergency created by reports of an impending unfavorable decision on Palestine by the British Cabinet, the Synagogue Council of America has proclaimed Thursday, October 4th, a day of prayer and intercession. On that day, services will be held in every community at 8:00 P.M. The Synagogue Council, comprising all the Jewish religious forces of this country - reform, orthodox and conservative - has sent instructions to every rabbi, asking him to arrange for such services in his own synagogue, or preferably to arrange with his colleagues for a combined service of all the congregations in each community.

May we ask you to urge upon your local rabbis the importance of holding such a service at the time designated, and to offer your cooperation in arranging and publicizing these services?

The Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference is meeting Thursday and Friday, October 4th and 5th, to consider action to be taken by the Conference in this emergency situation and we will keep you informed of all developments.

The time is short and we must act quickly to stir the conscience of America in an all-out effort to avert the betrayal of Jewish hopes in Palestine.

Very cordially yours,

Louis Lipsky

Louis Lipsky, Chairman,
Executive Committee

LL: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

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Thursday-Friday, October 4-5, 1945 - Biltmore Hotel, New York City

V.

The meeting opened on Thursday evening, October 4, 1945 at 8:50 P.M. with Mr. Henry Monsky presiding.

Present were: Dr. Israel Goldstein, Louis Lipsky, Dr. Abba Abrams (alternate for Dr. Robert Gordis), Maurice Bisgyer, Sigmund W. David, Aaron Droock, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans (alternate for Mrs. Hugo Hartmann), Prof. Hayim Fineman, Frank Goldman, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Albert E. Kahn, Sidney G. Kusworm, Mrs. Arthur G. Laufman, Mrs. Albert J. May (alternate for Mrs. Joseph M. Welt), Rabbi Irving Miller, Judge Nathan D. Perlman, Mrs. Louis A. Rosett (alternate for Adolph Rosenberg), Judge Morris Rothenberg, Benjamin Samuels, Louis Segal, William I. Siegel (alternate for Justice Meier Steinbrink), Edward S. Silver, Charles Sonnenreich, Mrs. Samuel Spiegel (alternate for Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman), Hermann Stern, Rabbi Mordecai A. Stern (alternate for Rabbi William Drazin), Robert Szold, Rabbi David A. Wise (alternate for Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath), Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Mrs. Stephen S. Wise, and Baruch Zuckerman.

New York delegates were also present.

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, Mrs. Sylvia Gilman, David Sherman, Frank Barth, Allen Roberts, and Florence Strauss.

I. MINUTES OF MEETING JUNE 25, 1945 - Approved.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Louis Lipsky, Chairman, reported as follows:

1. Tribute to the memory of Herman Shulman - Those present rose in tribute to the memory of Herman Shulman, while Mr. Lipsky recorded the Committee's sorrow over Mr. Shulman's untimely death.

2. Liaison Officers - Early in May, acting on reports received from abroad, concerning Jews in displaced persons' camps, the Conference requested the authorities in Washington to permit Jewish liaison officers to establish direct contact with displaced Jews in Germany so that special attention might be given their needs. After meetings with representatives of UNRRA and the War Department and continued efforts in Washington, supported by six Jewish Congressmen, the War Department informed the Conference on July 28th that a limited number of representatives of American Jewish organizations would be permitted to enter the American zone in Germany under the supervision of UNRRA to aid in the problems of stateless and non-repatriable Jews. The Conference was assigned six of the ten places allocated by the War Department and immediately submitted a number of names to UNRRA. On September 21st, Director General Lehman approved the following persons:

Major Alfred Fleishman, Mr. Hans Lamm, Dean Samuel L. Sar.
Approval of Chaplain Herschel Schacter was pending subject to his discharge from the Army.

Of the six places granted the Conference, Dr. Wise asked that the World Jewish Congress be given two. One of the persons designated by the Congress could not accept.

The primary objective of the Conference representatives in Germany will be to restore the morale of Jewish displaced persons, who are reportedly in despair at the prospect of continued residence in camps where their friends and relatives perished. They will assist in the establishment of selfgoverning community organizations in the camps; work out problems of resettlement; make representations to competent authorities on all matters affecting the welfare of displaced Jews; protect their present rights, and as far as possible, promote the expansion of these rights; and study and report on actual conditions in the camps, their location and number of inhabitants, and the self-expressed desires and plans for the future of displaced Jews.

The delay between War Department approval on July 28th, clearance by UNRRA, and issuance of passports by the State Department may be attributed in part to the slow processes of governmental operation and in part to continued difficulties within UNRRA and the Army over the advisability of admitting Jewish representatives.

On September 30th, Colonel Charles I. Schottland, who was leaving the Army to take charge of Relief Services for UNRRA, met with Mr. Monsky, Mr. Lipsky and Mr. Kenen to discuss the work of the Conference representatives. He also met with Major Fleishman, Mr. Sar and Mr. Lamm to brief them on their duties.

Mr. Lipsky recommended that the Interim Committee express its formal appreciation to the members of Congress who assisted the Conference in this project.

3. Harrison Report - Immediately upon his return from Europe and before he had presented his report to the President, Mr. Harrison was visited by Mr. Bisgyer and Mr. Kenen who, after receiving his impressions presented to him the recommendations which had been submitted to UNRRA within the previous fortnight by the Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress. Mr. Harrison agreed to study these recommendations and to include in his report those with which he concurred. In an attempt to discredit his report to the President, newspaper correspondents were permitted to visit Camp Feldafing where they reported conditions were not in accord with Mr. Harrison's findings. Dr. Goldstein, who visited Camp Feldafing in July of this year, issued a statement on behalf of the Conference, pointing out that Camp Feldafing was a model camp two months ago, that it was the exception and not the rule, and that it could not be cited in an effort to impugn the accuracy of Mr. Harrison's report.

4. London Meeting - In July and August, representatives of the Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress met in London and discussed and agreed upon future action in connection with forthcoming international conferences and meetings of intergovernmental agencies.

5. Canadian Jewish Congress - The Canadian Jewish Congress informed the Conference that while it is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, it is not bound by its decisions. The Canadian Jewish Congress requested a direct invitation to participate in the joint committee meeting in London. The question was taken up in London and it was agreed that it was a matter for the World Jewish Congress to decide.

6. Shanghai Jews - A plea was received from J. M. Machover, Chairman of the Australian Committee for the Relief of Stateless Jewish Refugees, requesting that the Conference intervene on behalf of the Jewish refugees in Shanghai. Mr. Grossman, for the Conference, and Dr. Tartakower, for the World Jewish Congress, called at the Chinese Embassy in Washington and submitted a plea that the Chinese Republic request UNRRA to include the more than 20,000 Jewish refugees in Shanghai in its relief and rehabilitation program, and that a Jewish relief unit sent by Australian Jews be permitted to enter Shanghai.

7. Oswego Camp - Dr. Hayim Fineman, Chairman of the Rescue Committee, wrote to Attorney General Clark, Secretary of State Byrnes and Secretary of the Interior Ickes, pointing out that the enforced repatriation of Jewish refugees at the Fort Ontario Shelter at Oswego would bring grave international repercussions, and might encourage other countries where thousands of refugees have found temporary or permanent havens to engage in wholesale deportations. It was hoped that the Oswego refugees would be permitted to re-enter the United States and establish permanent residence under the quota, but latest reports indicate that the President, holding himself powerless to act under the law, may refer the whole question to Congress.

8. Rescue Committee - The Rescue Committee has taken action to facilitate immigration into this country of displaced Jews from the American occupation zone who have relatives here and who desire to come to this country under existing immigration laws. At present, there are no consular facilities in Germany and the quotas remain unused. The Committee decided to request the State Department to establish consulates and recommended that the Conference urge appointment of a special adviser on Jewish problems to UNRRA Headquarters in London.

9. Food for Freedom - Representatives of the Conference attended meetings called by the Food for Freedom Committee, headed by Mrs. Dwight Morrow, and the Co-Chairmen of the Interim Committee were invited to designate one of their number to appear in a delegation which called on President Truman on September 17th. Since that date was Yom Kippur, they were unable to accept the invitation, but the Conference associated itself with the committee's program.

10. Dr. Filderman - Reports that Dr. Wilhelm Filderman and other Jewish leaders in Rumania had been arrested by the Rumanian authorities, were denied by Under-Secretary of State Joseph C. Grew in his letter of July 5th, replying to a communication sent him by the Conference.

11. International Organization on Culture and Education - Dr. Barth and Mr. Kenen attended a meeting called by the State Department to canvas public reaction to the draft constitution which it had prepared for the International Organization on Culture and Education. The Post-War Committee considered proposals to strengthen this constitution, looking to the imposition of sanctions by the new organization against nations which pursue educational and cultural programs in violation of the purposes of the United Nations Organization. It will also consider and draft memoranda to be presented in London at the forthcoming meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

12. Change of Names of Committees - The Executive Committee has considered a number of proposals to change the names of existing committees and redefine their scope, but it was agreed that the committees would continue under their present names with the understanding that the Committee on Rescue would be concerned with immediate rescue and rehabilitation problems, and the Post-War Committee would be concerned with rights and long-term reconstruction questions.

13. Palestine - On the eve of President Truman's departure for a meeting with Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Marshal Josef Stalin in Berlin, the Co-Chairman of the Interim Committee on July 2nd addressed a message to the President urging him to use his best endeavors in favor of decisive action to open Palestine to mass Jewish immigration and to reconstitute that country as a Jewish Commonwealth. President Truman later requested Prime Minister Attlee to permit 100,000 Jews to enter Palestine, but it is reported that the Attlee Government instead proposes to restrict Jewish immigration to 1500 a month. Public opinion against such a restriction is being aroused by the American Zionist Emergency Council, and the Conference has been cooperating in this effort. Mr. Monsky was invited by the Council to preside at a mass meeting in Madison Square Garden, New York, on September 30th. At the request of the Conference, over 95,000 cards were mailed by its affiliated organizations, exclusive of the four major Zionist bodies. All delegates outside of New York City were asked to support the appeal of the Synagogue Council of America and to assist in arranging special religious services throughout the country.

14. Preservation and Recovery of Jewish Cultural Property - Cooperating with the World Jewish Congress, the Conference invited a number of American Jewish organizations to designate representatives to an American committee to be concerned with the preservation and recovery of Jewish cultural property in the European occupied zones. In view of the fact that there are a number of such committees, it was agreed in London that an effort be made by the joint secretariat to coordinate work in this field.

15. United Nations Charter - A copy of the resolution adopted at the last meeting of the Interim Committee, urging speedy ratification by the United States Senate of the United Nations Charter, was sent to every member of the Senate and many responded favorably. At the same time, the Conference cooperated with the American Association for the United Nations in sponsoring a mass demonstration in Washington on July 6th, addressed by Lt. Commander Stassen.

16. Greek Decree on Jewish Property - The Conference has communicated to the Greek Ambassador to the United States its appreciation of the Greek Government's announced intention to utilize for the rehabilitation of surviving Greek Jews property of Jews exterminated during the war and unclaimed by legal heirs.

17. Committee on Organization - In accordance with a decision made at the second session of the Conference, the Executive Committee asked each of the nine groups in the Conference to designate two representatives to serve on a committee to study and report recommendations to the Third Session concerning the structure and organization of the Conference. The Committee, which held its first meeting on October 1st, consists of: Louis Lipsky, Henry Monsky, Maurice Bisgyer, Samuel Caplan, Harry M. Ehrlich, Arnold R. Ginsburg, Mrs. Benjamin Gottesman, Charles P. Kramer, Jacob Marrus, Rabbi Irving Miller, Samuel Rothstein, Alex F. Stanton, Michael Stavitsky, Justice Meier Steinbrink, Rabbi Seymour M. Zambrowsky, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, Louis Segal and Dr. Hayim Fineman. Justice Steinbrink was elected chairman.

18. Third Session - Since representatives of the Conference are now leaving for Europe and since the process of peace-making is now so unclear and uncertain, it was the consensus of the Executive Committee that it take no action on fixing the time and place for the Third Session, but it recommends to the Interim Committee that this matter be determined at the next meeting of the Interim Committee, some time in December.

19. Community Relations - To avoid duplication of work, the Executive Committee approved a plan to channel public relations activities of the Conference through local community councils wherever the local Conference delegates find it desirable. We have entered into arrangements with 15 community councils and are continuing negotiations with others. Where no council exists, delegates have been requested to form public relations committees, consisting of the chairman and secretary of the Conference election district, heads of the larger Jewish organizations and other active Jewish leaders in the community, which will arrange public gatherings, handle press and radio contacts, and sponsor general educational programs in the interest of the Conference.

20. Washington Office - The Executive Committee has voted to open a Washington office and engage Mr. David R. Wahl as Washington Secretary. Mr. Wahl has an excellent record as an executive on the staff of the Foreign Economic Administration, his most recent post being that of Chief of the Eastern European Division.

21. Radio - Since June 1st, the Conference has been on the air in New York City on twenty radio broadcasts, four of these being national network programs. Mr. Allen Roberts, in charge of this project, has arranged to have the Department of State schedule the Conference for one of its weekly broadcasts in December. All of this radio time has been procured without expense to the Conference.

22. Conference Publications - 8,000 copies of the Report on San Francisco have been distributed through the Conference office and the organizations affiliated with the Conference. The Proceedings of the Second Session, edited by Dr. Kohanski, has been published.

Upon completion of Mr. Lipsky's report, Rabbi Abrams moved that letters be sent to Congressmen Celler, Dickstein, Kopplemann, Rabin, Rafiel, Sabath and Weiss expressing appreciation for their help in bringing about the granting of permission to dispatch liaison personnel abroad. CARRIED.

III. REPORT ON LONDON MEETING

Mr. Grossman, who was present at the consultations between the Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress in London, submitted a comprehensive report on these activities. (Text attached.)

IV. REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee, Mr. Droock, Chairman, submitted the financial statement of the Conference as of September 30th, and reported that to date his committee had raised \$63,158.81 from communities throughout the United States; \$32,491.50 from the City of New York, mainly through the Zionist Organization of America, the B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Congress; \$24,050 from the constituent organizations; and \$640.34 miscellaneous; totalling \$110,341.15.

In view of the additional expenses incurred by undertaking to send liaison officers overseas, attendance at London conferences, setting up a Washington office, etc., it will be necessary to raise the full \$250,000 budget voted at the second session of the Conference. In order to organize the fund-raising effort in New York City, Mr. Droock suggested that borough committees be set up, each with a chairman or possibly two co-chairmen; that funds be raised by assessing each organization which participated in the 1943 election the sum of \$10.00 for every elector. There being no objection to this plan, the following were asked to serve as chairman and co-

chairmen in each borough: Brooklyn - David Benjamin, William I. Siegel, David Silver; Manhattan - Louis Fabricant, Judge Nathan D. Perlman, Hermann Stern; Queens - Mordecai Konowitz, Rabbi Mordecai Stern; Staten Island - Max Levy; Bronx - Isidor Teitelbaum, Dr. Abraham Grossman, Mrs. Blanche Mogil, Rabbi Joseph Gabriel.

There followed a short period of questions from the floor. Mr. Elias Ginsburg of Brooklyn was asked to put his suggestions with reference to Palestine in a memorandum to be presented to the proper committee of the Conference. Thereupon the meeting adjourned until the following day.

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Friday morning session - Oct. 5th, 1945

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 A.M. with Mr. Monsky presiding.

V. THIRD SESSION

In accordance with the suggestion of the Executive Committee contained in Mr. Lipsky's report, it was moved and seconded that the question of fixing the date of the third session be determined at the meeting of the Interim Committee in December, provided that the Executive Committee shall begin now to give attention to preparations for the third session, so that it will be able to make definite recommendations for a time and a place at the December meeting of the Interim Committee, and on such election changes that are required in order to establish the personnel for the next session. CARRIED.

It was agreed that the delegates be advised of this action and the reasons for it, inviting their reactions.

VI. REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (Continued)

Mr. Droock read the list of affiliated organizations, which had as yet paid nothing, or only part of the amounts assessed. Adjustments in the amounts assessed were made, with the approval of the Interim Committee, where such adjustments were thought to be equitable.

VII. REPORT BY DR. GOLDSTEIN

Dr. Goldstein submitted a report on his personal observations in Europe. (Text attached.) After a short period of questions and answers, the members of the Interim Committee thanked Dr. Goldstein for his presentation.

VIII. REPARATIONS

The Interim Committee formally approved the action of the representatives of the Conference in London in setting up the joint secretariat and the joint committees on reparations and war crimes.

As Mr. Grossman had reported, the Jewish Agency for Palestine proposed that the memorandum on reparations should "contain a claim that such reparations (100% of the money claimed as reparations in kind for the Jewish people) should be used for the resettlement of surviving European Jews in Palestine." Miss Evans moved that the question of using 100% of the reparations for the upbuilding of Palestine be referred back to the Post-war Committee for its preliminary consideration, with instructions to report to the Executive Committee, which will have full power to act. Seconded and CARRIED.

IX. PALESTINE

In connection with the present situation in Britain and Palestine, Mr. Kenen proposed that a telegram be sent to the President of the United States; a cable be sent to Prime Minister Attlee; a cable be sent to the Jewish National Council of Palestine; and a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Harrison on his splendid report to the President. Proposed drafts of these communications were then submitted to the Committee.

It was moved that such action be taken and after editing by the members of the Interim Committee, the proposed communications were unanimously approved. (Miss Evans, Mrs. May and Mrs. Rosett did not vote on the telegram to the President of the United States.) Full texts were published in Bulletin #70, Oct. 12th, and the October issue of the Conference Record.

X. AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AND AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM

The Interim Committee instructed the Executive Committee to appoint a committee to formulate a clear statement of facts on actions taken by the American Jewish Committee and the American Council for Judaism to short-circuit the efforts of the mass of American Jewry toward a just solution on the Palestine issue.

The meeting then adjourned.

F. Strauss

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REPORT OF DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
ON THE SITUATION IN GERMANY AND FRANCE

Interim Committee Meeting
October 5, 1945

The report of Mr. Earl Harrison has made it unnecessary for me to do more than give you a few highlights. It so happens that I was present for nearly a week while Mr. Harrison was visiting the camps in Germany, and I am able therefore to bear out the validity and the accuracy of his observations. His report not only shows a fine humane understanding but also an alert observation, so I would suggest that those of you who are eager to understand the picture as a whole, read the Harrison report.

It was my privilege to visit the American Zone from Frankfurt to Munich. I traveled by American jeep through the cities of Frankfurt, Mannheim, Darmstadt, Augsburg, Heidelberg, Pforzheim, Stuttgart, Munich, and some smaller towns in the vicinity. It was very difficult to get into Germany. Now that we see how the military authorities have handled the situation, we can understand why they were so reluctant to have civilians enter.

Permit me to dwell for a few minutes upon a conversation I had with Rabbi Neuhaus of Frankfurt, who is now in charge of that community, and represents it vis-a-vis the military government. He told me he had recently come back from Theresienstadt, that there were about 700 Jews living in Frankfurt, most of them pre-war residents, and that others were coming in from their hiding places. Some of these Jews were "mischlings", descendants of mixed marriages and themselves intermarried. Many of these "mischlings", he felt, would probably remain in Germany. But as for the others, the full Jews, he believed they would stay in Germany only long enough to recover some of their money and possessions, if possible, so that when they leave Germany - as they will - they will be able to go out, not as beggars, but with some resources, which will make them more useful to the countries of their immigration. I dwell upon this because there may be some misunderstanding, after a time, when we examine the number of Jews remaining in Germany. Since Rabbi Neuhaus felt it necessary to make these remarks, I feel it necessary to convey his observations.

He complained at the time that the Jews in the Frankfurt area were not receiving the treatment to which they were entitled as anti-Nazis; that they were regarded by the military authorities as German nationals and were receiving smaller food rations than displaced persons. Obviously that was a gross injustice. Those of us who were there and spoke to Rabbi Neuhaus were in a position to mention this matter to the military authorities, and that situation has been corrected. According to present over-all military orders, Jew are to be treated as anti-Nazis and are to receive whatever preferential consideration that category is entitled to. But in this regard, as in many other regards, there is no coordination between the various army areas in the American Zone, let alone between the American, the British, the French and the Russian zones. In the American Zone every area commander is a monarch in his own domain and some commanders take pleasure in ignoring suggestions coming from a neighboring army area. Even directives which come from General Eisenhower, himself, are not always treated with the deference one might expect. Therefore it happened that while for the record the regulations of the military authorities were correct, with regard to the displaced persons and other Jews living in Germany, in daily life, that which was on the record was not being implemented. The criticisms voiced in recent months have, for this reason, been extremely helpful in getting those directives carried out in practice.

I visited one or two camps in the Wetzlar area. They were Polish camps, where a very small number of Jews were included. I found that some of these Jews were Maranos, virtually; they were living anonymously; they were afraid to divulge their Jewish identity because of the bad relations between the Poles and the Jews, about which you know.

The camps I saw were generally in a miserable state, as you read in Mr. Harrison's report. UMRRA teams were, on the whole, ineffective. The personnel of the teams was, for the most part, ill-equipped for the job. They were good-hearted people, average social service workers, waiting around for directives from somewhere on high, although within ten or fifteen miles of where they were, supplies of food and clothing were available. All they had to do was to exercise the prerogatives which were theirs or secure orders from a military official, because according to the regulations, it is the duty and the responsibility of the German population to provide supplies for displaced persons. But the UMRRA people sat around, waiting for someone to give them a directive.

It may be that by this time the situation has improved, but it was obvious from my observations in many of the camps, that at that particular time in the month of July, the whole UMRRA organization was inept and inadequate.

I now mention one camp which I visited. This was a model camp insofar as any camp can be satisfactory. Of course, we must realize that the best of the camps is unsatisfactory. What these displaced people want is to get out of the camps and into homes, into a different type of environment. But of the camps, the best in Germany to my knowledge was Camp Feldafing, in Bavaria, not far from Munich. I dwell on Feldafing because you have seen it in the newspapers recently, and it has been invoked by the military authorities as proof that Mr. Harrison's observations are not borne out by present conditions. I would like to say that Camp Feldafing was already a model camp and an exception in the month of July, as indeed it is an exception today. It is just another form of whitewash to take journalists to this particular camp (Feldafing) and thereby give the impression that it is typical. I dwell on Feldafing because it indicates that the best work which has been done for displaced person has been done not because of top military officials but in spite of them, and very often the value of the work has been in direct ratio to the disregard of top military officials.

Here was a job that was done by an American Jewish Lieutenant, Irving Smith from South Bend, Indiana. Another splendid job was done in the Heidelberg area by Lieutenant Hutler of Chicago. Irving Smith was in the military government when the Feldafing area was liberated. He found a train with 1500 Jews awaiting deportation. He made it his personal responsibility to take charge of these people. He found them famished, diseased, in rags. Immediately he located an ideal spot which had been used as a Hitler Youth summer camp, excellently equipped with dormitories and kitchen facilities, and beautifully situated on a lake facing the Bavarian Alps. It had accommodations for approximately 4000 people. He brought this group of Jews to the former Hitler Youth camp. He requisitioned physicians, nurses, and dentists from neighboring German villages. He began to nurse these people back to health, although a number of them who were in advanced stages of typhus could not be saved. Simultaneously, he looked around for food, and he exacted all the food supplies he was able to find. He brought 40,000 pieces of underwear from a warehouse that had been set aside for storm troopers, he brought thousands of pounds of leather from another warehouse, he brought thousands of yards of cloth from Dachau where it had been stored for conversion into SS uniforms. He then proceeded to find more Jews in the area. Wherever he found Jews in mixed camps, he transferred them. Those were the early days when things were in flux and anyone who exercised initiative and resourcefulness could do almost what he pleased as indeed many American Jewish chaplains had done.

Lieutenant Smith assembled 3000 other Jews so that he established a community of more than 4000 people. He began to search out the talent among these 4000 people, and he found tailors, shoemakers, teachers, cooks and bakers, so he organized tailorshops, and bootmaking shops, and classes for youngsters.

It required a full day really to see the camp with all its offshoots. The night that I arrived there was an outdoor concert. Lieutenant Smith had secured German labor to build a stage and a stadium, and that evening 2000 people listened to the wonderful talent among their own group. I spoke to them and they were thrilled to hear a message from an American Jew. I shared their meals so that I could see what kind of food they were getting. In addition to the food he had requisitioned, Lieutenant Smith also arranged with the Red Cross for supplementary packages.

I saw 400 children attending classes. When I speak of children I mean youngsters between 14 and 18 because there were no younger children, just as there are no men and women much over 50. The Nazis had exterminated those who could not labor for them. I found a number of young people engaged in Jewish study. It was really touching, that Friday morning to go through the dormitories and see groups of boys between 14 and 18 in the exercise of ma'avir sedra. They were looking over the portion of the week in the good old Jewish tradition; several were studying hilchos shabbos. They told me that they were looking forward to going to Palestine, not only for the common reasons advanced, but because they wanted to go to a place where they would be free to go back again to the Book. These children had been away from books for the past four years.

Camp Feldafing impressed me as a remarkable piece of social engineering by a man who had had no previous social service training, who just used good old Jewish "saychel" and courage. Without waiting for directives, he did the best job that has been done for displaced Jews in Germany.

The human material in Camp Feldafing was on the whole rather good, especially among the younger people. Of course, some had become demoralized. What impressed me was the resilience of these people. They were angry and spoke resentfully, and I like that. They were not crushed; they criticized American Jews, who, they thought, were insufficiently cooperative; "Where were you," they said, "when we were in the Nazi concentration camps waiting for messages of cheer and comfort, and others got those messages, where were yours?" And "on the day of our liberation why weren't you there to bring us out immediately from Germany to some other place?" Of course, they had exaggerated notions of the power of American Jewry - five million strong - and I must say that to some extent I felt their "j'accuse" was justified. I regarded their ability to articulate their resentment as a sign of good morale.

When I arrived in London I sent a letter to Governor Lehman, head of UNRRA, offering a number of suggestions for improvement in the camps. Most of these suggestions are in Mr. Harrison's report. It seemed to me necessary to introduce compulsory classes for young people and also some form of useful work for adults. Without proper direction, the displaced Jews were not inclined to work. They would say, "We worked enough under Hitler; we don't have to work any more." That might be all right for a few weeks, but after a month or so, that kind of idleness becomes demoralizing. Something also must be done to provide recreational facilities.

Now I want to say a word about displaced books, a sort of parallel to displaced persons. I saw about 200,000 displaced Jewish books, which filled one big three-story building in Frankfurt. These Jewish books had been looted by the Nazis from libraries all over the continent. The collection included not only choomoshim, siddurim, etc., but also some rare and precious treasures, wonderful folios of the Talmud, special editions, incunabula, and also scores of Sifre Torah.

Why these books had been preserved was a mystery. Had the Nazis not found time to get around to burning them? Had they kept these books for their anti-Jewish museums or for research in order to validate their warped and fantastic ideas about Judaism? Did they want to have books around to remind them of their conquest over

Judaism? I don't know. But there they were, more than 200,000 volumes, and I must say these books were not sufficiently guarded. I immediately brought this fact to the attention of the Department on Archives and Antiquities in the Military Government. Now they are guarded and the books are being classified. Some of these books have to be nursed back just as displaced persons have to be nursed back. These were the remnants of the millions of books which had been burned. I couldn't help drawing this analogy between the books and the human beings, both remnants of the millions that had been burned. Many of these books were defaced. I recommended that these books be distributed among the Hebrew University library, those libraries still extant on the continent of Europe, and some of the great Jewish libraries here in the United States.

I want to say a closing word about France, where I spent two weeks meeting with every type of Jewish organization. The central organization is the CRIF, which is the overall organization corresponding to the American Jewish Conference. There are also the special Zionist groups and Communist groups, and the philanthropic organizations.

I visited the children's homes. The number of children still under Christian care was a small fraction of the total. Most of the children were either back in their own homes or in OSE, SERE, WIZO or Jewish Boy Scouts Homes, all of which receive their basic support from the JDC, with supplementary funds from particular interested groups.

There is a dearth of books in France for child education. There is also a dearth of teachers, religious books and Hebrew text books. Teachers should be brought from Palestine. The books might be obtained from England and the United States. Perhaps the American Jewish Conference may want to interest itself in what is already being done in that field by other organizations, and see if something more can be done through the stimulation of the American Jewish Conference. I will be glad to go into the details with some committee, but there are six or seven organizations, from the JDC to some of the religious orthodox organizations, every one of whom is collecting books. I think most of you are perhaps familiar with that.

Now in France I had the opportunity to meet with the Central religious body, the Consistoire, and it was a novel experience for me to speak to the gentlemen of that body in Yiddish. I was not able to speak French and they could not speak English - so we settled on Yiddish. Mr. Leon Meiss, their head, who understood just enough Yiddish, acted as interpreter. I felt that perhaps that in itself was precedent-breaking, when one remembers what the Consistoire in France represented. But they have changed in many ways. They have learned something from their ordeals. They have come much closer to the masses of the Jewish people and they have become much more pro-Zionist than they had been.

It was necessary for me to explain the American Jewish Conference to these Jewish organizations in France because some of them, like the Consistoire were in communication with the American Jewish Committee, and they wanted to know the details of the constituency of the American Jewish Conference. The argument which I think finally persuaded them was this: The American Jewish Conference is the only overall organization in which religious life has official representation, and I named the six religious bodies, three rabbinical and three lay, which are in the framework of the American Jewish Conference. That seemed to them something unique, and they felt that they ought to be associated with that type of organization. So for the time being, they feel quite satisfied to go along with the combination of the American Jewish Conference, the World Jewish Congress, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Some, however, expressed the desire to have similar status to the Board of Deputies, since they regarded themselves as an important Jewish community, which they are.

I believe that French Jewry is worthy of an investment of interest and attention on our part because 180,000 Jews is today a relatively substantial community; because they are fairly well organized; because they are more accessible to us than some of the other communities on the continent, and also because they look upon themselves as having something of a future in France as a Jewish community. Even though there is some anti-Semitism in France, as you well know, as long as there will be a liberal regime in France, the Jews there feel that there will be a future for them. From the religious point of view, if I may stress that, I think that the future of religious freedom in France is perhaps more sure than it is in the Russian orbit of influence on the continent. So for all these reasons, I would urge that we maintain contact with official bodies which represent French Jewry.

I could say much more, but my time is up. I want you to know that the American Jewish Conference was very much in my mind wherever I went and that numbers of Jewish communities have received perhaps more detailed and more specific enlightenment about the American Jewish Conference and what it represents than they had before.



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REPORT OF MEIR GROSSMAN
ON THE LONDON CONSULTATIONS

Interim Committee
Meeting, October 5,
1945

Development of the United Jewish Front

The establishment of a joint committee for consultation and coordination among Jewish bodies in various countries was initiated at a meeting of representatives of the American Jewish Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and the World Jewish Congress held in New York in January, 1945. The proposal referred to the respective bodies for ratification read as follows:

"A committee shall be set up of representatives of these three bodies to work out the means whereby consultation and coordination among themselves and such other Jewish bodies as are in agreement with their general policy, may be most effectively secured and their common objectives affecting postwar Jewish needs attained."

This plan was in line with resolutions adopted by the First and Second Sessions of the American Jewish Conference, expressing the need for establishing a Jewish representation to present the Jewish case before governments of the United Nations and intergovernmental bodies after the war had ended. The proposed agreement was approved by the Executive Committee of the Conference on Thursday, January 25, 1945.

The second step in the direction of establishing a united Jewish front took place at the United Nations Conference on International Organization. All three bodies were represented at San Francisco. Joint memoranda were submitted, problems confronting the Jewish people were jointly discussed, and the Jewish Agency participated in the consultations.

The London consultations from July 30 to August 29 were the logical outgrowth of the previous working arrangement. Seven sessions were held. Our work in London was somewhat complicated by the simultaneous conferences of the World Zionist Organization and the World Jewish Congress. Several sessions had to be postponed. But on the other hand, we had the benefit of obtaining first-hand reports from representatives of liberated Jewries who had at that time gathered in London.

The American Jewish Conference had delegated Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Monsky and Rabbi Goldstein to participate in the London consultations. Mr. Monsky was unable to attend, and Mr. Alex Stanton was named in his place. Executive Committee members who were in London were also asked to participate in the consultations. Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Mrs. Samuel Halprin, and Miss Juliet Benjamin sat in on a number of sessions. The Board of Deputies of British Jews was represented by Professor S. Brodetsky, Israel Cohen, Dr. Israel Feldman, Lord Nathan, Barnett Janner, M.P., Councillor A. Moss, J.P., and Professor Samson Wright. The World Jewish Congress was represented by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Leon Kubowitsky, Dr. Arie Tartakower, Dr. L. Zelmanovits, Mr. Baruch Zuckerman, Mr. Alexander Easterman, and Dr. N. Barou. The Jewish Agency for Palestine by Dr. Bernard Joseph and Mr. J. Linton.

The principal questions dealt with at the consultations were: (a) the position of the displaced, stateless and non-repatriable Jews in Europe; (b) submission of a memorandum to UNRRA; (c) clarification and definition of claims for reparation to the Jewish people for damages inflicted by Germany, and the practical means for presenting these claims to the United Nations War Reparations Commission; (d) the forthcoming major war criminals' trials in Nuremberg and the presentation of Jewish evidence; (e) widening of the present arrangement between the three bodies, with a view to including other organizations; (f) preparations for the peace conference, Jews in the USSR, and related problems (this question was postponed for the next

consultation); (g) safeguarding Jewish cultural heritage; and (h) establishment of a joint secretariat and further consultations.

Action on Behalf of European Jewry

The first question on the agenda was the position of the Jews in Germany. Dr. Goldstein, who had just returned from Germany, reported. His conclusions and those of the Board of Deputies and the World Jewish Congress confirmed all previous reports about the maltreatment of Jews in the camps in Germany and Austria. During our consultations, New York cabled that the War Department and UNRRA had granted the Conference permission to send a team of Jewish representatives to the American zone in Germany. This was considered a very important achievement since a similar request made by the Board of Deputies early in May had been turned down. The British Foreign Office was prepared to accede, but the British military refused to admit representatives of Jewish organizations. (Similar reluctance had been displayed by American military authorities.)

Jewish representatives from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Belgium reviewed the situation in their countries. It is interesting to note that Poland permitted twenty-one delegates to come to London; eight Polish delegates attended the Zionist Conference and eleven were present at the European Conference of the World Jewish Congress. The Polish delegates gave us a day-to-day picture of Jewish life in Poland that had not yet been revealed.

Our first practical job, a memorandum to UNRRA, signed by the Conference, the Board of Deputies and the World Jewish Congress was approved and presented to the Council of UNRRA on August 7, 1945. We asked for the following:

1. Authorization to re-establish contact between displaced persons and the Jewish community throughout the world. (The communications ban still exists.)
 2. Removal of displaced persons from camps to more congenial environment in villages or in groups of houses. (This has, in part, been done on order of General Eisenhower.)
 3. Education and vocational training for children and their transfer to other countries.
 4. Clarification of plans for emigration and resettlement.
 5. Consideration of special needs for clothing, food and medical supplies.
 6. UNRRA financing where local governments are unwilling to pay the costs.
 7. Assistance to facilitate re-employment.
 8. Encouragement of local initiative within the sphere of UNRRA's work.
 9. Extension of UNRRA's work to the Jewish population in Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, and to aid displaced Jews in France, Belgium and Holland.
 10. Assistance to German Jews in the way in which displaced persons of the allied nations are treated.
- Some of our recommendations have been acted upon.

Pointing out that the majority of Polish, Rumanian and Hungarian Jews were unwilling to return to their countries of previous residence, the signatories to the memorandum submitted that no displaced persons should be repatriated against their will, that they should be given adequate care, and that UNRRA should take requisite steps in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees to ensure resettlement of the so-called non-repatriables. We urged that full consideration be given to the fact that the majority of Jewish displaced persons desire to settle in Palestine. We also asked for the admission of Jewish observers to the Council of UNRRA, and for the second time, I must report that this request of the three leading Jewish organizations was rejected. However, we are renewing this demand in a different form. We are asking that UNRRA follow the example of the United States Army and appoint a Jewish advisor to UNRRA headquarters in London.

The Nuremberg Trials

The London consultations also considered the trial of major war criminals in Nuremberg. The indictment of the Nazi war criminals to be tried in November includes a Jewish count. The United States, Great Britain, Russia and France signed the charge, made public in Washington on October 19th, which specifically cites the Nazi plot to exterminate the Jewish people. This is an affirmative answer to repeated pleas by the American Jewish Conference that crimes against

Jews, including crimes committed before the outbreak of the war, be considered within the tribunal's jurisdiction. The indictment to which the four great powers have affixed their signatures definitely includes these crimes, dating from 1933.

All available evidence in support of the Jewish case against the Nazi plotters had been handed over by the three cooperating organizations to the Allied prosecutors and additional material is being collected. From conversations with representatives of the United Nations War Crimes Commission, it was evident that there is no chance to secure admission of Jewish amici curiae. But since crimes against Jews will be used as primary evidence in the trials, Jewish witnesses are to be invited to present the Jewish case. There were a number of meetings in London and in New York between representatives of the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference on the subject of the trials and discussions were held with those responsible for preparing the indictment.

In London, we were told that Justice Jackson who met Dr. Weizmann together with Professor Lauterpacht and Professor Brodetsky, suggested that Dr. Weizmann may be invited to testify, or submit the Jewish case. It was considered very important for Dr. Weizmann, although he will be invited as an outstanding representative of the Jewish people, to have his evidence fortified and supported by leading Jewish organizations, and for him to speak on behalf of the entire Jewish people. It was therefore decided that coordinated action should be taken by the three cooperating bodies, in conjunction with the Jewish Agency, in the presentation of the Jewish case against the major war criminals. Thus a special commission was set up in London to deal with the Nuremberg trials. The American Jewish Conference has named a noted European international lawyer, Dr. Franz Kobler, to represent us on this commission.

Reparations and Indemnification

Another important problem before the Jewish people today, and one that was visualized by the American Jewish Conference from its very inception, is our claim for reparations and indemnification. It might be opportune to refresh your memory on this point.

You will recall that the Second Session of the Conference adopted a number of resolutions on reparations and indemnification to be paid to the Jewish people. And I would like members of the Interim Committee who will have to make an important decision tomorrow, not to forget those resolutions. We asked for "special consideration to be given by the United Nations, both individually and collectively, to the problems of restitution of property and compensation for losses by Jews in health and life, communal and private property rights, interest and occupation. Special provisions will be required to secure reparation for general damages caused by Nazi aggressors and their satellites to the Jewish people, these reparations to serve to facilitate the rebuilding of Palestine as the Jewish national home."

We further proposed that "an international Jewish Reconstruction Commission and Jewish national reconstruction commission in the countries concerned, working in cooperation with it, shall be established and vested with all the powers necessary to procure the right to payment of indemnification to the Jewish people, Jewish bodies and individuals...The international Jewish reconstruction commission shall use all the funds at its final disposal directly or through the Jewish national commissions in the respective countries, for rehabilitation of European Jews and their communities and through the Jewish Agency for Palestine for the development of its program."

I would like to point out that on the question of reparations it was said that those reparations would serve to facilitate the rebuilding of Palestine as the Jewish National Home; and on the question of indemnification and the work of the reconstruction commissions, these funds which we hope to collect would be used mainly for the rehabilitation of European Jews. We were faced in London after VE Day with implementation of our objective -- to secure payment of damages to the Jewish people.

The Potsdam Conference had decided on reparations in kind, to be divided among USSR, Great Britain, United States and France. There is, of course, no chance of receiving anything from the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. There is very little possibility of receiving any percentage from France. There is, however, some hope of receiving from 1 to 2 percent from America and England.

The question now arises on what our claim for reparations should be based. We are not a state; we have no international status; we have no territory that has been devastated. At the same time, we know that there was a plot to exterminate the Jewish people and we know the extent of Jewish expropriation and Jewish suffering. It was the general consensus during the consultations, and it is very important to have this in mind for the decision to be made tomorrow, that the reparations claims should be based not on actual losses which the Jewish people sustained, but rather on the need for Jewish rehabilitation and reconstruction, and claims to cover the cost of re-establishing the Jewish survivors of Nazi terror in Palestine. There was another view, namely, that our claims should be based on the willful destruction of Jewish life and property by Germany and the Axis Powers.

It was agreed to address the United Nations on this subject, and to prepare memoranda for the War Reparations Commission.

There was also the problem of indemnification or restitution in cases where property stolen from Jews could be recovered and handed back to the owners; and indemnity in such cases where no claimants or heirs remain. The latter is a very complicated problem. We know that in various areas under Allied control as well as in neutral countries there are sums of money belonging to Jews. Negotiations are in process with some neutral countries and there seems to be a possibility of recovering these funds or using them for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Late reports indicate that some liberated Governments are taking over properties and goods of massacred Jews and using them for their own purposes. For instance, about 100,000 Jews passed through Theresienstadt (Terezin, Czechoslovakia). They were compelled to deposit all of their valuables in the local bank. According to some information, the value of the possessions deposited amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars. Now we understand that the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Social Welfare is using this money for purposes which have nothing to do with Jews.

At the London consultations, representatives of the American Jewish Conference suggested that initial steps should be taken to set up a trust instrument or agency to be established by leading Jewish organizations and Jewish communities in various parts of the world, for presenting Jewish claims, for receiving and administering funds, and for adjusting all other indemnification or reparations claims by Jews. We had in mind the formation of a trust company, along the lines of the Jewish Colonization Association established by Baron Hirsch, or on the basis of the Jewish Colonial Trust.

Representatives of the World Jewish Congress thought that the setting up of such a trust agency was premature, but that the readiness of Jewish organizations to create such an instrument should be indicated in the memorandum to be approved and presented. It was also necessary, they stressed, to ascertain the views of Jewries directly concerned.

Jewish Agency Proposals

As I reported earlier, the Jewish Agency participated in the London consultations. The Agency was represented by Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal advisor, and member of the Zionist Executive, and Mr. Linton, political secretary of the Zionist Executive in London. They acquainted us with a draft memorandum which the Jewish Agency had prepared on the question of reparations and I would like here to sum up their proposals. A vote will have to be taken on these proposals tomorrow. The representatives of the Jewish Agency proposed:

1. That the Memorandum on Reparations, which in fact would deal with reparations in kind from Germany out of the shares obtained by Great Britain and the United States, should be submitted by the Jewish Agency to the two governments. The Memorandum would contain a claim that such reparations should be used for the resettlement of Jews in Palestine. The Agency Executive hopes that such a Memorandum will receive the support of the three organizations. This is a very important point -- that 100 % of the reparations which we are to claim for the Jewish people are to be spent on the upbuilding of Palestine.

2. The Jewish Agency is prepared to sign a joint memorandum on indemnification, provided that a certain proportion is set aside for the resettlement of Jews in Palestine.

3. The Jewish Agency is prepared to sign a joint memorandum on the properties of Jews in allied and neutral countries, etc., for which there are no heirs, provided that a portion of the sums claimed is set aside for the resettlement of Jews in Palestine.

4. Reparations in kind and monies set aside for resettlement of Jews in Palestine should be administered by the Jewish Agency.

5. The Jewish Agency is prepared to appoint two representatives on the Joint Committee on Reparations and Indemnification to be established.

Mr. Lipsky and Dr. Goldstein had in the meantime left London, but I think even in their presence we could hardly have committed the American Jewish Conference to any decision. We therefore made an official statement, recorded in the minutes, reserving our opinion and leaving the final decision on this matter to the Interim Committee of the Conference. However, we agreed to form a four-man committee, comprising representatives of the four interested bodies to consider all relative matters, to approve memoranda, and to consider details of constitution and functions of a trust agency to be created. We have named Dr. Ernst Frankenstein as the Conference representative and have secured the advice of Dr. Idelson, who is a well-known expert on international finance.

The question of preparation for the peace conference was not discussed but left to the newly formed secretariat, about which I will report in a few minutes.

Safeguarding Jewish Cultural Heritage

Because of the continued duplication of Jewish effort in safeguarding Jewish cultural heritage, this problem was also discussed. A representative of the Board outlined activities by the Board and the Jewish Historical Society of England in the above matter, and suggested that the various organizations working in the United States and other countries, under the auspices of the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress, should coordinate their efforts with those made in England. The joint secretariat in London was advised to unify activities throughout the world for the recovery of Jewish books, manuscripts and other art treasures, looted by the Nazis. The several committees and research groups are to be merged into one body authorized to represent Jewish interests in this matter.

The Joint Secretariat

Another step in the consolidation of the united Jewish front was the organization of the joint secretariat. While in New York and in San Francisco the arrangement among the three cooperating bodies was still very loose and no actual machinery for coordination and cooperation existed, in London we decided to set up a joint secretariat. It was realized that the scene of major Jewish political activity had shifted to London and that it was therefore imperative to establish an executive instrument in that city to carry out the work of the leading world Jewish organizations.

The resolution on the secretariat, which was very carefully worded, reads as follows:

"For the purpose of implementing the agreement for close consultation and coordination among the American Jewish Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress, it is proposed: (1) that a joint secretariat be set up in London, consisting of a representative of each of the three bodies; (2) that such secretariat have the duty of: (a) collating all available information on postwar problems relevant to the work of the three bodies; (b) suggesting courses of action for the consideration of the three bodies; (c) carrying out such action insofar as it may be agreed by the three bodies.

"It is further proposed that consideration be given to the setting up of a similar secretariat in New York."

We announced, and it was later ratified by the Executive, that Mr. I. L. Kenen, the Executive Secretary of the Conference, will represent the Conference on the joint secretariat. We expect the secretariat in London to commence its activities upon the arrival of Mr. Kenen. The New York secretariat will be formed in the course of the next week or two.

Inclusion of Other Organizations

I now have only one more subject on which to report. On several occasions representatives of the Board of Deputies have raised the question of widening the consultations by inviting other organizations, such as the American Jewish Committee or the Anglo-Jewish Association, to participate. This proposal has been rejected by representatives of the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress.

As you will recall, we did invite Russian Jewry to join our consultations. We received no reply. We have also invited South African Jewry, but no action was forthcoming. The matter of French Jewry joining the consultations is still in abeyance. We have explained to the Board of Deputies that very important principles are involved. One principle is that only one national democratically organized group can represent any country. The Board of Deputies represents British Jewry, and the Anglo-Jewish Association is part of the Board. The American Jewish Conference represents the majority of American Jews and it cannot pay a premium to dissident organizations by allowing them an equal place at conferences of international Jewish bodies. I must say that the Board of Deputies was not satisfied with the decision and will again raise the question.

I would like to say in conclusion that the London consultations reviewed in proper perspective and against the background of our experience, should be considered a very important development in our efforts to establish a united Jewish front. In the course of the last ten months, the American Jewish Conference has succeeded in creating a joint secretariat of the three leading Jewish organizations and we hope that with the establishment of the joint secretariat in London and the two commissions, the program which was mapped by the two Sessions of the American Jewish Conference will be effectively implemented.

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

MAURICE BISGYER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
DANIEL FRISCH
LEON GELLMAN
HON. LEWIS GOLDBERG
FRANK GOLDMAN
DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN
MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN
DR. ROBERT GORDIS
HAYIM GREENBERG
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN
MRS. HUGO HARTMANN
DR. JAMES G. HELLER
ALBERT E. KAHN
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN
MRS. BARNETT E. KOPELMAN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
ISRAEL KRAMER
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
DR. SAMUEL MARGOSHES
MORTIMER MAY
RABBI IRVING MILLER
DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN
HON. NATHAN D. PERLMAN
JEFFERSON E. PEYSER
HARRY A. PINE
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
ADOLPH ROSENBERG
DORAH ROTHBARD
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
BENJAMIN SAMUELS
LOUIS SEGAL
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
EDWARD S. SILVER
SIMON E. SOBELOFF
CHARLES SONNENREICH
ALEX F. STANTON
HON. MEIER STEINBRINK
HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD
DR. JOSEPH TENENBAUM
MRS. MAURICE TURNER
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

Executive Committee

LOUIS LIPSKY
Chairman
MAURICE BISGYER
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
JANE EVANS
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
LEON GELLMAN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
HON. NATHAN D. PERLMAN
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
MRS. HERMAN SHULMAN
ALEX F. STANTON
HERMANN STERN
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

October 8, 1945

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

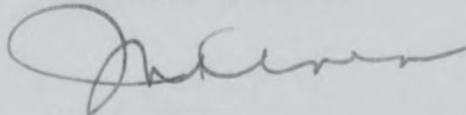
Dear Dr. Silver:

I requested Miss Lillie Schultz to ask Miss Kirchwey to take the leadership in sending the cable to Attlee as was proposed at the American Zionist Emergency Council meeting last week. Miss Schultz did a first-class job as you will note from the enclosed release.

While receiving some assistance from Mr. Allen Roberts of the Conference staff, I need not tell you that Miss Schultz requires very little assistance in any project she undertakes.

The "Nation" incurred a bill for telegrams which will be sent to me and which I will ask the Emergency Council to pay.

Sincerely yours,


I. L. Kenen

ILK:lf
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

October 10, 1945

Mr. I. L. Kenen
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

My dear Kenen:

Let me thank you for the splendid manner in which you carried through the matter of having a representative group of American liberal leaders send a cable to Prime Minister Attlee. It is a most significant achievement and you are to be congratulated.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 1945

TO: MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND INTERIM COMMITTEES

FROM: M. Grossman

SUBJECT:

Please take notice that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at the office of the Conference, 521 Fifth Avenue, on Thursday, November first, at 6:00 P.M. We trust that you will find it possible to attend this meeting.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the minutes of the last meeting.

Enc.
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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

XIX.

Thursday, October 18, 1945

PRESENT: Louis Lipsky, Chairman; Sam Caplan (alternate for Dr. Stephen Wise), Mrs. Moses P. Epstein (alternate for Mrs. H. Shulman), Prof. Hayim Fineman, Jacob Marrus (alternate for Leon Gellman), Judge Nathan Perlman, Mrs. Louis A. Rosett (alternate for J. George Fredman), Judge Morris Rothenberg, Samuel Rothstein, Hermann Stern.

Staff: Meir Grossman, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, Dr. Frank Barth, David Sherman, Sylvia Gilman, Florence Strauss.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 10/3/45 - Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Earl G. Harrison in reply to a letter which had been sent to him by the three Co-Chairmen expressing the appreciation of the Conference on his Report to President Truman.

2. A cable from Sydney, Australia, with regard to the relief unit which the Australian Jewish Relief Committee intends to send to Shanghai to aid the Shanghai Jews. Conference intervention with the Chinese Embassy was asked. Mr. Wahl, the Conference Secretary in Washington, called at the Chinese Embassy on October 17th, as a result of which a cable was sent to the Chinese Government asking them to facilitate the dispatch of the relief unit to Shanghai.

3. A letter from the Board of Deputies of British Jews dealing with the expansion of the present consultations among the Conference, the Board, and the World Jewish Congress by inviting the participation of other Jewish organizations outside of England and the United States. This matter will be taken up with the World Jewish Congress.

4. Mr. Elias Ginsburg submitted a memorandum containing certain proposals for action by the Conference on the Palestine issue. It was agreed to refer these proposals to the Palestine Committee.

5. The American Zionist Emergency Council informed the Conference that Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Chairman of the Palestine Committee, would be invited to all of the Council's executive as well as plenary meetings, in the interests of closer cooperation between the two bodies.

6. The American Zionist Emergency Council has asked the Conference to cooperate with them in a demonstration and parade scheduled to be held in Madison Square Park on Wednesday, October 24th, to express solidarity with the Yishuv. It was decided to place advertisements in the Yiddish press inviting the Jewish population to participate in the demonstration. The expenditure by the Conference was limited to \$300.00.

REPORT ON JOINT SECRETARIAT AND LIAISON OFFICERS

Mr. Grossman reported that Mr. Kenen left on October 12th for London where he will serve as the American Jewish Conference representative on the joint secretariat.

Major Alfred Fleishman and Dean Samuel L. Sar left for Europe on October 12th to take up their duties in Germany as liaison officers for the Conference.

REPARATIONS

a) Mr. Grossman reported that the Jewish Agency for Palestine had submitted a memorandum on reparations to the Governments of England, France, Russia, and the United States. The submission of the memorandum without previous consultation with the Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress is deprecated as contrary to the agreement reached in London. The New York Joint Committee on Reparations (the Conference, Congress and Jewish Agency) discussed the matter and both the Conference and Congress representatives stated that they are prepared to support the Agency's memorandum and the claim contained in it that reparations from Germany to the Jewish people be used for the up building of Palestine. The subcommittee of the Post War Committee approved this stand. Accordingly, a brief joint memorandum was prepared by the three cooperating bodies for submission to the Governments of the United States, Russia, England, and France, supporting the claims of the Jewish Agency. The Executive Committee approved the text of the memorandum and authorized its submission.

b) Mr. Grossman reported that a joint committee representing the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the Conference, and the World Jewish Congress will call on Under-Secretary of State Dean Acheson on October 19th for a preliminary exchange of views on the Jewish claim for reparations. Mr. William Gerber will represent the Conference.

MEMORANDUM ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Dr. Barth reported that a meeting of the Allied Ministers of Education will begin in November in London. The State Department has drafted a constitution for the Educational and Cultural Organization, and asked the Conference to submit proposals and suggestions for this constitution. The office has prepared a draft of such a memorandum and this draft has been circulated among members of the Post War Committee and some outstanding educators, with the request that they give their advice and make suggestions. Since the memorandum must be submitted within the next few days, the Chair moved that the office be authorized to submit the memorandum, subject to its approval by the Chairman of the Post War Committee and the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and carried.

COOPERATION WITH COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Mr. Sherman reported that progress is being made in securing the cooperation of community councils. To date, sixteen community councils have declared their willingness to work with the Conference in furthering its public relations program and negotiations are being carried on with nineteen others.

COMMITTEE TO DRAFT STAND ON AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AND AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM

In accord with the recommendation made at the Interim Committee meeting on October fifth, a committee was appointed to formulate a clear statement of fact on actions taken by the American Jewish Committee and the Council for Judaism to short-circuit the efforts of the mass of American Jewry toward a just solution of the Palestine issue, and to submit such a statement to the Executive Committee at its next meeting. The following were named to serve on this committee: Mr. Maurice Bisgyer, Mr. Sam Caplan, Miss Jane Evans, Mr. Albert Kahn, Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Rabbi Irving Miller.

THIRD SESSION

After a brief discussion as to the advisability of holding the Third Session in December 1945 or the spring of 1946, it was agreed, in accord with the decision of the Interim Committee, to make preparations for the holding of the Third Session in the spring of 1946. At the same time, a letter is to be sent to all delegates informing them of this postponement, and asking them to express their opinion on the subject. It was further decided to call upon Mr. Charles Kramer to begin officiating as Chairman of the Committee on Credentials in view of the many changes which have taken place in the composition of the Conference requiring reappointment and re-election of delegates.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

In view of the postponement of the Third Session and in order to keep the delegates fully informed of the Conference activities, it was decided to hold five regional conferences during the month of December in conveniently located cities. These conferences will be addressed by members of the Executive Committee if possible.

REPORT TO THE JEWS OF AMERICA

Mr. Grossman suggested that in line with the decision to acquaint wide circles of American Jewry with the activities and accomplishments of the Conference, steps should be taken for the publication of special Conference issues in the Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish press. Simultaneously, paid advertisements are to be inserted in these publications, briefly reporting the activities of the Conference since the Second Session. An appropriation of \$3,000 was voted for this purpose.

COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION

Mr. Grossman reported that the Committee on Organization met on October 15th. It was attended by nine members and the Chairman of the Executive Committee. Numerous proposals as to the future organization and structure of the Conference were made and discussed. It was decided to instruct the office to formulate all proposals and recommendations so that members of the Committee and the affiliated organizations would be in a position to vote on them. The next meeting of the Committee is to be held in the middle of November and its final recommendations will be submitted to the Interim Committee and the Third Session.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to call the next meeting of the Executive Committee for Thursday, November first.

The meeting then adjourned.

L. Friedman

10/25/45

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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

XX.

Thursday, November 1, 1945

PRESENT: Louis Lipsky, Chairman; Sam Caplan (alternate for Dr. Stephen Wise), Mrs. Moses P. Epstein (alternate for Mrs. H. Shulman), Jane Evans, William M. Gerber (alternate for Maurice Bisgyer), Charles Kramer, Jacob Marrus (alternate for Leon Gellman)

Guest: Jefferson Peyser.

Staff: Meir Grossman, Dr. Frank Barth, Sylvia Gilman, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, David Sherman.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 10/18/45 - Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Zionist Organization of America asking for the appointment of a non-voting delegate to attend the Zionist Convention which is being held in Atlantic City, November 16 - 18. Mr. William M. Gerber was named to represent the Conference.

2. Letter from Mr. Earl G. Harrison acknowledging receipt of a communication from Dr. Goldstein regarding his report to President Truman.

3. Telegram from Louis Levin, Chairman of the Jewish Council for Russian Relief, asking the American Jewish Conference, along with 200 other organizations, to send a telegram to the Russian Anti-Fascist Committee. A motion was made and seconded to table action. CARRIED.

LETTER TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN

A draft was read of a proposed letter to President Truman in answer to the statements made in the recently published letter of King Ibn Saud to the late President Roosevelt containing an attack on Jewish aspirations in Palestine. It was agreed to dispatch the letter, subject to rewriting, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee was authorized to approve the final draft in line with the views expressed.

STATEMENT ON THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AND THE AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM

A statement drafted by a committee to formulate the Conference stand on recent actions by the American Jewish Committee and the American Council for Judaism was read. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to have the office redraft the statement, submit copies to all members of the Executive Committee, and take final action at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

REPARATIONS CLAIM

Mr. Grossman reported that the letter to the Secretary of State supporting the Jewish Agency Memorandum on Reparations was signed by the Conference and the

World Jewish Congress, since the Board of Deputies of British Jews felt that they were not in a position to put their signature to a memorandum addressed to the Government of the United States.

Mr. William Gerber represented the Conference on the committee which called on Under-Secretary of State Dean Acheson on October 19th, and reported that Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Perlzweig and he had had a very satisfactory interview with Mr. Acheson. Mr. Acheson was sympathetic and the machinery has been put into motion for consideration of the reparations claim of the Jewish people.

Mr. Grossman further reported that Mr. Kenen will go from London to Paris in connection with the United Nations Reparations Conference scheduled to begin on November 9th.

REPORT FROM LONDON

Mr. Grossman reported that the joint secretariat has been organized and is composed of Mr. Kenen representing the Conference, Mr. Barou of the World Jewish Congress, and Mr. Brotman of the Board of Deputies.

The joint commission on reparations in London has held two meetings at which the outline of the memorandum which is to be presented to the United Nations Reparations Conference was discussed.

Representatives of the Conference, Board and Congress met with representatives of UNRRA in London to discuss problems arising out of the joint memorandum presented to UNRRA in August. The two liaison officers now in Europe, Major Fleishman and Dean Sar, were also present.

A cable from Mr. Kenen was read in which he listed the following proposals to be included in the memorandum now being drafted for submission by the three cooperating bodies to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees scheduled to meet in Paris on November 20th: opposition to compulsory repatriation; protection of all dissidents; issuance of identity or travel documents to insure status; material help in countries where UNRRA is not operating; emigration to final settlements, stressing Palestine's availability, and facilitating reunion with families in other places.

LIAISON OFFICERS

Major Fleishman and Dean Sar, after much difficulty in obtaining the necessary authorization, arrived in Frankfurt on October 29th. Recent reports indicate that conditions in the camps are still unsatisfactory, and the liaison officers will have a great deal of work to do in helping the Jews in the camps. It appears that the food sent to the camps by Jewish organizations is not allowed to be distributed to Jewish inmates unless also distributed to non-Jews. The displaced persons are not allowed to send or receive mail, which is a great hardship. However, arrangements are being made which will permit them to send two letters a month. UNRRA is now contemplating the registration of all children in Germany with a view to reuniting Jewish children with their families.

THIRD SESSION

Mr. Grossman reported that thus far 241 answers have been received from delegates in answer to the letter asking their views on the date for the Third Session. 197 favor the spring of 1946, 41 favor December 1945, and 3 are undecided.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

The plan submitted by the office to hold five regional conferences either the first part of December or early in January was approved.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Dr. Barth reported on the memorandum which was submitted to the Secretary of State containing Conference suggestions and proposals for the constitution of the Educational and Cultural Organization of the United Nations which is to be considered at the meeting to be held in London shortly.

INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING

It was agreed to convene the Interim Committee for December 13th in New York City.

CONGRESSIONAL DINNER

The holding of a dinner for Congressmen who assisted the Conference in obtaining permission for the dispatch of the liaison officers to Germany was approved.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to call the next meeting of the Executive Committee for Thursday, November 8th.

The meeting then adjourned.

L. Friedman

11/7/45
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NOTE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

BETWEEN THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES
AND THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

* * *

1. APPROACHES TO GOVERNMENTAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES:

The Board feels that it is of the greatest importance that it should continue in the first place to submit all memoranda to H. M. Government, whether or no any particular memorandum is directed for consideration to an intergovernmental body. This is not only a question of continuing a long-established practice, but an essential in obtaining the support and views of H. M. Government on the subject submitted for consideration.

As a general rule, it would be appropriate that memoranda to international bodies should be submitted over the signature of the three bodies, but each case should be decided on its merits. The order of signatures in memoranda submitted to international bodies should be alphabetical. The question of whether, in the case of any such memoranda directed to international bodies, copies of the memoranda should be sent to all Governments concerned is also one for consideration in each particular case. It is true that in some cases the smaller States represented at international bodies are much more ready to put forward matters of Jewish concern than the big Powers, but it would appear in the light of experience that unless some support for a particular Jewish case is discussed beforehand with such powers as the United States or the British Government, there is little chance of general support of the case submitted and an automatic distribution of memoranda might be prejudicial in some of the joint endeavours.

When the Board of Deputies and the American Jewish Conference transmit memoranda to their respective Governments, the covering letters should indicate that the memoranda in question have been sent jointly by the three organisations to the Secretary of the particular international organisation concerned.

Questions of publicity of joint action taken should be the subject of discussion in each particular case.

2. GENERAL QUESTIONS:

The arrangements for co-ordination of the three bodies were made with a view to the extension of the arrangements to other appropriate organisations. Although the arrangements have been in operation for some months, the results of any consideration which may have been given to the matter by the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress are not to hand. The Board feels that the maximum effect of such arrangements can only be obtained when further evidence is given that Jewish organisations throughout the world are making unified approaches on Jewish questions. It is, e.g., a serious weakness that the communities in such countries as France, South Africa, etc., have not been brought into the arrangements, and there is scope for much wider extension, which, in the view of the Board, should be limited as little as possible by organisational differences, as long there is substantial agreement on a wide range of Jewish questions. The same applies to Palestine and the Jews of the Soviet Union.

A letter to the Board dated 16th November 1945, from Conseil Représentatif des Juifs de France (C.R.I.F.) states "We should be much obliged if you would be good enough to consider our request that we be associated in your consultations with the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference. We are sending a copy of this letter to these two organisations."

The position of the communities of such countries as Canada and Switzerland, which are affiliated to the World Jewish Congress, should be clarified. Canada, e.g., has indicated that whilst affiliated to the World Jewish Congress, it desires to be represented as a community in international Jewish conferences. It is believed that Switzerland also makes a like claim. This subject is one which should be discussed and clarified so that suitable action can be taken at the earliest moment, in view of impending conferences on Peace Treaties and the meetings of the United Nations Organisations.

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November 5, 1945

Memo. on Procedure

1. It was agreed at the first meeting of the Secretariat that we attempt to act jointly in submitting the views of the three organizations to international conferences.

2. The major purpose in such joint action is to obtain assent to our views and it is therefore proposed:

- a. That such memoranda as we may draft be submitted to all governments and that
- b. Stress be placed on the fact that Jews of many countries are in agreement and are working together to achieve a common program.

In this way, it is believed, we may to some extent overcome the contention that Jews are not united and that, accordingly, nothing can be done for them.

3. It is therefore proposed that joint documents be signed by all parties and that they be presented to all delegations.

4. In addition, it is suggested that the Board of Deputies and the American Jewish Conference transmit the memorandum to their governments, respectively, with covering letters, pointing out that the accompanying memorandum embodies the views of the three organisations and with the request that the governments give their support to them.

5. Announcements of this action should be made to the public jointly, so that Jewish unity may be most effectively demonstrated.

6. This was the procedure adopted at San Francisco. It was effective there because of the good impression made, not only on the governments but on the public Jewish and non-Jewish.

I.L.K.

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American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

BULLETIN

OF ACTIVITIES AND DIGEST OF THE PRESS

No. 74

Kislev 4, 5706

November 9, 1945.

A STATEMENT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN MINORITY GROUPS

The Interim Committee, at its October meeting, directed the Executive Committee to appoint a committee to formulate a statement of facts on actions taken by the American Jewish Committee and the American Council for Judaism to obstruct the efforts of the majority of American Jewry toward a just solution of the Palestine problem. At its meeting on November 8, 1945, the Executive Committee decided to make public the following statement:

The American Jewish Conference, organized by the overwhelming majority of American Jews with the cooperation of sixty national Jewish organizations, was formed to act for American Jewry in connection with the postwar status of Jews in Europe and the rights of the Jewish people with respect to Palestine. Its purpose was to unify and coordinate the endeavors of American Jewry and to influence international public action in the interests of the Jewish people. In furthering this objective the Conference has done its best to respect minority viewpoints among its own constituents in order to maintain a united Jewish front.

The American Jewish Conference feels, however, that it cannot remain silent in view of certain public activities conducted recently by minority groups whose primary purpose seems to be to weaken the cause of the Jewish people which the American Jewish Conference, as representative of the overwhelming majority of the Jews of America, is engaged in furthering.

For the past months the majority of American Jews, led by the American Jewish Conference and by the American Zionist Emergency Council, have concentrated their efforts to break the political impasse surrounding Jewish claims to Palestine and to force a favorable political decision, so that the doors of Palestine might be opened at once to the tens of thousands of Jews lingering in the concentration camps of Europe.

A nationwide campaign was organized and launched. Christian and labor groups were enlisted in support of Jewish demands. Discussions took place in the House and Senate. Representatives and Senators were visited by their constituents to urge their support of the Jewish cause. Never before had public opinion manifested itself with such force and fervor, drawing in such vast numbers and such varied elements of our citizenry. In short, through the efforts of organized Jewry, all elements of public opinion were marshalled to act upon the grave situation affecting the future of the Jewish National Home and of the displaced Jews in Europe.

These activities came to a climax toward the end of September. During the weekend of September 29 and 30, Earl G. Harrison's report was made public in Washington by President Truman. President Truman had sent his letter to Prime Minister Attlee, urging issuance of 100,000 certificates to displaced Jews. On September 29, Drs. Silver and Wise of the American Zionist Emergency Council (also leading members of the American Jewish Conference) visited President Truman and asked for his support of unrestricted Jewish immigration into Palestine and the fulfillment

of the pledge of both American political parties with regard to the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth.

On the same day, however, Judge Joseph Proskauer and Jacob Blaustein, representatives of the American Jewish Committee, also had a conference with President Truman. They asked him to use his influence to obtain "a prompt and substantial increase in the number of certificates" for Jewish immigration into Palestine, but utilized the occasion also to advise the President that political questions relating to the future of Palestine should be put aside. Since President Truman had already made his request to Prime Minister Attlee for 100,000 immigration certificates, the intervention of the representatives of the American Jewish Committee, whatever may have been their alleged intent, could only be interpreted as an effort to create the impression in the President's mind that a segment of American Jewry was opposed to political action now with regard to Palestine.

On September 29, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Co-Chairman of the American Jewish Conference, participated in a discussion on a national radio program under the title "Shall Britain Permit Unrestricted Jewish Immigration to Palestine?" That same evening, Elmer Berger, the Executive Director of the American Council for Judaism, spoke on another national radio program and stressed that a "substantial segment of American Jewry" dissented on this crucial issue.

On September 30, under the auspices of the American Zionist Emergency Council, and supported by the American Jewish Conference, a great mass meeting was held in Madison Square Garden, New York. Seventy thousand men and women massed in the hall and jammed the streets outside. Governor Thomas E. Dewey, Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Dr. Daniel Poling of the World Christian Endeavor Union, as well as prominent Jewish leaders, supported the demand to open the doors of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and to withdraw the White Paper.

On the same day, Morris S. Lazaron, of the American Council for Judaism, published in the New York Times a two-column letter to the Editor. This letter was timed to appear on the day of the Madison Square Garden meeting. We quote from Dr. Lazaron's letter:

"Our Christian fellow-Americans should know that Jews are divided on this issue...I believe more can be done in Washington, London, Moscow, Paris and with the Arab League and leaders through quiet conversations...than resolutions, mass meetings and persistent, irritating public pressure...It should be possible...to mitigate the fears of the Arabs by international guarantee against Jewish domination."

The same day was also utilized for making public in the press a statement by Lessing Rosenwald, President of the American Council for Judaism, in which he declared that an overwhelming body of American Jews oppose a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

We do not question the right of minorities to express dissident opinions or propagate their views. But we submit that these successive actions indicate a purpose and a plan to subvert the will of the majority of American Jews. They point to a strategy intended to misrepresent the stand of the majority of American Jewry at the critical time when a decision on Palestine appears imminent.

These minority groups were "jamming the wires" with propaganda in opposition to the efforts of responsible organs of American Jewish opinion as organized in the American Jewish Conference and its affiliates, with a view to weakening the impact of organized Jewish influence and to confuse the issue.

The facts speak for themselves. We refer here only to the public record. These activities of minority fragments of Jewish groups were not only a disgraceful and humiliating spectacle. They were, in fact, sabotage of the aims and hopes of the Jewish people.

The American Jewish Conference, therefore, protests and condemns the shocking conduct of these Jewish groups at a time when justice for the Jews hangs in the balance and when the lives of the survivors of European Jewry are at stake.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES TO BE HELD IN JANUARY

The majority of the delegates who have responded to the Executive Committee's letter, relative to the Third Session and Regional Conferences, have expressed their desire to participate in the Regional Conferences.

The Conferences are planned for the first part of January, on the 6th, the 13th or the 20th. The delegates' wishes as to exact date and place are now being ascertained. The Conferences will hold two sessions, afternoon and evening, and will be addressed by members of the Executive Committee.

In addition to delegates, officers of Jewish Community Councils, local Federations, rabbis and electors will be invited to hear reports on recent Conference activities.

OTHER CONFERENCE LIAISON OFFICERS LEAVE FOR GERMANY

Hans Lamm, member of the team of liaison representatives which the American Jewish Conference is sending abroad to assist Jewish displaced persons in Germany and Austria, left this week for Germany, via France.

Chaplain Herschel Schacter and Horace Marston, whose passports were cleared this week by the American military authorities, will leave for Germany next week.

THIRD SESSION REFERENDUM

A tabulation of responses received to date from delegates with regard to the proposed date of the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference, reveals the following:

For the spring of 1946	234	
For December, 1945	44	
For June, 1946	1	
Undecided	4	Total* 283

*Of this total, 30 are from alternates who were present at the Second Session.

REPARATION PARLEY OPENS IN PARIS

The United States, Great Britain and France will open reparations conferences in Paris on November 9, to review statements of war damage and expenditures submitted by the seventeen nations claiming indemnity from those regions of Germany occupied by the three western powers.

In connection with the Jewish claims for a percentage of reparations from Germany for damages inflicted on the Jews of Europe, I. L. Kenen, Executive Secretary of the American Jewish Conference, was instructed to proceed to Paris in order to prepare the ground for the submission of memoranda on the subject, now being drafted by the Joint Committee on Reparations set up in London. Mr. Kenen was due to arrive in Paris on Friday, November 9,

DELEGATES' FORUM

George Berke, Chattanooga, Tenn., writes:

"As you are now planning for a third session of the American Jewish Conference, I will take the liberty at this time to discuss briefly certain phases of the past two sessions of the Conference.

I attended the First and Second Sessions as a delegate representing the Chattanooga community. Except for being physically present and thus adding one to the number attending the Conference, I felt deeply disillusioned at my total inability to participate actively in the work of the Conference. I could not attend nor participate in any committee meetings, because I was placed on the Credentials Committee, which had little or nothing to do during the entire session. Not being a member on the Rescue, Palestine or Postwar Committees, I was not allowed to sit in on these committee meetings, much less participate in its deliberations...

Why can't any delegate attend any committee meetings, as long as he does not vote on the questions involved? Why can't a delegate be given the prerogative of choosing a place on a committee for which he may be best qualified to serve, thus giving each committee maximum competence? Each delegate would then prepare himself or herself with the necessary information on the problems to be discussed by the committee of which the delegate will serve as a member. A numerical adjustment of the various committees may be made with those delegates who have indicated no preference as to the committee on which they desire to serve...

I understand fully the object of blocs and therefore the necessity of caucus meetings. The registration of delegates into various blocs helps to ascertain the numerical representation of the various ideological expressions prevalent in Jewish life today, and thereby permitting to give proportionate representation on the various committees of the Conference from an ideological standpoint...

I know, of course, that the delegate was not bound to the decisions of the bloc, but would not the delegate feel happier if he were free, without any ideological reservations, to think and act in accordance to what, in his opinion, was the best for our people? This system I contend, is not conducive to unity and has a decided tendency to weaken the organizational structure, set up artificial walls among delegates and distract the minds of the delegates from the over-all purposes of the Conference.

I can see no harm, however, in the meeting of various groups for the crystallization of certain viewpoints. It is well for the delegates to attend these meetings, either to give their expressions or listen to the opinions of others, but I cannot see any useful purpose in the registration of delegates into these groups and thereby placing a moral obligation to attend meetings, to the exclusion of attending other meetings, or be morally bound even in the slightest sense to the majority opinion of the group or bloc to which a delegate becomes attached.

There is a great need in American Jewish life today for more rather than for less democracy, for more independent thinking rather than for the canned, top-heavy, self-perpetuating management of Jewish affairs.

We must think as Jews first and of our special or pet ideology second. In the last few decades, we overemphasized the work of organizations, and thereby reduced the rank and file to impotence and sterility. The work and organization of the American Jewish Conference further accentuated this trend..."

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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: November 20, 1945

FROM: M. Grossman

SUBJECT:

Please take notice that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at the office of the Conference, 521 Fifth Avenue, on Wednesday, November 28th, at 6:00 P.M. We trust you will be able to attend this meeting.

Enclosed you will find minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on November 1st and November 8th.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

XXI.

Thursday, November 8, 1945

PRESENT: Louis Lipsky, Chairman; Maurice Bisgyer, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Prof. Hayim Fineman, Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Jacob Marrus (alternate for Leon Gellman), Mrs. Herman Shulman and Alex F. Stanton.

Guest: Bernard Postal.

Staff: Meir Grossman, Dr. Frank Barth, Sylvia Gilman, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, Allen Roberts, David Sherman, Florence Strauss.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 11/1/45

Since the minutes of the previous meeting had not been circulated among the members of the Executive Committee in advance of this meeting, it was agreed to hold over their approval to the next meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the War Department in answer to a letter written by Mr. Lipsky concerning the forcible repatriation of Polish Jews from the American zone of occupation, which reads in part:

"This letter is to advise you that the incident is still under investigation by General Eisenhower's headquarters, and some information should be forthcoming in the near future. It is understood here that the redeployment of certain troops has served to delay the investigation somewhat."

2. Letter from Dr. Israel Goldstein naming Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt to replace the late Herman Shulman on the Executive Committee. Judge Rosenblatt's name will be submitted to the Interim Committee for approval.

3. Letter from Isaac Heller, delegate, informing the Conference that he felt his community had not elected him to serve indefinitely and he therefore cannot see his way clear to attending the Third Session. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr. Heller informing him of the procedure to follow should he choose to resign.

THIRD SESSION

Mr. Grossman reported that to date 283 delegates had expressed their views concerning the date of the Third Session. (This includes 30 alternates to the Second Session.) 234 favor the spring of 1946; 44 favor December, 1945; 1 favors June, 1946; and 4 are undecided.

Since it appeared that the majority preferred the spring of 1946, it was agreed to recommend to the Interim Committee May 5 - 7 as the time for the holding of the Third Session. The office was instructed to determine the possibility of holding the Third Session in the following cities: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit.

LIAISON OFFICERS

It was reported that Major Alfred Fleishman and Dean Samuel L. Sar are already in Frankfurt. (Mr. Grossman read excerpts from a letter written by Major Fleishman.) Mr. Lamm left for Europe on November 7th and Mr. Marston and Chaplain Schacter are expected to leave next week.

REPORT FROM LONDON

The joint secretariat of the Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress is functioning and has agreed to meet at least once a week or more often when necessary.

The joint secretariat is drafting memoranda to be submitted to the Educational and Cultural Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, and the United Nations Reparations Conference.

The problem of Jews escaping from Poland who wish to enter the American zone in Germany is being considered by the secretariat.

Dr. Robinson has been chosen to represent the three cooperating bodies at the forthcoming Nuremberg trials.

Mr. Kenen left on November 8th for Paris in connection with the Conference on Reparations taking place there.

STATEMENT ON AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AND AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM

The statement on the activities of these two minority groups was read, discussed, and after certain changes were agreed upon, adopted. (Text published in the Bulletin dated November 9th, 1945.)

COOPERATION WITH COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Mr. Sherman reported that 21 community councils have signified their willingness to work with the Conference in furthering its public relations program.

A letter from Mr. Nathan H. Brodsky, delegate from Newark, was read, in which he noted certain objections to the relationship established by the Conference with the Newark Community Council. It was agreed to refer his communication to Mr. Marrus, with the request that he discuss the matter with Mr. Brodsky.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Mr. Grossman reported that five regional conferences are scheduled to be held between January 6th and 20th. Letters will be sent to delegates asking their choice of time and place. Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Atlantic City and Atlanta have been suggested as cities conveniently located for these conferences. Members of the Executive Committee will be asked to participate in these meetings.

COMMITTEE ON RESERVATIONS

Rabbi Eisendrath asked that the statement protecting the viewpoint of certain groups within the Conference on the Palestine question be formulated and presented to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

RADIO PROGRAMS

The Conference has made arrangements for thirteen broadcasts over Station WINS on the Conference program and activities. These will be in the form of dramatic presentations. While the time was given free to the Conference, it will have to cover the cost of production. (Since the last meeting of the Executive Committee, this series of broadcasts was cancelled by mutual consent.)

NEXT MEETING

Since November 22nd is Thanksgiving night and November 29th is the first night of Chanukah, the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 28th.

The meeting then adjourned.

L. Friedman

11/19/45
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BULLETIN

OF ACTIVITIES AND DIGEST OF THE PRESS

No. 78

Tebet 3, 5706

December 7, 1945

CONFERENCE REACTS TO TRUMAN AND BEVIN STATEMENTS

The American Jewish Conference clearly defined its views with regard to current developments on the Palestine issue, in two statements made public during the past week.

In a December 6th press release, the American Jewish Conference clarified its attitude toward President Truman's reversal on the Wagner-Taft Senate resolution and the Jewish Commonwealth plan. It also forcefully isolated the activities of the American Council for Judaism from the body of American Jewry.

In a letter addressed to British Prime Minister Attlee, dated November 28th, the American Jewish Conference condemned Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's statement on Palestine, and repudiated his assertion of an allegedly existent cleavage between Jews and Zionists on this issue. A copy of the letter was forwarded to Secretary of State Byrnes, with the request that its contents be noted as expressing American Jewry's reaction to the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee on Palestine.

Letter to British Prime Minister Clement Attlee:

Sir,

The American Jewish Conference, speaking for democratically elected delegates from every Jewish community in the United States, as well as representatives of sixty nation-wide American Jewish membership organizations, deems it its duty to convey to your Government its sense of shock and outrage at the statement made on November 13th by Mr. Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary of your Government.

In that statement and in his subsequent interview with the press, Mr. Bevin, far from contributing to a constructive solution of the Palestine problem, beclouded the issue with assertions and insinuations which call for unequivocal refutation. Characteristic of Mr. Bevin's approach was his incredibly callous reference to the efforts of the Jewish people to rescue the pitiful remnants of their brethren in Europe as "wanting to get too much at the head of the queue."

His statement that "we never undertook to establish a Jewish State" is contrary to the undoubted intent and purpose of the Balfour Declaration and of the Palestine Mandate. As was authoritatively indicated in the Royal Commission report of 1937, Prime Minister David Lloyd-George, President Woodrow Wilson and other leading statesmen associated with the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, made it abundantly clear at that time, that what was intended in fact was the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. Mr. Bevin's statement also defiles the explicit pledges made by the British Labor Party before the British electorate and the whole democratic world.

Under the circumstances, it will be extremely difficult for Americans to have any confidence in the deliberations of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee, whose findings have thus been prejudged and prejudiced in advance.

We wish further to register an emphatic protest against Mr. Bevin's attempt to create a non-existent cleavage between Jews and Zionists by stating that "Jewry, as a whole, apart from the Zionist Organization, is anxious to see a final solution." While Jews may be divided on matters of tactics, the overwhelm-

ing majority of American Jews, as indeed all Jews everywhere, are united in their opposition to the iniquitous White Paper, and in their expectation that England shall fulfill her obligations to the Jewish people under the terms of the Mandate for Palestine, entrusted to her by the League of Nations.

So far as American Jewry is concerned, this position was evidenced by resolutions adopted at the first session of the American Jewish Conference in September, 1943, at the second session in December, 1944, and at meetings of the Interim Committee of the Conference. These resolutions call for the immediate abrogation of the Palestine White Paper, for opening the gates of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and for the reconstitution of Palestine as the Jewish Commonwealth.

In bringing to your attention the views of American Jewry, as organized in the American Jewish Conference, we wish to state our solidarity with the Jews of Palestine, and our determination to support the efforts of homeless survivors of European Jewry to join their own people in the Jewish National Home.

Respectfully,

Dr. Israel Goldstein

Louis Lipsky
Co-Chairmen, Interim Committee.

Henry Monsky

Press Release on President Truman's Stand; Activities of Council for Judaism:

President Truman's retreat from the Palestine plank in the Democratic Party's election platform was today deprecated by the American Jewish Conference as contrary to the best interests of the United States, of humanity, and of the Jewish people. The President's change of mind, as revealed in his withdrawal of support from the Wagner-Taft Senate resolution, and in a statement issued on his authority by David Stern, publisher of the Philadelphia Record, is profoundly disappointing to American Jews and may prejudice the findings of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, the Conference declared.

"Mr. Truman's retreat is not mitigated by the assurance that he still favors large-scale emigration of European Jews to Palestine. Jews in the United States, Europe and Palestine can no longer regard expressions of sympathy as a substitute for deeds, nor can the reiteration of sentiments, no matter how ardently professed, lessen the impact of harmful political pronouncements.

"The President's action clearly demonstrates that American policy has succumbed to British diplomatic pressure," the Conference statement continued. "This is the result of British maneuvering to silence the expression of American opinion on an issue which is fateful not only for Jewish aspirations in Palestine but for world peace.

"Reportedly, Mr. Truman expressed opposition to the establishment of any sovereign nation based on religion, race or creed. The establishment of Palestine as a democratic Jewish Commonwealth is not a religious or racial issue, and any attempt to present it in such a light is a travesty on truth. Behind the Jewish Commonwealth plan is the urge of a homeless people to achieve security and to dwell in a home, solemnly promised and guaranteed by fifty-two nations.

"Whatever may be the motives for the President's change of heart, it should be stressed that the United States is a partner to the Balfour Declaration - a solemn pledge which the British Government is now trying to cancel out. This pledge cannot be abrogated by anyone, however highly placed.

"The American Jewish Conference, organized by the overwhelming majority of American Jews to act on postwar problems facing Jews in Europe, declares that it unalterably and whole-heartedly supports the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth. The absolute majority of American Jews, as indeed of all Jews everywhere, are united in their opposition to the iniquitous White Paper, and their insistence that England shall fulfill her obligations to the Jewish people under the

terms of the Palestine Mandate, entrusted to her by the League of Nations. They solidly back the struggle of Palestine Jewry against attempts to whittle down their rights.

"There is no cleavage between Jews and Zionists on the fundamentals of the Palestine issue. Efforts to create such a cleavage are exploited in order to justify the reversal of commitments and pledges made to the Jewish people. According to Elmer Roper's recent poll, eight out of nine American Jews favor a Jewish State in Palestine.

"When non-representative and minority Jewish groups jam the wires with propaganda on the Palestine issue, in opposition to the definite stand of responsible organs of American Jewry, they are sabotaging the aims and hopes of a people for whom justice now hangs in the balance.

"Such Jews as Lessing Rosenwald of the American Council for Judaism, who have shown little interest in the reconstruction of the Jewish people in Palestine, now pretend concern for democracy in Palestine. They insinuate that a Jewish Commonwealth would not be a free country where peoples of all faiths may live in peace.

"This allegation is explicitly refuted by the Inner Zionist Council resolution, adopted in Jerusalem on May 31, 1945, and endorsed by the World Zionist Conference held during August, 1945, in London, which reads: 'The Jewish State will be based upon full equality of rights of all inhabitants without distinction of religion or race in the political, civic, religious and national domains, and without domination or subjection...The Arabic language and Arab schools will enjoy all state rights.'

"We cite this resolution to clear up any misconceptions which may have been injected into the discussion by insignificant and prejudiced groups. Fortunately, the American Council for Judaism does not speak for American Jewry, which has completely dissociated itself from that organization."

The Conference strongly criticized the American Council for Judaism's memorandum to President Truman, in which formal repudiation of "all official declarations on Palestine, in any way discriminating for or against a segment of the population" was urged. The proposal to hand over control of immigration into Palestine "to representative bodies of all the inhabitants of Palestine" is tantamount to endorsement of the White Paper, the Conference asserted. "The suggestion that 'Palestine shall not be a Moslem, Christian or Jewish State' is contrary to the pledges made to the Jewish people to reconstruct Palestine as the Jewish National Home."

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Z.O.A. CONVENTION APPLAUDS CONFERENCE WORK; ASKS EMERGENCY SESSION

At the 48th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America, held in Atlantic City last month, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"The delegates to the 48th Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America record their appreciation of the work done in the past year by the American Jewish Conference as the representative body of American Zionist sentiment. In these troubled days for Israel it is indeed well that such an indication of the unity of American Jewish opinion be brought before the public.

"The continuing evil plight of our European brethren and the current crisis in the Homeland make it imperative that the work of the Conference go on, and that the American Jewish Community continue to be represented by an overall body which will serve, as the Conference has done, to embody and crystallize the aims and purposes of the overwhelming majority.

"The Conference has in the past accomplished much toward the alleviation of Jewish suffering, and has acted to promote more efficient coordination of effort among American Zionist groups, thereby strengthening the entire movement and making it more effective as an instrument toward the establishment of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.

"It is therefore the consensus of the delegates here assembled that the Zionist Organization of America shall continue to participate wholeheartedly in the work of the Conference and do all in its power to strengthen its organization and assist in its program, and calls upon the membership to implement this decision of the Convention by lending every aid at its disposal to the Conference, as a symbol of the basic unity of our people in the fight for Jewish freedom.

"And be it further resolved that the Zionist Organization of America give to the American Jewish Conference greater moral and financial support and that a certain additional allocation of funds be recommended to the finance and budget committee to be set aside to foster and promote the work of the American Jewish Conference throughout the United States.

"And be it further resolved that an expression of gratitude and deep appreciation be extended to the American Jewish Conference and its leadership for the outstanding service and direction which it has rendered at the San Francisco Conference.

"And be it further resolved that this convention recommend to the American Jewish Conference the immediate convoking of an emergency and or extraordinary conference so that an expression of protest may be registered on behalf of all shades of opinion of American Jewry against the Zionist policy as expressed by Sec. Bevin and Clement Attlee.

"And be it further resolved that this convention urge the continuance of the present form and structure of the American Jewish Conference and further recommend that no new elections be held at this time."

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE TEAM IN GERMANY

Major Alfred Fleishman, member of the American Jewish Conference team in Germany, has left Frankfurt-on-Main for New York. Upon his arrival, he will submit a report on the team's activities and the general position of stateless and displaced Jews now in the various camps of the American occupation zone.

Dean Samuel Sar and Hans Lamm, also members of the Conference team, are at present engaged in community and educational projects in Germany, and contemplate going to Berlin to survey the situation of Jews in other occupation zones.

Horace Marston left for Germany, via France, on December 7th, and Miss Sylvia Neulander will follow early next week.

I. L. KENEN RETURNS TO NEW YORK.

I. L. Kenen, Executive Secretary of the American Jewish Conference, who has been in London and Paris for the last two months, meeting with delegates to intergovernmental conferences, held in both cities, and serving on the Joint Secretariat of the three cooperating Jewish organizations, was scheduled to leave London for New York on Friday, December 7th.

Mr. Kenen will submit a comprehensive report on the situation in Europe and his work there, to the Conference Interim Committee, which meets on Thursday, December 13th.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: December 17, 1945

FROM: I. L. Kenen

SUBJECT:

Please take note that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Thursday, December 20th, at 6:15 p.m. at the offices of the Conference. We trust that you will find it possible to attend this meeting.

The agenda includes:

1. Report from Major Alfred Fleishman on the situation in the camps in Germany which he visited. Major Fleishman returned from Europe last Saturday, is now in St. Louis, and will come to New York on Thursday to address the Executive Committee.

2. Ratification of time and place of the Third Session. It appears likely that of the three cities - Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit - the only city available to us in March is Cleveland and the time of the Third Session will probably be March 8th to 12th. It is essential that committees on Rules, Credentials, etc., be organized and begin to function at once.

3. Consideration of communications from the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the C.R.I.F. in regard to future operations of the Secretariat, etc. I am attaching a proposal which I made to the Board and to the World Jewish Congress in London on November 5th and the Board's reply, which is now before us for action. I referred to these matters at the meeting of the Interim Committee last Thursday and suggested that they be disposed of by the Executive Committee.

4. Interim budget for 1946.

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Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on November 28th are enclosed.

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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

XXII.

Wednesday, November 28, 1945

PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, Chairman; Maurice Bisgyer, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein (alternate for Mrs. H. Shulman), Charles Kramer, Jacob Marrus (alternate for Leon Gellman), Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Mrs. Louis A. Rosett (alternate for Jane Evans).

Guest: Mrs. Robert Aronson.

Staff: Meir Grossman, Dr. Frank Barth, Sylvia Gilman, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, David Sherman, Florence Strauss.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS - 11/1/45 and 11/8/45 - Approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the State Department acknowledging receipt of a letter from the Conference and World Jewish Congress supporting the Memorandum on Reparations submitted by the Jewish Agency.
2. Letter from the Treasury Department containing the ruling that contributions to the Conference are deductible from taxable net income.
3. Letter from the American Association for the United Nations asking the Conference to sign a letter being sent to President Truman on the question of the atomic bomb. It was the consensus to table action on this matter.

CONGRESSIONAL DINNER

The dinner for the Congressmen who assisted the Conference in obtaining permission for the dispatch of the liaison officers to Germany has been postponed until Mr. Lipsky's return from Palestine.

TRIPOLI SITUATION

Mr. Grossman reported that a letter had been sent to Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, over the signatures of the three Co-Chairmen, asking for the appointment of a five-power commission to investigate the anti-Jewish disturbances in Tripoli. The full text of the letter was published in the "Bulletin" of November 16, 1945. Action approved.

LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER ATTLEE

A draft of a letter to Prime Minister Attlee denouncing the stand of the Labor Party on the Palestine question and the alleged cleavage between "Zionists" and "Jews" was read. It was agreed to send the letter, subject to certain changes, and submit a copy to the State Department.

ARGENTINE RIOTS

It was moved that a joint delegation representing the Conference and the World Jewish Congress call on the Argentine Ambassador and submit a memorandum to him expressing concern over recent disturbances in Argentina. In the event that the Congress feels it is not in a position to participate in the delegation, the Conference is to send its own delegation. CARRIED

LIAISON OFFICERS

Mr. Grossman reported that the first report from Major Fleishman on conditions in the camps the Conference liaison officers have visited in the American zone in Germany has been received and is being distributed with the "Bulletin" of November 30th. Major Fleishman may return to America to present a special report to the Interim Committee on December 13th.

Mr. Hans Lamm arrived in Germany last week, and Mr. Horace Marston is leaving for Europe on Friday, November 30th.

Chaplain Schacter whose departure to Germany has been delayed due to the State Department's procedure in issuing passports, feels that no purpose would be served by his going to Germany for six or eight weeks and has asked to be released from his commitment. It was agreed that he be released unless Mr. Kenen, whose opinion was asked, cables that it is absolutely necessary for Chaplain Schacter to join the Conference team already in the field.

SIGNATURE ON CHECKS

It was moved that Dr. Goldstein be authorized to sign Conference checks in the absence of Mr. Lipsky. CARRIED

THIRD SESSION

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to adhere to the previous decision to hold the Third Session in the early part of May.

COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION

Rabbi Sherman reported that the Committee on Organization met on November 27th and formulated proposals and suggestions to be presented to the Third Session. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee that these proposals should first be submitted to the Interim Committee. Mr. Kramer suggested that the Organization Committee be present at the next meeting of the Executive Committee so that these proposals might be discussed.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Mr. Grossman reported that the regional conferences would be held on January 6th, 13th, and 20th in four or five conveniently located cities.

REPORT FROM LONDON

Mr. Kenen went to Paris on November 8th. There and in London he met with American delegates to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and the Educational and Cultural Organization of the United Nations.

Mr. Grossman read excerpts from Mr. Kenen's report on the activities of the Joint Secretariat and joint commissions on reparations and war trials. The Joint Secretariat has not been working as smoothly as had been hoped, Mr. Kenen reported, because the Board of Deputies of British Jews is under constant attack by the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Jewish Chronicle for its alleged submission to the "dictates" of the Conference.

Mr. Kenen asked for a decision on the question of the order of signatures on joint memoranda submitted by the Conference, Board and Congress and it was agreed that joint memoranda are to be signed alphabetically.

Mr. Grossman further reported, on the basis of Dr. Robinson's and Mr. Kenen's reports, that the Allied powers now considering the reparation problem are not inclined to recognize any claim of the Jewish people as a whole. The Memorandum of the Jewish Agency has been rejected, and the outlook for securing reparations in kind directly assigned to the Jewish Agency or other Jewish organizations is not promising.

During the discussion that ensued, it was suggested that the interest of some influential person in this country be enlisted in dealing with the problem of reparations. It was proposed that representatives of the Conference call on Secretary Morgenthau to ask his good offices in clarifying the matter. Mr. Bisgyer volunteered to arrange such a meeting.

THE INFORMATION ON REPARATIONS IS TO BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

The meeting then adjourned.

L. Friedman

12/11/45

dk

oeiu/153

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

INTERIM COMMITTEE-

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LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

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NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
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RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
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HERMANN STERN
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

December 26th, 1945

OFFICIAL NOTICE

TO THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

It was intended to hold the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference in the Spring, but the Interim Committee at a meeting held on December 13th advanced the date in view of developments requiring, in its judgment, review and action by the delegates of the American Jewish Conference; and gave authority to the Executive Committee to fix a definite date.

This is to notify you that the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference will be held in Cleveland at the Hotel Cleveland. It will begin on Sunday, February 17th at 1:00 P.M. and continue through Monday, the 18th and also Tuesday, the 19th, if necessary.

The General Committee will meet on Friday, February 15th at 10:00 A.M. at the Hotel Cleveland to approve the agenda and rules for the Session. Delegates who served on the General Committee in the past are requested to make arrangements to be in Cleveland at that time.

In view of the fact that a Peace Conference may be held about May 1st, 1946, and in view of current developments in the United Nations Organization and the appointment of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, the administration of the American Jewish Conference deems it of importance that the forthcoming session be attended by all delegates to the Conference so that it may be as representative as possible and that its decisions may reflect the considered viewpoint of the greatest possible number on matters of vital concern to the Jewish people.

It is important that you confirm the receipt of this communication and that you inform us at once whether you intend to serve as a delegate. In the event you are not prepared to serve, it will be necessary to take steps, under the rules, to provide for an alternate to serve in your place, in accordance with the system of election adopted at the First Session of the American Jewish Conference.

It is urgent that you reply to this notice no later than January 10th. Please fill in the enclosed post-card and return it to this office at once.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Lipsky

Louis Lipsky, Chairman
Executive Committee

LL: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

CLASS OF SERVICE

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

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

(57)

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DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

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CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS=

DEC 27 AM 11 57

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER TEMPLE EAST 105TH ST AND ANSEL RD

CLEVE=

UPON RECEIPT OF THIS TELEGRAM PLEASE SEND US IMMEDIATELY TEXT
OF LAST OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON PALESTINE ADOPTED BY GOVERNING
BOYD YOUR ORGANIZATION. THIS INFORMATION ESSENTIAL FOR ANGLO
AMERICAN COMMITTEE INQUIRY. ALSO STATE PRESENT MEMBERSHIP
DATE OF ORGANIZATION STATEMENT OF PURPOSES=

I L KENEN AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE.

BQA185

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American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

December 27, 1945

MAURICE BISGYER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
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ALEX F. STANTON
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DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President
Zionist Organization of America
1720 16th Street, N.W.
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Dr. Silver:

OFFICIAL NOTICE

It was intended to hold the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference in the spring, but the Interim Committee, at a meeting held on December 13th, advanced the date in view of developments requiring, in its judgment, review and action by the delegates of the American Jewish Conference, and gave authority to the Executive Committee to fix a definite date.

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We request that you call this to the attention of the delegates representing your organization who are according to our records the following:

Dr. Solomon Goldman
Judge Louis E. Levinthal
Herman Shulman

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

It is important that you confirm the receipt of this communication and that you inform us as soon as possible whether the aforementioned delegates will attend the Third Session or whether a substitution will be made.

Your action should be reported to us not later than January 10th.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Lipsky

Louis Lipsky, Chairman
Executive Committee

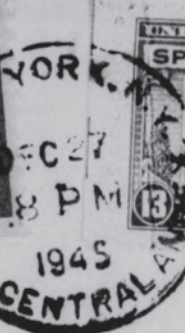
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oeiu/153



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.



*The Temple
E. 105th St. & Angel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio.*

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Central Conference of American
~~4905 Fifth Avenue,~~ Rabbis,
~~Pittsburgh 13, Pa.~~

AO

First Address.
Fee Claimed by Office of

January 2, 1946

Mr. I. L. Kenen
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Kenen:

Complying with your request, I am sending you the latest official resolution adopted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis with reference to Palestine. It was adopted at a meeting of the Executive Board held in Cincinnati on October 9, 1945.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis is the oldest Rabbinical body in the United States, having been founded in 1889. Its present membership comprises over 400 Rabbis representing the Liberal synagogues of America.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

January 3, 1946

The American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Please note that the new President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis is Dr. Abba Silver, and that his address is The Temple, Ansel Road at E. 105th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

Representatives of the Central Conference of American Rabbis to the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference will be Dr. Solomon B. Freehof, 4905 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. and Dr. Abraham J. Feldman, 145 Ballard Drive, Hartford, Conn.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

Secretary to Dr. Silver

January 4, 1946

American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I wrote to you yesterday giving the representatives of the Central Conference of American Rabbis to the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference. A better address for Dr. Abraham J. Feldman is 701 Farmington Ave., Hartford, Conn.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
521 Fifth Avenue

January 16, 1946

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Chairman
General Zionist Bloc
270 W. 89 St.
NYC

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Two notices have been sent out to delegates informing them of the forthcoming Third Session of the American Jewish Conference to be held in Cleveland February 17- 19.

We are enclosing a list of the members of your bloc from whom we have had no reply to date or who have signified that they are not planning to attend the Third Session.

May we ask you, as the Chairman of the General Bloc, to write to your members urging their attendance at this most important Third Session of the Conference. If for any reasons the regular delegates cannot attend, kindly impress upon them the necessity of acting speedily to make provision for the appointment of alternates.

Since the Conference will convene in less than five weeks, it is of the utmost importance that you write to these delegates at once in order that your bloc may be adequately represented in Cleveland.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Rothstein, Chairman
Committee on Credentials

CC Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
COMMUNITY DELEGATES IN GENERAL ZIONIST BLOC

No replies

Chaplain Morris Adler
(in army) Detroit, Mich.
Leonard Becker
315 No. Beckel St., Dayton, O.
Morton Chushner
148 Granby St., Norfolk, Va.
Dr. Albert K. Epstein
5 S. Wabash St., Chicago, Ill.
E. J. Evans
1021 Dacian Ave., Durham, N.C.
Dr. Arthur Gladstone
217 S. Union St., Burlington, Vt.
Dr. Israel Goldstein
270 W. 89 St., NYC
Abraham Goodman
200 Varick St., New York 14
Mrs. Jos. Hamerman
415 Central Park W. New York 25
Mrs. Jos. Horowitz
25 Eastern Parkway, Bklyn, 17
Rabbi Jacob Kohn
622 S. Kenmore, Los Angeles,
Calif.
Mrs. Nathan D. Perlman
25 E. 9th St., New York 3
Herman Zvi Quittman c/o Bnai Zion
220 Fifth Avenue, NY 1, NY
Charles J. Rosenbloom
521 Union Trust Bldg. Pittsburgh, Pa.
Edward Sachar
119 Watchung Ave. Plainfield, N.J.
Robert Szold
30 Broad St.

Uncertain

Isaac Abelson
2201 Second Ave. N
Birmingham, Ala.
Herbert I. Bloom
192 Clinton Ave.
Kingston, NY
Jacob Ish Kishor
30 Tehama St.
Bklyn, NY
Rabbi Israel Miller
124 Eames Place
Bronx 63, NY

Not Coming

George Berke
1133 Newby St., Chattanooga, Tenn.
Samuel Deutsch
627 N. Las Palmas Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.
David Diamond
932 Prudential Life Bldg., Buffalo, NY
Dr. Miriam K. Freund,
c/o American Zionist Youth Com.
381 Fourth Ave. NY, NY
David Geffen
437 Columbia St. Utica 2, NY
Judge Lewis Goldberg
100 Willard Rd. Brookline, Mass.
Joseph Goldstein
719 Union Tr. Bldg, Rochester, NY
Joseph Goodman
39 Tibbets Ave. Troy, NY
Rabbi Louis Greenberg
298 Norton St. New Haven, Conn.
Gustav Kaplan
2403 N. 3rd St. Harrisburg, Pa.
Dr. Louis L. Kaplan
1201 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, Md.
Edmund I. Kaufmann
702 H Street, N., Washington, D.C.
Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal
676 Eastern Parkway, Bklyn, NY
Mordecai Konowitz
39 Broadway, NY, NY
Rabbi Benjamin A. Lichter
5436 Jackson St. Pittsburgh, Pa.
Bernard G. Rudolph
1146 Meadow Brook Drive, Syracuse, NY
Albert Schiff
35 N. 4 St., Columbus, Ohio
Mrs. Michael A. Stavitsky
South St., Murray Hill, NJ
Dewey D. Stone
53 Arlington St., Brockton, Mass.
Mark Sugerman
Modena Rd., S. Coatesville, Pa.
Mrs. Leon J. Tiber
521 South Rossmore, Los Angeles, Cal.
Samuel Umansky
25 Colony St. Meriden, Conn.
David M. Watchmaker
44 School St, Boston, Mass.
Morris A. Zeldin
993 Lenox Rd. Bklyn, NY

Call
TO
The Third Session
OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE



521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

To the delegates of the American Jewish Conference:

The Jews of America are gripped by an acute sense of realism these first months of the postwar era. It was not expected that the day after the cease fire order was given all would be for the best in a fairly perfect world. But it was expected, eight months after V-E Day, that the great nations of the earth, united to build a new order on the ruins of the old, would by this time have proffered some constructive solution of the problems which make Jewish life tragically difficult and almost impossible in certain areas of the world.

It is not our desire to catalogue the sufferings and crimes committed against our people during the war. The International War Crimes Tribunal now prosecuting the war criminals in Nuremberg is ably performing that task. The indictments have been submitted; the evidence is being received; the black record has been permanently transcribed for posterity.

But redress and reparation for the crimes has not been offered. The process of righting the wrongs has not been achieved. On the contrary, since war formally came to an end, the position of the Jewish people has greatly deteriorated.

The Jews of Europe are still homeless and dispossessed and without proper defense. In European countries the harvest of anti-Semitism has cast new seeds in favorable soil. Signs announcing the exclusion of Jews still deface the gates of Palestine. Those who have declared that they would usher in a world of freedom have acquiesced in the sealing of the doors of the Jewish National Home to the homeless Jews seeking to enter. Nations comfortably seated in the United Nations Organization have permitted anti-Jewish riots to take place within their borders.

Under pressure to resolve the self-made impasse, but anxious to delay action that might open the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration, the British Government as Mandatory Power suggested, and the Ameri-

can Government agreed to, the appointment of a joint Committee of Inquiry. This Committee has completed its first hearings in Washington and will now resume its investigations in Europe and in Palestine. Its recommendations will be presented four months later to the governments of England and the United States. A solution of the problem must await termination of the work of the Committee.

Faced with the lack of international resolution to accord justice to the Jewish people even to the extent of relieving their immediate distress, the American Jewish Conference issues this call for the Third Session of its delegates to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from February 17th to February 19th.

Our purpose in advancing the date of the Session, originally scheduled for May, is to unify and articulate the demands of American Jewry at this time of crisis. The Jews of America have at this hour a particular responsibility; and on the American Jewish Conference, the democratic representative of American Jewry, rests the chief burden of that responsibility.

It is our duty to further the restoration of dignity and status to the remnants of the Jewish people in Europe. It is our duty to press for the immediate relief and rehabilitation of displaced Jews. It is our duty to press with all the strength that we possess for the fulfillment of the promises made to the Jewish people with regard to Palestine.

We urge all delegates to attend the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference.

Israel Goldstein Louis Lipsky Henry Mousky

Co-Chairmen, Interim Committee

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

January 20th, 1946.

For Further Information Call:

THE BLUE ROOM
THE BELLEVUE-STRATFORD
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JEWISH CHAPLAINS' COMMITTEE BLASTS ROSENWALD'S COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM;
CHALLENGES COUNCIL'S SLURS "IMPUGNING THE PATRIOTISM OF AMERICAN ZIONISTS"

- - - -

CHAPLAINS BARRED FROM COUNCIL CONFERENCE

- - - -

Philadelphia -- An independent committee of Jewish Chaplains from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps today blasted the American Council for Judaism for its "defamatory statements impugning the patriotism of American Zionists."

The Committee had earlier forwarded a written request to Lessing J. Rosenwald, President of the American Council for Judaism, for permission to submit a brief statement to that body, holding its convention in this city. The request, signed by Lt. Col. Aryeh Lev, Comdr. Joshua L. Goldberg, Major Edward T. Sandrow and Lt. Comdr. S. Joshua Kehn, of the Chaplains' Committee, was disapproved by Mr. Rosenwald.

At a press conference of the Jewish Chaplains' Committee, held at a Philadelphia hotel, Major Edward T. Sandrow, Chairman of the group, pointed out that the American Council for Judaism had consistently pursued a "malicious policy of hate" against American Zionists. Their most vicious anti-Zionist line was the allegation that Zionism fosters "dual allegiance," Chaplain Sandrow stated. He disclosed that as recently as January 10, 1946, the charge of "divided patriotism" was reiterated by Lessing J. Rosenwald before the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry in Washington, D. C.

In the statement of denunciation, read by the Secretary of the Committee, Lt. Leon Rosenberg, formerly Chaplain with the 4th Marine Division, it was pointed

(more)

out that 228 of the 305 Jewish Chaplains have already identified themselves with the Zionist movement. "For anyone to insinuate that Zionism tends to diminish the full measure of devotion of these 228 Rabbis to America is the height of impudence," Chaplain Rosenberg declared.

The full text of the statement follows:

"In view of the defamatory statements and innuendoes made repeatedly by responsible representatives of the American Council for Judaism, impugning the patriotism of American Zionists, we the undersigned, Rabbis in Israel, serving as Chaplains in the Armed Forces of our nation, register our deep resentment and disapproval of such reckless and un-American allegations.

"Of the 305 surviving Chaplains of the Jewish faith who responded unhesitatingly to the call of our country in its hour of need, 228 have already identified themselves with the Zionist ideal, with replies expected from many still overseas. For anyone to insinuate that Zionism tends to diminish the full measure of devotion of these 228 Rabbis to America is the height of impudence.

"Such an accusation comes with particularly bad grace from an organization which numbers amongst its leadership men who did not respond to the call of the responsible Jewish Commission to serve in the Chaplaincy.

"As Chaplains we deplore such irreligious conduct on the part of the Council.

"As servants of God, we call upon the Council to desist from defaming the memory of the thousands of Jews who believed in Zionism, and who fought and died for their beloved America."

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

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NAOMI CHERTOFF
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MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

Executive Committee

LOUIS LIPSKY
Chairman
MAURICE BISGYER
AARON DROOCK
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January 24, 1946

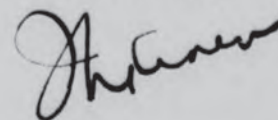
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I talked with Taft this morning. It appears that in the previous week he accepted a speaking engagement which will take him to the deep south and he is very reluctant to come to Cleveland on February 18th, the night on which the Palestine question will come up at the American Jewish Conference.

I also talked with Delman, Wagner's secretary, and he tells me that Wagner will not be out of the hospital for two weeks and that he has been ordered to rest after that. Delman suggests that we try Senator Kilgore who is reported to be friendly to us and who, of course, is an outstanding liberal. I expect to do this - our Washington representative is a great friend of Kilgore's - but I do think that we ought to have Taft for many reasons which are known to you. I would therefore be grateful to you if you would take the trouble to call him on the telephone and urge him to accept the invitation. I enclose a copy of the letter which I am sending to him today.

Sincerely,



I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:ta

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

January 24, 1946

Senator Robert A. Taft
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Taft:

I am very sorry that you are unable to speak at the national session of the American Jewish Conference scheduled for Cleveland on February 17th to 19th. We are most anxious to have you since this is a national gathering of the representatives of all major Jewish membership organizations and the elected delegates of all Jewish communities in the United States, and since the people who will be there undoubtedly represent the overwhelming majority of the American Jewish community. You must know that the Jews of America are grateful to you for the way in which you fought for the Palestine Resolution and its adoption by Congress within the last month. It was an event that was hailed by Jews everywhere in the country. Knowing you as well as I do from way back, to the days of the classification of an intangible tax law in 1931, I am extremely reluctant to argue with you because I respect your convictions and I know that it is not easy to move you once you have reached a conclusion. Nevertheless, I should like to ask you to reconsider because we would be honored greatly by your presence at the meeting and because this is an unusual opportunity for you to meet the representative Jews of the United States.

When our program was made up, we consulted Dr. Silver and he was most anxious to have you come.

I am enclosing some pamphlets on the American Jewish Conference so that you may have an idea of its representative character and its program; one is the memorandum which we submitted to Secretary Stettinius, and the second is the memorandum which we submitted to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry.

Cordially yours,

I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:ta
enc.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Monday, January 28, 1946 - Biltmore Hotel, New York City

VII.

The meeting opened at 11:00 A.M. with Henry Monsky, Co-Chairman, presiding.

Present were: Dr. Israel Goldstein, Louis Lipsky, Henry Monsky, Co-Chairmen; Rabbi Abba Abrams (alt. for Dr. Robert Gordis), Maurice Bisgyer, Sam Caplan (alt. for Dr. Stephen S. Wise), Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans (alt. for Mrs. Hugo Hartmann), Mrs. Ida Cook Farber (alt. for Mrs. Arthur G. Laufman), Prof. Hayim Fineman, William Gerber (alt. for Frank Goldman), Judge Lewis Goldberg, Mrs. Samuel Goldstein, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Albert E. Kahn, Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman, Charles P. Kramer, Eleanor Levenson (alt. for David Wertheim), Seymour Levine (alt. for Rabbi Solomon Goldman), Jacob Marrus (alt. for Leon Gellman), Mrs. Albert J. May (alt. for Mrs. Joseph M. Welt), Rabbi Irving Miller, William Rabkin (alt. for Benjamin Samuels), Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Mrs. Louis A. Rosett (alt. for Adolph Rosenberg), Dvora Rothbard, Samuel Rothstein, Mrs. Herman Shulman (alt. for Mrs. David deSola Pool), Simon E. Sobeloff, Charles Sonnenreich, Hermann Stern, Rabbi M. A. Stern (alt. for Rabbi William Drazin), Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, William Weiss (alt. for Dr. Samuel Nirenstein), Rabbi David Wice (alt. for Sidney G. Kusworm), Mrs. Stephen S. Wise.

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, David Wahl, Dr. Frank Barth, Allen Roberts, Mrs. Ann Jarcho and Lillian Friedman.

I. MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 1946 - Approved

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Kenen reported on Conference activities since the last meeting of the Interim Committee.

1. Third Session

a. Attendance - In view of the Interim Committee's decision to convene the Third Session as quickly as possible, the session was called for Cleveland, February 17 - 19. Mr. Samuel Rothstein was chairman of the Credentials and Elections Committee, and an attendance of close to 400 was expected.

b. Removal of delegates - A protest had been received from an individual against one of the delegates on the ground that he had moved from the city which he had represented. The Executive Committee replied that it would take action if the election committee of that community came to the conclusion that the delegate in fact no longer represented that community.

c. Rules - The Executive Committee is recommending that the rules which governed at the Second Session shall apply at this Third Session, with the exception that the existing rule providing that election committees may fill vacancies has been amended to give the election committee authority to act if the delegate fails to respond ten days before the session. The rule previously provided for five days.

The Executive Committee also makes the following proposals with a view to expediting proceedings of the Session:

1. The Postwar and Rescue Committees shall be consolidated and hold joint meetings.
2. The Finance and Organization Committees shall be consolidated and discuss relevant problems jointly.
3. The Committee on General Resolutions shall be abolished and the General Committee shall be asked to appoint a sub-committee to draft and edit resolutions before their submission to the plenary meeting.
4. The composition of the committees shall be based on the number of delegates registered in each bloc rather than on the number in actual attendance at the Session.
5. Unless a group requests a change, each delegate shall remain on the same committee as last year and this shall apply to alternates or new delegates who shall be assigned to their predecessor's places, and members of abolished committees shall be assigned to other committees.
6. Unless notice is given in writing before Friday noon, February 15th, delegates shall continue to be registered in their present blocs.

d. Applications from Organizations - Three applications were received from organizations seeking representation in the American Jewish Conference. These were the Trade Union Committee for Jewish Unity, the Federation of Palestine Jews, both of which had submitted their applications in the last few days, and the Federation of Bessarabian Societies which had applied many months ago.

e. Program for the Session - A sub-committee consisting of Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Mr. Samuel Rothstein, and the Co-Chairmen, is preparing the program.

It is intended that the General Committee will meet Friday, February 15th and Saturday evening, February 16th, to prepare the agenda and the roster of the committees and to nominate presiding officials. The formal Session will open Sunday afternoon for the transaction of preliminary business and for a report by one of the three Co-Chairmen. The committees will meet for the purpose of organization immediately following the plenary session. On Sunday evening it is planned to present addresses on the present situation in Europe, including an address by a second Co-Chairman. We had hoped that Federal Judge Rifkind would come to Cleveland for that meeting; it appears he is unable to attend. We cabled on Thursday to Dr. Zalman Grinberg, the head of the Jewish Committee in Bavaria; this morning we have his acceptance. On Monday morning there will be a session devoted to the problem of reparations and punishment of war criminals, with addresses by experts and by the third of the Co-Chairmen. On Monday afternoon the committees will prepare their reports, on Monday evening there will be a session devoted to Palestine and the report of the Palestine Committee, and on Tuesday morning and afternoon, the concluding sessions, there will be reports from the Committees on Postwar and Organization and such elections as may be ordered. It is hoped to adjourn early Tuesday afternoon.

f. Report - A report of all the activities carried on by the Conference during the year was now being prepared for the printer for submission to the delegates.

2. CRIF - In line with the decision of the Interim Committee recommending the admission of CRIF to our joint consultations, the Conference representatives have urged the World Jewish Congress to agree to give their approval. Representatives of the Congress took the position that this question should be deferred at

least until after the Third Session at which time it was proposed that consultations of the Board, the Congress and the Conference be held in New York. A cable was sent to Professor Brodetsky inviting him to address the Third Session of the Conference but he is unable to do so, and on January 16th he cabled to the Conference as follows:

UNDERSTAND YOUR BODY LIKE OURSELVES READY ADMIT CRIF OUR ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION COORDINATION WITH WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS BUT LATTER STILL DISAGREES STOP WE FEEL STRONGLY ADMISSION CRIF DESIRABLE AND ACCORDS AGREEMENT MADE NEW YORK LAST JANUARY SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED LONDON MEETINGS AUGUST STOP MAKING SHORT VISIT PARIS 3RD FEBRUARY WOULD THEREFORE WELCOME SOONEST INFORMATION THAT RESULT YOUR CONSULTATIONS WITH WJC ADMISSION CRIF DEFINITELY AGREED BY THREE BODIES AS NONADMISSION OUR VIEW INJURIOUS ULTIMATE AIMS ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

We have replied that we are urging the Congress to accede to our view in the matter but it appears unlikely that any progress in this direction can be made in the immediate future.

A cable had also been sent to Dr. Leon Meiss inviting him to attend the Third Session, but he is unable to come.

3. Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry - On December 24th the Conference was invited to submit testimony before the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine. The Palestine Committee was called together by Mrs. Samuel Halprin, Acting Chairman, and a brief submitted to the Committee on January 3rd. Mr. Monsky presented the view of the Conference in an oral statement to the Committee on January 8th, the first witness to speak on behalf of national Jewish organizations and he was followed by spokesmen for the Conference affiliates. On January 11th the Conference submitted a supplementary brief containing the testimony of Jewish chaplains on the position of the Jews in Europe, and this was done in cooperation with Rabbi Philip Bernstein of the Jewish Welfare Board.

4. Conference Representatives Abroad - Since the last meeting of the Interim Committee, Major Alfred Fleishman and Dean Samuel Sar, two of the Conference representatives in Germany, have returned to this country. Major Fleishman reported at length on his work in Germany to the Executive Committee meeting of December 20th, and has since addressed six meetings on behalf of the Conference in various parts of the country.

Major Fleishman and Mr. Sar, joined by Mr. Hans Lamm, submitted a report on their findings on behalf of the Conference to Federal Judge Simon Rifkind on December 13th. Copies of this statement have been circulated to all the delegates and have also been given wide circulation in the press and among officials in Washington. It should be noted in this connection that the report was extremely well received by the War Department in Washington. It is considered by that Department as the best statement on the position of the Jews in Germany and is being circulated by the War Department itself to members of Congress and other persons who make inquiry on the situation.

Following the presentation of Major Fleishman's report to the Executive Committee, the Conference cabled appreciation to Federal Judge Simon Rifkind for the work he has done and also urged the War Department to renew the three-month term of Judge Rifkind's assignment. This recommendation has been acted upon favorably and Federal Judge Rifkind remains at his post.

Three other members of the Conference team continue in Europe. Mr. Lamm yesterday addressed the first conference of Jews in Germany held at Munich, and he has been very active in connection with problems affecting their welfare and the restitution of rights and property. Mr. Horace Marston, B'nai B'rith's member on the team, is now in Czechoslovakia on the same mission. The third member is Miss Sylvia Neulander, nominee of the World Jewish Congress.

5. Morgan Statement - Following Lieutenant General Sir Frederick E. Morgan's statement in Frankfurt, alleging the existence of a Jewish conspiracy to organize the exodus of Jews from Europe, and describing the refugees streaming from Poland as "well fed Jews, their pockets bulging with money," the Conference called a press conference on Thursday, January 3rd, at which five Jewish Chaplains and Major Fleishman testified on the actual plight of the Polish Jews entering the American zone, and replying to General Morgan. On the same evening, the Executive Committee authorized the Co-Chairmen to telegraph protests against General Morgan's statement and to request that his resignation be requested. The following day, UNRRA called upon General Morgan to resign, but he persisted in asserting that there was no reason for his resignation and he appealed to Director-General Lehman.

6. UNO - The UNO was now meeting in London for the purposes of organization. The Conference had been in touch with the World Jewish Congress and the Board of Deputies of British Jews, but up to this moment no intervention by the three bodies had been made since the matters formally before the UNO were procedural and substantive questions were to be deferred until a later session.

Instructions were sent to Mr. Lamm to transfer his activities from Germany to London during the UNO sessions but his trip to London has been delayed for another week because he had been requested by governmental officials to undertake an assignment in connection with the pending visit of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry into the camps.

However, in view of the proposal by the Syrian delegates to secure a definition of the phrase "States directly concerned," as states contiguous to the territory to be placed under trusteeship, the Co-Chairmen cabled to Secretary Stettinius urging that the American delegation resist the amendment. In addition they urged opposition to the Yugoslav amendment providing that all persons shall be deported or repatriated from the camps in Europe in four months.

7. Tripoli - Following the outbreak in Tripoli, where 121 Jews were killed by an Arab mob on November 4th, the Conference urged the State Department to take the initiative to establish a Five-Power Commission to investigate the circumstances. On January 18th, the Department of State replied that the matter had been fully investigated by the British military authorities in Libya and there was no indication that the investigation had not been carried out in an impartial manner. Reports had also been received from American consuls and diplomatic officers and the Department was of the opinion that the circumstances of the outbreak, including its causes, had been satisfactorily established.

8. China - It will be recalled that in December there were new reports that the 16,000 Jewish refugees in Shanghai, were to be forcibly repatriated. In September and October the Conference, with the cooperation of the Congress, made representations to the Chinese Government urging assistance and relief to the Jewish refugees. Following the latest reports, new appeals were made to UNRRA and to the Chinese Government and we have been authoritatively assured that there is no ground for the report that the refugees will be deported.

9. Reparations - Since our last meeting, the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency has announced the terms of the creation of an "anonymous" state whose "citizens" are to receive a nominal share of the reparations to be drawn from Germany. The terms announced by the Agency are better than those which were originally under consideration at the Paris Conference, and we have reason to believe that the work that was done at Paris contributed to their betterment.

It will be recalled that it was earlier reported that the sum to be made available would include non-monetary gold and that the total would not exceed \$18,000,000, and that the beneficiaries would include all stateless and non-repatriable persons and the amount to be set aside might possibly be used for relief. In Paris we urged that the sum to be made available be larger and that the beneficiaries be delimited, and the funds be used for rehabilitation and resettlement as distinguished from relief.

The agreement that has been announced provides that in addition to the non-monetary gold, a sum of \$25,000,000 shall be allocated. This to be drawn from the proceeds of German assets in neutral countries and, in addition, the assets in neutral countries of victims of Nazi action who have died and left no heirs. While Jews are not expressly referred to, the agreement is so drawn as to provide that only true victims of Nazi persecution and their immediate families and dependents will benefit. These are defined as (1) refugees from Nazi Germany or Austria who require aid and cannot be returned to their countries within a reasonable time because of prevailing conditions; (2) German and Austrian nationals now residing in Germany and Austria in cases in which it is reasonable, on grounds of humanity, to assist such persons to emigrate and providing they emigrate to other countries within a reasonable period; (3) nationals of countries formerly occupied by the Germans, who cannot be repatriated or are not in a position to be repatriated within a reasonable time. This is to be restricted to victims of Nazi concentration camps and not to include persons confined only to prisoner-of-war camps. The fund is to be used not for the compensation of individual victims whose claims against a future German government will remain unprejudiced, but to further the rehabilitation or resettlement of persons in the eligible classes. This is in line with the Conference's recommendation.

While the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees will have power to carry out the purposes of the fund under the direction of a committee consisting of the governments of the United States, France, United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia - we were not in favor of having the Intergovernmental Committee designated for that purpose - it will work through appropriate public and private field organizations. This is in line with our suggestion to the Paris Conference and paves the way for the creation of a Jewish Reconstruction Commission as has been previously recommended.

Following the decision of the last meeting to establish such a commission, Mr. Grossman of the Conference staff has drawn up a plan for the creation of a Reconstruction Commission and has urged its approval by the World Jewish Congress and the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Negotiations with those bodies are continuing inasmuch as there are some differences of opinion as to how the Commission should be constituted. In the meantime, the Conference has been in touch with Colonel Bernard Bernstein who was the financial expert on General Eisenhower's staff in Germany, and who has been discussing the entire problem on the Conference's behalf with officials of the Department of State. He is rendering the Conference a very valuable service.

III. ACTION ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Third Session

a. Changes in rules - The recommendations were approved without objection.

b. Applications of New Organizations - It was moved by Mr. Gerber and seconded by Mr. Bisgyer that applications for new organizations be referred to the General Committee. Rabbi Miller offered an amendment that a special committee be appointed to make investigations and recommendations to the General Committee. Mr. Gerber accepted the amendment. CARRIED.

c. Program for the Third Session - There was a discussion of proposals to have outside speakers at the Third Session. Mrs. Halprin raised the question that the Palestine Committee had not been consulted by the program committee on the program. The program was referred back to the Executive Committee with the suggestion that it consult with the Palestine Committee on the program for the Palestine night of the Conference.

d. It was moved by Mr. Rothstein to authorize the printing of the Report of the Interim Committee. CARRIED.

2. CRIF - Following a discussion of Prof. Brodetsky's cable urging action on admission of the CRIF, it was moved by Rabbi Eisendrath that it is the sense of the Interim Committee that the motion passed at the last Interim Committee be put into effect by the Executive Committee as quickly as possible. CARRIED.

IV. Major Fleishman then presented a detailed report of his impressions of his visits to the camps in Germany.

V. UNO CONFERENCE - Dr. Goldstein expressed concern over the fact that the Conference had not organized a delegation to the UNO Conference in London. Mr. Kenen stated that the Conference had a number of representatives in London who were working with the Board of Deputies and the World Jewish Congress, but that no memorandum had been submitted to UNO because this session was concerned with procedural rather than substantive questions. It was agreed that the Conference communicate with the Board to ascertain the status of matters with which we are concerned and what disposition was made of them preparatory to getting our machinery set for the next session of UNO.

VI. REPORT ON FUTURE ORGANIZATION - Mr. Monsky then presented his draft of a consensus of the discussions at the combined meeting of the Executive and Organization Committee meeting held the previous night in respect to the future organization of the American Jewish Conference.

"There is need for the Conference to continue for the present for the purposes for which it was created, to make representations to the governmental and intergovernmental agencies engaged in establishing the peace and dealing with the problems of the Jewish people in those countries which were affected by the war, and the Interim Committee is authorized to complete these responsibilities of the Conference in this field.

Inasmuch as the American Jewish Conference was fashioned as a temporary body to perform the functions set forth in its Pittsburgh proposals, it is not the intention nor purpose of the Conference to perpetuate its existence, after the completion of its task as defined in the Pittsburgh proposals.

It is recognized that there is value and need for a democratic, representative body that can speak authoritatively for the American Jewish community in connection with the safeguarding of the rights of Jewish communities elsewhere, and to that end, and having authorized the Interim Committee to complete the work of the Conference, we empower the Interim Committee to explore the possibility, and by agreement with national agencies affiliated with the Conference, to develop ways and means by which such a body may be brought into being."

Mr. Lipsky presented a counter-proposal differing from the foregoing statement primarily in its requirement that the Interim Committee "report its findings to the next session of the Conference." Mr. Kahn recommended that the resolution be amended so as not to provide in such specific detail the fact that any future Conference or organization should limit its activities to acting and speaking for the Jewish people abroad.

The ensuing discussion involved these questions: Whether there should be a Fourth Session; the restriction in the motion to the safeguarding of Jewish rights "elsewhere"; whether the Interim Committee had the authority to call a Fourth Session; whether and to whom the Interim Committee should report. Dr. Fineman moved and Mr. Rothstein seconded that the first part of the statement be amended to read "explore the possibility of creating a democratic body that can speak and act authoritatively on behalf of American Jewry." Mr. Rothstein then moved that all resolutions submitted be deferred to a special meeting of the Interim Committee to be held in Cleveland on the Friday morning before the session. This was seconded by Mr. Lipsky. Judge Rosenblatt moved that this motion be tabled. It was seconded by Mr. Bisgyer. The motion to table CARRIED.

Mr. Marrus moved that the words "safeguarding of Jewish rights elsewhere" be stricken from the motion. There was no second. The Chair then put the original motion, which was CARRIED.

Mr. Rothstein then stated that he favored the intent of the motion, and he was voting in favor with the reservation "that we should be able to submit certain changes in phraseology." Mr. Lipsky and Professor Fineman asked that they be recorded as voting no. Mr. Marrus asked to be recorded as voting no because of the failure of his amendment.

The meeting then adjourned.

I. L. Kenen

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Telephone MUrray Hill 2-7197

BULLETIN

OF ACTIVITIES AND DIGEST OF THE PRESS

No. 84

Shebat 27, 5706

January 29, 1946.

CALL TO THE THIRD SESSION.

TO THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

The Jews of America are gripped by an acute sense of realism these first months of the postwar era. It was not expected that the day after the cease fire order was given all would be for the best in a fairly perfect world. But it was expected, eight months after V-E Day, that the great nations of the earth, united to build a new order on the ruins of the old, would by this time have proffered some constructive solution of the problems which make Jewish life tragically difficult and almost impossible in certain areas of the world.

It is not our desire to catalogue the sufferings and crimes committed against our people during the war. The International War Crimes Tribunal now prosecuting the war criminals in Nuremberg is ably performing that task. The indictments have been submitted; the evidence is being received; the black record has been permanently transcribed for posterity.

But redress and reparation for the crimes has not been offered. The process of writing the wrongs has not been achieved. On the contrary, since war formally came to an end, the position of the Jewish people has greatly deteriorated.

The Jews of Europe are still homeless and dispossessed and without proper defense. In European countries the harvest of anti-Semitism has cast new seeds in favorable soil. Signs announcing the exclusion of Jews still deface the gates of Palestine. Those who have declared that they would usher in a world of freedom have acquiesced in the sealing of the doors of the Jewish National Home to the homeless Jews seeking to enter. Nations comfortably seated in the United Nations Organization have permitted anti-Jewish riots to take place within their borders.

Under pressure to resolve the self-made impasse, but anxious to delay action that might open the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration, the British Government as Mandatory Power suggested, and the American Government agreed to, the appointment of a joint Committee of Inquiry. This Committee has completed its first hearings in Washington and will now resume its investigations in Europe and in Palestine. Its recommendations will be presented four months later to the governments of England and the United States. A solution of the problem must await termination of the work of the Committee.

Faced with the lack of international resolution to accord justice to the Jewish people even to the extent of relieving their immediate distress, the American Jewish Conference issues this call for the Third Session of its delegates to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from February 17th to February 19th.

Our purpose in advancing the date of the Session, originally scheduled for May, is to unify and articulate the demands of American Jewry at this time of crisis. The Jews of America have at this hour a particular responsibility; and on the American Jewish Conference, the democratic representative of American Jewry, rests the chief burden of that responsibility.

It is our duty to further the restoration of dignity and status to the remnants of the Jewish people in Europe. It is our duty to press for the immediate relief and

rehabilitation of displaced Jews. It is our duty to press with all the strength that we possess for the fulfillment of the promises made to the Jewish people with regard to Palestine.

We urge all delegates to attend the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference.

Israel Gelstein

Louis Libsky

Henry Monsky

Co-Chairmen, Interim Committee.

CHANGES IN COMMUNITY DELEGATES TO THE THIRD SESSION (First list)

Following are the names of community delegates to the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference, replacing or alternating for delegates who attended the previous sessions:

Philip Meyers, Cincinnati, Ohio, alternating for Herbert R. Bloch
 Dr. Ayriel Eisenberg, Philadelphia, Pa., alternating for Hon Mark Eisner
 Rabbi Jacob Polish, New York, N. Y., alternating for Samuel Deutsch
 Samuel Markle, New York, N. Y., alternating for Louis Fabricant
 Howard D. Seyd, Utica, N. Y., alternating for David Geffen
 Dr. Julian Morgenstern, Cincinnati, Ohio, alternating for Robert P. Goldman
 Charles H. Roemer, Paterson, N. J., alternating for Abe J. Greene
 Simeon F. Gross, New York, N. Y., alternating for Moses H. Hoenig
 Hon. Daniel Ellison, Baltimore, Md., replacing Dr. Louis L. Kaplan
 Abraham Chazin, Teaneck, N. J., alternating for Howard Mack
 Louis M. Brodie, Richmond, Va., alternating for Israel November
 Dr. S. S. Hollender, Chicago, Ill., alternating for Adolph Rosenberg
 Rabbi Benj. G. Axelman, Baltimore, Md., alternating for Dr. Samuel Rosenblatt
 Judge Joseph Fromberg, Charleston, S.C., alternating for Hyman Rubin
 Harry A. Frankel, Peoria, Ill., alternating for Dr. Abram L. Sachar
 Henry Rosenbaum, Plainfield, N. J., alternating for Edward Sachar
 Jacob Alson, New York, N. Y., alternating for Max J. Schneider
 Mrs. Archibald Silverman, Providence, R.I., alternating for Archibald Silverman
 Samuel Roback, Dallas, Texas, alternating for Eugene M. Solow
 Rabbi Isadore H. Shoulson, West Chester, Pa., alternating for Mark Sugarman
 Moritz M. Gottlieb, Allentown, Pa., alternating for Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg
 Jacob H. Gilbert, South Bend, Ind., replacing Maurice Tucker.

NEW DELEGATES APPOINTED BY ORGANIZATIONS TO ATTEND THIRD SESSION

<u>Delegate</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>(First list)</u>
Rabbi Joel S. Geffen, New York, N.Y.	Nat. Fed. Jewish Men's Clubs	
Abe I. Lemberg, Elizabeth, N. J.	Independent Order Brith Sholom	
Mordecai Halevi, New York, N. Y.	Histadruth Ivrit	
Mrs. Dorothy Persky, Cleveland, O.	Jewish War Vets., Nat'l Ladies Auxiliary	
Emanuel Neumann, New York, N. Y.	Zionist Organization of America	
Rabbi Armand E. Cohen, Cleveland, O.	Rabbinical Assembly of America	
Harry G. Fromberg, New York, N. Y.	National Council Young Israel	
Mrs. Sol Gitson, Shaker Heights, O.	National Federation Temple Sisterhoods	
Dr. Abraham J. Feldman, Hartford, Conn.	Central Conference American Rabbis	
M. Morton Rubenstein, New York, N.Y.	Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations	
Mrs. Simon E. Sobeloff, Baltimore, Md.	National Council of Jewish Women	
Miss Sarah Kussy	Nat. Women's League, United Synagogue of America	

<u>Delegate</u>	<u>Organization</u>	(Continued)
Mrs. Sonia Gordon, Cleveland Heights, O.	Jewish War Veterans, Nat'l Ladies Auxiliary	
Rabbi Israel Schorr, New York, N. Y.	Hapoel Hamizrachi	
I. L. Feuer, Youngstown, Ohio.	Jewish War Veterans of the U. S.	
Dr. Leon I. Feuer, Toledo, Ohio	Zionist Organization of America	
Sol Rosman, New York, N. Y.	United Roumanian Jews of America	
Mrs. Joseph B. Conway, Cleveland Hgts. O.	Nat'l Women's League, United Synagogue of Amer.	
Mrs. Hyman G. Weisman, St. Louis, Mo.	B'nai B'rith, Women's Supreme Council	
Joseph Katcher, New York, N. Y.	United Roumanian Jews of America	
Shmuel Ben Zvi, New York, N. Y.	Hashomer Hatzair	

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference met on Monday, January 28th, in New York. Henry Monsky, Co-Chairman, presided.

A comprehensive report on the recent activities of the Conference was submitted, and the actions taken by the Executive Committee approved.

C.R.I.F.

Delay in the admission of C.R.I.F. (representative body of French Jewry) to the tripartite consultations, at the request of the World Jewish Congress, and developments at the first Assembly of the United Nations Organization in London, were the subject of considerable discussion.

While the reasons put forward by the Congress for postponement of C.R.I.F.'s admission were given due consideration, the consensus of the Interim Committee clearly indicated a desire to act swiftly to broaden the present composition of the Joint Committee, which now represents the three cooperating organizations.

U.N.O. Assembly.

Although it was not expected that the first Assembly of the U.N.O. would deal with problems directly affecting Jewish interests, a number of important questions relevant to the Jewish position appear to have been raised. These are the proposed change in the trusteeship system which may affect Jewish interests in Palestine, the demand for repatriation of refugees now in Germany, and the establishment of a commission on human rights. All these problems obviously demand the close attention of the Conference.

Dr. Israel Goldstein expressed regret that no delegation and no special representatives were sent to London. The Chairman of the Executive Committee and members of the staff explained that the cooperating organizations were watching developments in the U.N.O. Assembly and that because of the sudden decision to advance the Third Session, it was impossible either to send a delegation or have the Conference representative on the Joint Secretariat return to London.

However, the three Co-Chairmen, upon learning of Arab proposals to change the wording of the U.N.O. Constitution concerning trusteeships, cabled the following to Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., American representative on the Security Council:

"The American Jewish Conference is greatly concerned over Syrian Trusteeship proposal seeking definition of "States Directly Concerned" because it may seriously prejudice Jewish rights in Palestine, placing that country under control Arab States in manner never intended by Palestine Mandate. We also oppose Yugoslav compulsory repatriation proposal which may work great hardship on Jewish displaced persons in Europe if problem their resettlement not yet met by United Nations before contemplated deadline. Will be grateful if American delegation opposes both proposals."

Report on the Position in Germany.

Major Alfred Fleishman reported his observations in Germany as representative of the American Jewish Conference. He stressed that the Jewish D.P.'s and refugees are a strong force of self-respecting men and women, determined to overcome all obstacles

against their building new lives in the country of their choice. They have revealed, Major Fleishman said, not only determination, initiative and ability in organizing their lives under the difficult conditions now prevailing in Germany, but have also shown remarkable ingenuity and perseverance. Economic self-rehabilitation has gone hand in hand with intensive cultural and education activities.

* * *

The Future of the Conference.

During the entire afternoon session, the Interim Committee was occupied with consideration of the problems relating to the future of the American Jewish Conference. Various proposals were received on the structure of the Conference, as suggested by the Committee on Organization which met Sunday evening, January 27th, with the Executive Committee.

There was general agreement on the need, in the light of past experience and the present situation of the Jewish people overseas, to carry on and conclude the work of the Conference.

There was also general agreement on the need for setting up, in due course, an overall and democratically elected Jewish body, to represent American Jewry on all questions affecting the Jews overseas. It was felt that when the American Jewish Conference, being a temporary body, completes its now unfinished business, steps should be taken to explore the possibilities of setting up an organization which would engage in safeguarding Jewish rights overseas and in Palestine.

Several proposals were considered and a majority of the members present expressed themselves in favor of a plan which will be submitted to the General Committee and placed before the Third Session.

WRHS AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

THE THIRD SESSION

To date, 351 delegates, including alternates, have notified the Conference office of their intention to attend the Third Session. A number of national organizations have not yet submitted the names of their appointees. The response to the call for the Third Session is most gratifying, since notice was comparatively short and the time advanced from that previously scheduled.

The opening meeting of the Third Session will take place on Sunday, February 17th, at 1:00 p.m., and successive proceedings will continue through Monday and Tuesday, the 18th and 19th. It is anticipated that the Tuesday session will end early in the afternoon, to enable the delegates to leave on that day.

In order to expedite the work, all standing committees will meet immediately after the first session, which is expected to be concluded about 4:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

A first-hand report on the conditions of the displaced Jews in Germany will be delivered by Dr. Zalman Greenberg, head of the Committee of Liberated Jews in Bavaria, who has accepted the Executive Committee's invitation to attend the Third Session and will fly to the United States from Munich.

* * *

All delegates who have not yet answered the call are urged to notify the Conference office not later than ten days before the opening of the Third Session, whether or not they intend to serve as delegates, since, in the event that they cannot, it will be necessary, under the election rules adopted at the First Session of the Conference, to provide for alternates.

* * *

Requests for hotel reservations must be addressed directly to the office of the American Jewish Conference.

* * *

A report of the Interim Committee on Conference activities for the past year is now on the press, and will be mailed to the delegates early next week.

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American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

MAURICE BISGYER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
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HARRY A. PINE
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
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DVORAH ROTHBARD
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BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

Executive Committee

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DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

February 1, 1946

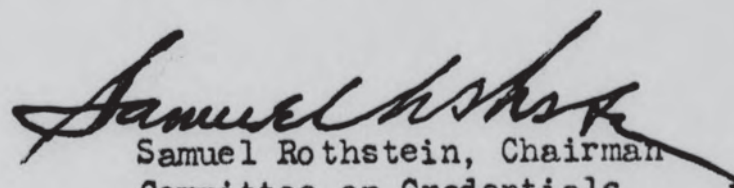
TO THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

We are pleased to enclose your certification as a delegate to the forthcoming Third Session of the American Jewish Conference, which will open Sunday, February 17th at the Hotel Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio.

Will you please present this certificate to the registration desk upon your arrival in Cleveland? Registration of delegates will begin Saturday, February 16th at 7:00 P.M. and will continue Sunday morning.

The General Committee will begin its meetings Friday, February 15th at 10:00 A.M.

Sincerely yours,


Samuel Rothstein, Chairman
Committee on Credentials
and Elections

SR:TP
oeiu/153

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

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DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

February 4, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road and East 105th St.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

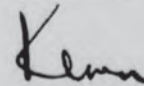
I am sorry that I was unable to see you when I was in Cleveland. While I came there primarily to make physical arrangements for the Conference, I did want to talk with you briefly about what should go into the Palestine resolution.

A question arises whether we should reaffirm the first resolution or whether we should confine ourselves to a recitation on wrongs of the last year and a demand for rectification, etc.

As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Palestine of the Conference, you will be called upon to report for the Committee and to make your address on Monday evening, February 18th, as now proposed by the Executive Committee. Other speakers that evening will include Mrs. Epstein, who will speak on the Anglo-American Committee on Palestine, while Dr. Wise, who will be a member of the Praesidium, will be asked to preside that evening.

Since we shall probably want to have some kind of draft to present to the Palestine Committee, I would appreciate any suggestions that you have on the subject.

Cordially yours,



I. L. Kenen

ILK:TP

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

THE FUTURE
OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

WRHS
Memorandum
To
All Delegates

Submitted by
JEWISH PEOPLES FRATERNAL ORDER OF THE I. W. O.

AERICAN JEWRY, through its delegated spokesmen, will convene once again to grapple with the grave and immediate problems of our people throughout the world.

We, who will gather in Cleveland, bear a historic responsibility. American Jewry, nay, Jewry the world over, looks to us for statesmanlike discussions and decisions. The Jewish people, in their suffering and tragic plight, look to us to continue to speak through the American Jewish Conference as the united spokesmen of American Jewry. They desire an evermore united, an evermore active and energetic American Jewish Conference.

The birth of the American Jewish Conference in 1943 was an event of unparalleled significance in the life of American Jewry. It was the first time in the history of the Jewish people of America that such a representative body met together. The first session of the American Jewish Conference, held at the Waldorf-Astoria, represented virtually every Jewish community in the country and almost all of the national Jewish organizations.

THE CONFERENCE TRULY REPRESENTED THE JEWRY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Both at the first session as well as at the second in Pittsburgh, it was definitely understood that the American Jewish Conference was created not merely as an instrument for the duration but as a body that would continue its work and guide American Jewry and its organizations in the solution of the post-war problems that would confront world Jewry in such stark and horrible immediacy.

TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE THE BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE WAS A SOURCE OF DEEP INSPIRATION AND RENEWED VITALITY.

* * *

That the expectations and hopes of the American Jewish community were not fully realized is due to the fact that the American Jewish Conference failed to rise to its historic tasks and to issue forth boldly and courageously as the representative and true champion of Jewish rights wherever such rights were in danger.

If we, the representatives of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, come forward to raise our criti-

cisms of the American Jewish Conference we do so in a constructive sense and with the firm conviction that our answer lies in the strengthening and broadening of the Conference, in its fortification and in the elimination of its weaknesses.

* * *

The work of the American Jewish Conference was undoubtedly hindered in no small measure by the fact that at the second session it was compelled to yield to the demand of a small minority that it—the American Jewish Conference—should not concern itself with the problems of American Jewry but should confine its activities to the problems of our brethren overseas.

We feel, and this opinion is shared by the overwhelming majority, that the exclusion of the problems that confront American Jewry, has seriously weakened the American Jewish Conference. What is even more important, it has denied to American Jewry a great and constructive force that could have immeasurably strengthened the American Jewish community in its struggles against anti-Semitism and discrimination.

American Jewry is faced with many serious and immediate problems. Economic discrimination against the Jews, quota systems in educational and professional institutions, have flared up to such a degree that the passage of the Fair Employment Practices Commission and other such legislation has become an issue of unparalleled importance for the Jewish people of America.

The intensified anti-Semitism which is rising each day and which is receiving support from many influential circles; which is manifesting itself more viciously and more openly within the halls of Congress, presents to American Jewry the need for an immediate and unified effort and program of action.

500,000 Jewish soldiers, representing every viewpoint and trend in Jewish life are returning to civilian life. They return with a deeper consciousness of their Jewishness and a very sober and real understanding of fascism. They need direction and guidance. They deserve and are entitled to the best thought and the best leadership that only a united people and a united leadership can give.

Labor today is fighting for its right to live, a decent life and to enjoy the fruits of its work.

Labor has always been and is today a true friend of the Jewish people. The World Federation of Trade Unions with its resolution on Palestine, the CIO in its resolution on the American Jewish Conference, the A. F. of L. in its many resolutions against anti-Semitism and discrimination—in all of these ways and in many more, labor has shown that it is on the side of the Jewish people. Organized Jewry must champion the cause of labor. Organized Jewry must work with labor for the abolition of anti-Semitism and for the immediate end of discrimination against Jew, Negro and all other minorities.

Jewish labor represents an important and vital section of the Jewish community. Its voice is not fully heard in our deliberations. All organizations of Jewish labor who are concerned with the problems of our people and who believe in the need of Jewish unity should be a part of the American Jewish Conference.

We wish, furthermore, to point out that the exclusion of the American Jewish scene weakened our efforts in behalf of our brethren overseas. It is manifestly impossible to divorce the fight against the growing tide of anti-Semitism in the United States from the fight being waged against it in Europe. How can we hope to contribute to the restoration of the Jewish community in Europe in all of its cultural aspects if the major Jewish organization in the United States refuses to concern itself with this problem at home? How can we restore the Jewish heritage and Jewish education overseas if the subject is to be alien to us here in America? How can we make a contribution to the rebuilding of the economic life of the Jews abroad if the economic problems of American Jewry are to be taboo?

All this hindered the efforts of the Interim Committee, that body responsible for the continuation of the work between sessions. This Committee found it difficult to implement the objectives of the Conference in a manner consistent with its character as a body which is representative of the overwhelming majority of Jews in the United States.

This weakness was especially evident in the role which the American Jewish Conference could have played in the fight against the White Paper and in that of keeping the gates of Palestine open for the Jewish people. Instead of being the leading

spirit in this fight, because of the fact that it could speak in the name of all trends and opinions in Jewish life, it appeared as merely another organization supporting the Zionist Emergency Committee. As a result of its appearance on a partisan basis it narrowed rather than enlarged the whole campaign against the White Paper. This was by no means in the interests of the *Yishuv* in Palestine. For this reason, too, it failed to mobilize the millions of Jews in the United States in behalf of the fight against the White Paper to the extent that it might have.

Because of these points the significance and role of the American Jewish Conference was materially reduced in American Jewish life.

* * *

One point we would underscore for the sake of clarity: When we propose that the Conference deal with the problems of American Jewry we in no way are suggesting that the Conference usurp any of the functions that are now the prerogative of existing Jewish organizations. We do not propose by any means that the American Jewish Conference take over from the Bnai Brith, or the Anti-Defamation League, or the American Jewish Congress the important work they are doing in the fight against anti-Semitism. What we propose is that the American Jewish Conference shall *co-ordinate* this activity, so that not only the above-mentioned organizations, but that all national Jewish bodies may have an important share in the eradication of anti-Semitism.

Under no circumstances do we propose that the American Jewish Conference undertake the direction of the education of our Jewish youth. All that we propose is that the American Jewish Conference representing the vast majority of the Jews of the United States, go on record for the *need* for Jewish education, so that the general Jewish public might realize its responsibility and understand the need for the establishment of educational institutions throughout the country; so that all national Jewish organizations and not merely individual groups should consider it their duty to support Jewish education.

* * *

What we have stated proves very clearly the one point which we must and shall affirm again and

again: THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE BEARS WITHIN ITSELF THE POTENTIALITIES OF PRESTIGE AND OF GREAT LEADERSHIP SUCH AS NO OTHER ONE GROUP CAN HOPE TO ACHIEVE.

Who would minimize the role of the Conference in helping to formulate the memorandum which was presented to the first conference of the United Nations at San Francisco; a memorandum which outlined a plan for helping to solve the problems of Jews the world over; a program to which all progressive Jewish organizations subscribe?

Who could fail to appreciate the leading role that the American Jewish Conference assumed at the Conference in London where together with the World Jewish Congress and the Board of Jewish Deputies of England, it helped to lay the foundation for a more inclusive Jewish unity the world over?

Who could underestimate the fact that the American Jewish Conference was able to have its representative in the concentration camps that still remain, and that in some degree it was able to alleviate the sufferings of those still there?

We do not feel that it is necessary for us to describe in detail the achievements of the Interim Committee. The leadership in its report to the third session will no doubt review all of the achievements of the American Jewish Conference.

What we do wish to stress is, that the Conference, despite its weaknesses, is the representative Conference of the Jewish people and that our task is to strengthen it by rectifying our mistakes and by eliminating our weaknesses.

* * *

We feel, therefore, that the third session which is being held this month in Cleveland should review the entire effort that has been made by the Conference up to now. It should, in addition, consider all the pressing problems which now confront the Jews of America and of the world.

We respectfully submit the following for the consideration of all delegates:

1. That the *fourth* session shall be convened not later than this fall and that in preparation for that session new elections should be held in all Jewish communities and in all the national organizations on the broadest possible democratic basis; that the

American Jewish Conference shall work for the *largest possible participation of all Jews* in the community elections; shall make every effort to see that Jews of all opinions and trends participate in the election and send their representatives to the coming fourth session.

2. That on the basis of this broad and popular democratic balloting, the question should be put to the electorate as to whether the American Jewish Conference should accept as part of its program of activity, work in behalf of Jewish interests in the United States and the inclusion of the "American scene."

We are deeply convinced that a serious and highly responsible discussion of the question would show a large majority in favor of the Conference dealing with Jewish problems in the United States as a part of its general program.

* * *

It is our hope that you, one of the 500 delegates to the third session of the American Jewish Conference, will do all in your power to enable the conference to fulfill the great hopes which the Jewish masses endowed it with at its birth, so that it may be a genuine, democratically-chosen organization which will be the leader of American Jewry not only in all questions and problems that concern the Jews elsewhere, but also in respect to all questions and problems that relate to American Jewry, the largest Jewish community in the world.

AN EVASION OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY, A SHATTERING OF THE UNITY ACHIEVED REDUCES OUR POTENTIALITIES AND DIVIDES OUR STRENGTH. THE CONFERENCE BELONGS TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE. OUR TASK IS TO BRING TO IT MORE POWER, MORE STRENGTH AND MORE VISION, SO THAT IT CAN BECOME THE TRUE SPOKESMAN OF OUR PEOPLE IN ALL THE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONT US.

In behalf of the National Board of Directors of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the IWO.

ALBERT E. KAHN, *President*

RUBIN SALTZMAN, *General Secretary*

G. SANDLER, *Executive Secretary*

February 5, 1946.

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

INTERIM COMMITTEE

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DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

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

February 5, 1946

TO THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

This is to direct your attention to rules in connection with the procedures of the Third Session, agreed upon at the last meeting of the Interim Committee.

1. Meeting Time

The General Committee will meet on Friday, February 15th at 10:00 A.M. and members of the General Committee are requested to be in Cleveland at that time. The General Committee will arrange details of the agenda, nominate officers, and make up the committees. The Plenary Session will open on Sunday, February 17th at 1:30 P.M. and there will be an evening session at 8:30 P.M.

2. Committees

In order to eliminate duplication of work and to facilitate an orderly consideration of the problems of the Conference, it has been agreed that the Post-War and Rescue Committees will be combined; that the Committees on Organization and Budget and Finance will be combined; and that the Committee on General Resolutions will be eliminated, its work to be undertaken by a subcommittee of the General Committee.

The composition of the committees will continue as in the past except that changes may be made at the request of the groups, and delegates who desire a change in their committee assignment should communicate at once with the head of their group. It is intended to preserve the present ratio of groups on the committees. Unless otherwise proposed by the groups, alternates will automatically succeed to the places of their predecessors on committees. All delegates who are members of the General Resolutions Committee will be assigned to other committees and these delegates are requested at once to state their preferences to the head of their group.

It is planned to complete the list of committees on Friday, February 15th at a meeting of the General Committee, so that the committees may organize and begin their work on Sunday immediately following the Plenary Session.

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3. Group Affiliation

Unless delegates notify us to the contrary before Friday, February 15th at noon, they will be assumed to continue as members of the groups to which they (or in the case of alternates, their predecessors) previously belonged. It is necessary to fix a deadline on changes in group affiliations since committee representation for each group depends on its numerical strength and committee lists must be made up on February 15th. Delegates who desire to change their group affiliation should therefore notify the Conference without delay.

We are expecting more than 400 delegates and we sincerely hope that you have made arrangements to come to Cleveland or, if you are unable to do so, that you have taken steps to designate an alternate.



Cordially yours,



I. L. Kenen

I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:rl
oeiu/153

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

February 6, 1946

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Chairman
General Zionist Bloc
270 West 79th Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

C
O
P
Y
The Interim Committee at its meeting on January 28th voted that unless a bloc requests a change, each delegate will remain on the same committees as last year and this will apply to alternates or new delegates who will be assigned to their predecessors' places. Subject to suggestions made by blocs, committee lists will be made up as of last year and members of the General Resolutions Committee, which is being abolished, must be assigned to other committees, but membership on the General Committee is not to be increased. We wrote to you on January 30th regarding your group's membership on the General Committee.

For your convenience, we enclose a list of the members of your group on the various committees, including the General Resolutions Committee. We also enclose a list of delegates in your group, indicating those who are attending, according to the latest information available to us.

As your group is now constituted, you are entitled to 15 members on each committee. This may be revised by changes in group adherence, which are permitted up to Friday noon, February 15th. You should designate a member of your group to act as secretary for this purpose so that he may be in touch with us in Cleveland on February 15th for the purpose of determining how many of your group may serve on each committee and for the final assignment of delegates to committees.

It is desirable that the roster of the committees be completed as quickly as possible so that the business of the Session may be transacted without any delays. We therefore request that you inform us without delay whether your group desires to make any changes.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Lipsky, Chairman
General Committee

LL:lf
Enc.

cc: Dr. Silver

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON BUDGET AND FINANCE

FEBRUARY 19, 1946

The sum of \$250,000 is hereby fixed as the sum to be made available to the American Jewish Conference for the current year of 1946. A suggested allocation for the use and administration of these funds based upon the 1945 budgetary experience is recommended as follows:

	(1946)	(1945)
1. General Administration	\$ 67,000	(\$72,000)
2. Meetings:		
Commissions; Regional:		
Interim and Executive Committees.	5,000	(10,000)
Conference Session	10,000	(10,000)
3. Public Functions	20,000	(30,000)
4. Government Relations:		
Delegations to National and		
International Conferences	35,000	(25,000)
Washington Office	18,000	(12,000)
5. Public Relations, Radio and		
Publications	35,000	(31,000)
6. Research	15,000	(25,000)
7. Community Relations	15,000	(12,000)
8. Overseas Department	30,000	(23,000)
	<u>\$ 250,000</u>	<u>(\$250,000)</u>

The estimated budget is based upon the expenditures and the experience as reflected in the financial and operating statement of the American Jewish Conference for the calendar year of 1945. Due to our limited activities for the first six months of 1945, our expenditures during that period were proportionately considerably less than the expenditures incurred in the last six-months period. The expenditures for the last six months reflect fairly accurately our expanded program and increased activities. Upon the budgetary experience for these last six months, the present budget is projected.

The recommendations herein made by the Budget and Finance Committee are based upon the assumption of operating with practically the present administrative staff complement, Washington, D. C. office and Overseas Department plus the necessary Commissions, Committees and Delegations to National and International Conferences.

(over)

A resolution dealing with the method of raising funds was adopted and recommended, which reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Budget and Finance Committee of the American Jewish Conference, that the funds which will be required for the program of activity, administrative or other expenses by the American Jewish Conference, shall be contributed to by the communities, local or regional, and national organizations of the country in accordance with their proper and equitable responsibility; these funds to be raised through the medium of existing instrumentality or community organization, or other methods to be determined by the communities, in order that the support of the Conference shall come from the entire American Jewish community in consonance with the representative democratic character of the Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

AARON DROOCK, Chairman
Budget and Finance Committee

oeiu/153

Delegate Certification
to the
American Jewish Conference

February 17-19, 1946

Cleveland, Ohio

CERTIFICATION ISSUED TO:

Name of Delegate

Dr. Abba Hibel Silver

Representing

WRHS Cleveland, Ohio

Please present this Certification to the Registration Desk at the Conference Headquarters

HOTEL CLEVELAND — CLEVELAND, OHIO

immediately upon your arrival.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND ELECTIONS

Samuel Whose
Chairman

MINUTES OF INTERIM COMMITTEE

February 19, 1946
Cleveland, Ohio

The Interim Committee, newly elected at the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference, was called to order in the Empire Room of Hotel Cleveland, February 19th, at 2 p.m. by Mr. Henry Monsky, acting as Chairman.

In opening the meeting, the Chair expressed the view that it was inadvisable at this time to attempt to coopt new members of the Interim Committee in accordance with the resolution adopted at the Third Session at this meeting. He suggested that the Chairman or Co-Chairmen, whichever it might be, should be authorized to name a committee that would make recommendations on cooptions to the next meeting.

It was so moved by Mr. Droock, seconded, and carried.

The Chair called attention to the fact that in the previous year the Organization Committee resolution adopted by the plenum provided that there be three co-chairmen. The committee report adopted this year provided that the Interim Committee should appoint such officers and such committees as it deemed desirable. The Chair stated that in his belief the Interim Committee should address itself to the question as to whether it should continue the present structure.

It was moved by Mr. Frankel, and seconded, that we "adopt the structure we had heretofore."

Dissenting from this view and contending that three chairmen mean a distribution of authority harmful to efficiency, Dr. Silver argued that it was necessary to improve on the efficiency of the organization and to expedite the transition from the present temporary Conference to "what we hope will be a permanent Conference." He expressed the view that this could be better done if the Conference in the coming year had one chairman, plus a chairman of the Executive, plus, if necessary, two or three vice-chairmen. He offered this as a substitute motion and it was seconded by Dr. Eisendrath.

Dr. Wise stated that to change the structure is utterly impermissible and completely unwise. He pointed out that in the past the representatives of two organizations (the Zionists and the Congress) had been co-chairmen, and he thought it would be a gratuitous minimizing of these organizations if one person were now to be selected as the chairman of the Conference.

Dr. Goldstein said the question should have been discussed before being brought to the Interim Committee for a decision.

It was moved by Judge Perlman and seconded by Mr. Stanton that the question be postponed until the next meeting of the Interim Committee.

Rabbi Miller offered an amendment to provide that the committee to be designated for the purpose of recommending cooptions also take under advisement the entire problem involved in the organization of the Interim Committee, including the election of officers and the cooption of other members; that the report of that committee be brought back to the next meeting of the Interim Committee.

Judge Perlman accepted the amendment.

Miss Evans suggested that a special committee be created for this task. Judge Perlman said he was willing to accept Miss Evans' amendment.

As formulated by the Chair the motion provided "that we postpone consideration of this matter and that either another special committee or the same committee that has been appointed be charged with responsibility for making recommendations as to the structure of the Interim Committee."

Commenting on the proposal, Mr. Monsky stated that he believed the question should be further considered and said that if the single chairmanship had been tendered to him he would have had to ask the time that the motion called for, so that he would be able to consider whether it would be helpful or hurtful for the creation of the new Conference, and that he would also want to know something more about what the members of his own Executive Committee were thinking before he would put himself in the position of taking the sole chairmanship of the Conference.

Whereupon the question was put to a vote and carried.

Mr. Monsky then stated that the present temporary chairman would consult with the other co-chairmen and the record would show that until the next meeting of the Interim Committee the present officers would be considered as hold-over officers, including the Chairman of the Executive Committee, with the same powers that they had in the past until the next meeting of the Interim Committee.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Interim Committee be held during the last week in March or the first week in April. The meeting was then adjourned.

I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

March 19, 1946

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Chairman
General Zionist Bloc
270 West 79th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

At the first meeting of the new Interim Committee called after the Third Session in Cleveland, it was agreed that committees be appointed to consider the entire problem involved in the organization of the Interim Committee, including the election of officers and the cooption of new members, and to report to the forthcoming meeting of the Interim Committee on April 2nd.

It is Mr. Monsky's view that one committee should consider both the problem of organization of the Interim Committee and the question of cooptions. I am directed by him to inform you that this committee will consist of one representative of each of the nine groups in the Conference and I am, therefore, requesting that you select the representative of your group on this committee as soon as possible.

Please note that the committee will meet on Thursday, March 28th, at the office of the American Jewish Conference, at 6 p.m.

Will you please designate your group's representative on this committee so that we may inform him of the time and place of this meeting?

Sincerely yours,

I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:ta
cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

XXVI.

Thursday, March 21, 1946

PRESENT: Louis Lipsky, Chairman; Jack Alson (alternate for Maurice Bisgyer), Charles Kramer, Jacob Marrus (alternate for Leon Gellman), Rabbi Irving Miller, Judge Nathan D. Perlman, Mrs. Louis Rosett (alternate for Jane Evans), Samuel Rothstein, Alex F. Stanton.

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Dr. Frank Barth, Mrs. Sylvia Gilman, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, David Sherman, Lillian Friedman.

OFFICE REPORT

Mr. Kenen reported as follows on activities of the Conference since the last Interim Committee meeting:

A. THE BORDER SITUATION - Mr. Wahl, Washington secretary, has maintained constant contact with the Departments of War and State to assure that the frontier would not be closed to Jews coming from Poland into the American zone in Germany. A meeting was held on February 12th with Under-Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Dr. Nahum Goldmann of the World Jewish Congress, and Mr. Wahl representing the Conference. On February 27th, Dr. Zalman Grinberg, Mr. Wahl and Mr. Kenen met with George Warren of the Department of State. Dr. Grinberg also discussed the situation with representatives of the Kilgore Committee in Washington and the Conference was requested to submit a memorandum on the problem of the Jewish displaced persons in Germany. (This memorandum was submitted on March 1st.) On March 8th Mr. Wahl advised that the status quo on the border situation would be maintained until the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry has completed its report.

B. DR. GRINBERG'S VISIT - In Washington on February 26th and 27th, Dr. Grinberg met with Major General John S. Hildring, Chief of the Civil Affairs Division of the War Department, Director General Herbert H. Lehman, Jewish members of Congress, had press conferences and other meetings. He secured immediate and favorable action on his requests for farm installations and all-Jewish hospitals for displaced persons.

In New York City, Dr. Grinberg spoke at Temple Emanu-El before leaders of the Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, at a meeting of the National Board of Hadassah, at the Executive Committee meeting of the JDC, and met with leaders of the World Jewish Congress, ORT and OSE. He also spoke at a public meeting sponsored by the Conference at the Manhattan Center on March 7th, and was welcomed by Mayor O'Dwyer. On March 5th, Dr. Grinberg addressed the U.A.H.C. in Cincinnati.

C. COOPERATION WITH THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS AND THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES

1. Reparations

a. The question of establishing a Jewish Reconstruction Commission representative of the American Jewish Conference, American Jewish Congress, Board of Deputies of British Jews, and Jewish Agency for Palestine has been discussed with members of the World Jewish Congress. The purpose of such a Commission would be to deal with all aspects of reparations imposed on Axis nations insofar as they are wholly or partially used for Jewish purposes.

The scope of the Commission would embrace intervention with all competent authorities to uncover new sources of such reparations, dealing with funds already designated, delegation of members to participate in or supervise the use of such funds, and similar action.

Mr. Lipsky appointed a committee consisting of Mr. Charles Kramer, Judge Nathan D. Perlman, and Mr. Samuel Rothstein to study the draft proposal.

b. Meeting with Swiss Delegation - Efforts are being made by the Conference and Congress to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Swiss Government to clarify the position of Jews who own property in Switzerland and to consider the question of the follow-up of German assets for Jewish reparations.

c. Colonel Bernstein and Mr. Wahl had met with representatives of the State Department to follow up a letter which the Conference had sent to Secretary Byrnes on February 7th on the Paris Agreement.

2. Joint Secretariat - Mr. Hans Lamm has been serving as an alternate on the Secretariat as the Conference representative in London. He has worked with officials of the Congress and Board and has kept the Conference informed of all developments on the London and European front.

Following a discussion of the negotiations looking to the admission of CRIF to the joint consultations, it was agreed to recommend to the Interim Committee that the three organizations meet as soon as possible, preferably in America.

D. UNRRA CONFERENCE - Mr. Grossman and Mr. Wahl represented the Conference at the Fourth Council of UNRRA which opened in Atlantic City on March 15th. The Conference, Congress and Board joined in submitting a memorandum stressing the necessity for the final settlement of the 500,00 Jewish displaced persons in Europe, and calling attention to the need for immediate action for the rehabilitation, medical and educational care of the Jewish displaced persons.

E. MARSTON REPORT - Mr. Horace Marston, the B'nai B'rith representative of the Conference liaison team in Germany, prepared a report on the situation in Germany. This memorandum was submitted to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry by UNRRA, and was also sent to members of the Kilgore Committee. (Copies were sent to delegates with Bulletin No. 91, dated March 12, 1946.)

F. SHANGHAI JEWS - Assurances have been received from the Chinese Government, that no German or Austrian Jews would be repatriated, and UNRRA has informed the Chinese Government that extremely critical consequences would result to the supply program if these commitments were not honored.

LEGAL EXPERT TO GO TO GERMANY

Mr. Grossman reported that because of unsatisfactory conditions with regard to individual claims for indemnification in Germany, it was felt that a legal adviser to the Jews in Germany should be available for consultation on matters dealing with indemnification. Judge Perlman moved the appointment of such a legal expert, and suggested that the matter be discussed with Judge Simon H. Rifkind. CARRIED.

RECEPTION FOR JUDGE SIMON H. RIFKIND

Judge Rifkind has accepted an invitation from the three Co-Chairmen to appear at a reception in his honor at the Biltmore Hotel on Tuesday, April 2, 1946.

UNION CONTRACT

Mr. Kenen reported that the Union and Conference were renegotiating their contract and the Union has asked for severance pay. Rabbi Miller moved that Mr. Kenen be given authority to conclude the negotiations with the inclusion of severance pay. CARRIED.

COMMITTEE ON COOPTIONS

It was reported that a committee to consider cooptions to the Interim Committee, Co-Chairmen, Executive Committee, etc., is being formed, consisting of one member from each of the nine blocs. The first meeting of this committee will be held on Thursday, March 28th.

ORGANIZATION OF YOUTH COUNCIL

It was reported that Rabbi Sherman had convened a meeting of representatives of the eleven youth organizations on Wednesday, March 20th, and that plans were made to establish a youth council of the American Jewish Conference.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM:

1. The State Department, allowing one observer at the UNO meetings. Mr. Kenen was designated.
2. The United Romanian Jews of America asking the Conference to intervene with the Romanian Government to permit the shipment of packages to Jews in Romania. This was agreed to.
3. Rabbi Sidney S. Guthman resigning as a delegate from Chelsea, Mass. because he had moved from that city. It was agreed to refer this to the Interim Committee for determination of the new procedure on vacancies.
4. The State Department on the memoranda which had been sent to them on UNESCO and Tripoli in November.

The meeting then adjourned.

L. Friedman

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

MAURICE BISGYER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
DANIEL FRISCH
LEON GELLMAN
HON. LEWIS GOLDBERG
FRANK GOLDMAN
DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN
MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN
DR. ROBERT GORDIS
HAYIM GREENBERG
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN
MRS. HUGO HARTMANN
DR. JAMES G. HELLER
ALBERT E. KAHN
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN
MRS. BARNETT E. KOPELMAN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
ISRAEL KRAMER
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM
MRS. ARTHUR G. LAUFMAN
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
DR. SAMUEL MARGOSHES
MORTIMER MAY
RABBI IRVING MILLER
DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN
HON. NATHAN D. PERLMAN
JEFFERSON E. PEYSER
HARRY A. PINE
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
ADOLPH ROSENBERG
DVORAH ROTHBARD
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
BENJAMIN SAMUELS
LOUIS SEGAL
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
EDWARD S. SILVER
SIMON E. SOBELOFF
CHARLES SONNENREICH
ALEX F. STANTON
HON. MEIER STEINBRINK
HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD
DR. JOSEPH TENENBAUM
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

Executive Committee

LOUIS LIPSKY
Chairman
MAURICE BISGYER
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
JANE EVANS
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
LEON GELLMAN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
HON. NATHAN D. PERLMAN
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
MRS. HERMAN SHULMAN
ALEX F. STANTON
HERMANN STERN
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

March 26, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road & East 105th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

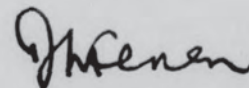
Dear Dr. Silver:

The enclosed came in for you today.

Incidentally, did you get a chance to talk to Mr. Lipsky about the Executive Committee of the Conference?

I note that Mr. Frisch is representing the General Zionists on the nominations sub-committee which meets Thursday night.

Sincerely,



I. L. Kenen

ILK :RL
incl.

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEETuesday, April 2, 1946Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City

IX.

The meeting opened at 11:05 a.m. with Henry Monsky presiding.

Those present were: Jacob Alson (for Frank Goldman), Maurice Bisgyer, Sam Caplan (for Simon E. Sobeloff), Aaron Droock, Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, Mrs. Ida Cook Farber, Rabbi Simon Federbusch, Harold O. N. Frankel, Daniel Frisch, Leon Gellman, William Gerber (for Benjamin Samuels), Mrs. Samuel Goldstein, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Dr. Robert Gordis, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Charles P. Kramer, Sidney G. Kusworm, Louis Lipsky, Mrs. Albert J. May (for Mrs. Joseph M. Welt), Rabbi Irving Miller, Dr. Samuel Nirenstein, Judge Nathan D. Perlman, Harry A. Pine, Dvorah Rothbard, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Samuel Rothstein, Rubin Saltzman, Alex Stanton, Mrs. Herman Shulman (for Judge Louis E. Levinthal), Hermann Stern, Robert Szold, Mrs. A. H. Vixman (for Mrs. Stephen S. Wise), Ralph Wechsler, David Wertheim, and Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

Staff: Dr. Frank Barth, Col. Bernard Bernstein, Lillian Friedman, Meir Grossman, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, I. L. Kenen, Dr. Horace Marston, Rabbi David Sherman, David R. Wahl.

I. MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 1946 - Approved.II. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

A. Mr. Kenen reported on the following matters:

1. The Position of Jewish Refugees in Germany - During Dr. Zalman Grinberg's visit to the United States, he had met with Major General John H. Hilldring, now Assistant Secretary of State, Director General of UNRRA, Herbert H. Lehman, Mr. George Warren, the State Department Adviser on Refugees, the Director of the Kilgore Committee, the Jewish members of Congress, and the Chief of the Central European Section of the Office of Research and Intelligence in the State Department. He had been accompanied by the Washington secretary and the secretary of the Conference.

At these meetings emphasis had been placed on the need of the Jewish displaced persons for agricultural installations, for training and occupational therapy, for purely Jewish hospitals for tuberculosis and maternity cases. The War Department had promised action. (Both General Hilldring and UNRRA cabled that day.)

Following the meeting with the Kilgore Committee officials, the Conference had submitted a written memorandum pointing out how denazification of Germany is retarded, rather than facilitated, by the present attitude toward Jews.

2. The Continued Influx of Infiltrates from Poland - The Washington secretary, Mr. Wahl, had been in continuous touch with the Departments of War and State in efforts to assure that the borders would not be closed. Mr. Monsky and Dr. Wise took up the question with Mr. Niles in Washington on January 8, Dr. Goldmann and Mr. Wahl met with Under-Secretary of State Acheson on February 12, and later the matter was brought to the attention of the President. Dr. Grinberg urged favorable action in his meeting with Mr. Warren. Finally on March 7, it was learned that a cable signed by Secretaries Byrnes and Patterson, had authorized maintenance of the status quo until the Anglo-American Committee had finished its report and the situation had been clarified.

3. Organization of the Youth Council - The eleven youth groups in the Conference had been requested to organize a Council of the youth organizations. They had voted favorably and were now drafting a constitution. They had asked for two places on the Interim Committee.

4. International Conference - The Conference was preparing for meetings of the Refugee Committee in London on April 8, the Human Rights Commission of the UN in April, the Economic and Social Council in May, and the Peace Conference in Paris. It was likely that it would have to send a delegation abroad.

The Conference was represented at meetings of the Security Council.

5. Reception to Judge Rifkind - The Conference was sponsoring a reception in honor of Federal Judge Rifkind on his return from Europe, at which he would present his first public report.

B. Colonel Bernstein reported as follows:

The Conference had not yet received a formal reply from the Department of State to its letter of February 7, in connection with the Paris reparation agreement, but he had learned that the American Government is taking the position that the \$25,000,000 allocated by that agreement for reparation purposes for victims of Nazi persecution would be the first charge against any assets acquired by the Allied Nations from Germany. The State Department was not prepared to deal with some Jewish organization to act for Jews in the distribution of the portion of the \$25,000,000 for Jewish resettlement, but would deal with a number of Jewish organizations together with other organizations. He urged Jewish organizations to come forward with a concrete proposal to the State Department and to the Inter-Governmental Committee as to who should act on behalf of the Jews. There was no encouragement on the proposition that increased reparations be made available. He suggested that some Jewish body be the representative of the Jews in various countries to protect the interests of the Jewish communities in connection with the return of looted property found in Germany. In connection with the restitution of the property within Germany, some progress was being made so far as living claimants were concerned, but no provision has yet been made for the disposition of masterless property.

He had met with the Swiss delegation in connection with the property in Switzerland belonging to Jews, which had not yet been unblocked, and in respect to German property and heirless Jewish property.

Replying to a question from Mr. Lipsky, he expressed the view that it would be desirable if one Jewish agency were set up to approach all governments on a single program, taking over whatever Jewish property can be obtained and administering it.

C. Mr. Grossman reported as follows:

The Conference had envisaged the establishment of a Jewish Reconstruction Committee as a functioning agency to deal with all aspects of reparation, restitution and indemnification. The World Jewish Congress had not favored the establishment of such an agency; and finally, it had been agreed, subject to the approval of the Interim Committee, to establish a Jewish Indemnification Commission. He submitted a draft of a proposal for the establishment of such a commission (see attached).

The secretary and he had met with Mr. Isaac Levy and Mr. Moses Leavitt of the JDC and had urged cooperation on the reparations question. A sub-committee of the Executive Committee consisting of Judge Perlman and Mr. Rothstein had approved the draft which was being submitted to the Interim Committee for its approval.

Discussion ensued on the advisability of the provision requiring a unanimous vote for the inclusion of new organizations in the Reconstruction Commission.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Rothstein and seconded by Dr. Gordis, that the report be adopted in principle and the Commission created, and that a Conference committee be empowered to continue negotiations with the World Jewish Congress and other interested bodies with reference to the proposed unanimity rule.

Dr. Goldstein moved an amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Kramer, that no reference be made in the draft to a requirement for unanimity. **CARRIED.**

The motion as amended was **CARRIED** by a vote of 18 to 7.

III. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COPTIONS AND OFFICERS

Mr. Frisch, Chairman, then reported on behalf of the Committee on Cooptions and Officers which consisted of representatives of the nine groups in the Conference. The committee had agreed that cooptions be made from the point of view of "community representation and service to the Conference." The committee submitted the following names: Jacob Alson, Max Bressler, Aaron Droock, Jane Evans, Professor Hayim Fineman, Israel R. Goodman, Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman, Israel Kramer, Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, Chaplain Gunther W. Plant, Mrs. David de Sola Pool, Adolph Rosenberg, and Mrs. Louis Rosett. In addition, one place was to be given to a representative of the Youth Council, and one place to be left open for the West Coast, to be selected by the incoming Executive Committee in consultation with the West Coast.

MOTION: Mr. Frisch then moved the cooption of the aforementioned persons.

MOTION: Mr. Saltzman moved, and Rabbi Miller seconded, that a representative of the Trade Union Committee for Jewish Unity be coopted.

MOTION: Mr. Droock offered a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Bisgyer, that the report of the committee be referred to the Executive Committee with full power to act on confirmation or replacements. **DEFEATED.**

The question was then on the adoption of the report and Mr. Saltzman moved that the thirteen (13) names submitted by the committee be accepted; that Mr. Perlow be added as the fourteenth, and that the committee be asked to make the final decision on the fifteenth. **DEFEATED** 20 to 8.

MOTION: Mr. Droock moved to amend, seconded by Mr. Bisgyer, by substituting the name of Samuel I. Sievers for Israel Goodman.

Mr. Frisch then proposed that in lieu of Mr. Goodman's name, the place be left open and be filled by a delegate from St. Louis, subject to consultation with the St. Louis Jewish community, whereupon Mr. Droock withdrew his amendment.

The report of the committee was then **ACCEPTED**. Dr. Wise asked to be recorded as voting against it.

Continuing, Mr. Frisch reported that the committee recommended that there be one chairman of the Interim Committee of the Conference, an honorary chairman, one chairman of the Executive Committee, and a treasurer. In the discussion that followed, Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Eisendrath, Mr. Rothstein and Mr. Lipsky argued in favor of the motion, and Dr. Wise, Rabbi Miller, Mr. Droock and Mr. Frankel, spoke in opposition. Mr. Frisch stated that at the committee meeting Judge Perlman had dissented on the proposal that there be one chairman, but had later voted in favor of the honorary chairman.

The report was **ACCEPTED** by a vote of 20 to 4.

Continuing the committee's report, Mr. Frisch placed in nomination for Honorary Chairman of the Interim Committee the name of Dr. Wise; the name of Mr. Monsky for Chairman; Mr. Lipsky for Chairman of the Executive Committee; Mr. Stern for Treasurer.

The Chair suggested that the nomination of a Chairman of the Executive Committee be postponed until after it was determined how the Executive Committee was to be created.

MOTION: It was then moved by Mr. Frisch and seconded that the committee proceed with the election of the Executive Committee and that it decide that the Chairman of the Executive Committee be elected.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Wechsler and seconded by Mrs. Epstein, that Mr. Frisch's motion be deferred. CARRIED.

The question then being the election of the Honorary Chairman, Rabbi Miller said that Dr. Wise, who had left the meeting, had asked him to state that he would not, under any circumstances, accept the post.

Dr. Wise was unanimously elected.

Dr. Goldstein then assumed the Chair. Mr. Rothstein and Mr. Frisch placed in nomination the name of Mr. Monsky for Chairman of the Interim Committee. CARRIED unanimously. Mr. Monsky resumed the Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Frisch then moved the election of Hermann Stern as Treasurer. CARRIED unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Droock then moved that the Executive Committee be composed of the chairmen of the various committees, the officers of the Conference, and such other individuals as the chairman may select, subject to the confirmation of the Interim Committee.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Rothstein that the committee which had been functioning continue to function and to consult the newly elected officers and report back to the next meeting, and that in the meantime, the present Executive Committee would continue.

MOTION: It was moved by Rabbi Miller and seconded by Mrs. Farber, that the Executive Committee consist of the officers just elected, the chairmen of all the standing committees, and one representative (without the power of selecting an alternate) to be named by each of the nine groups.

Mr. Droock withdrew his motion in favor of Rabbi Miller's. Rabbi Miller's motion was CARRIED.

MOTION: It was then moved by Rabbi Miller and seconded by Mr. Lipsky, that the Executive Committee when constituted shall elect its own chairman.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kramer and seconded by Mr. Gerber that the Chairman of the Interim Committee appoint the Chairman of the Executive Committee subject to confirmation by the Interim Committee.

The chairman suggested that the members of the Executive Committee be permitted to select a chairman of the Executive Committee either from among their own number or any member of the Interim Committee. Rabbi Miller accepted the suggestion as an amendment to his motion. Mr. Kramer withdrew his motion. Rabbi Miller's motion was then CARRIED.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Droock and seconded by Miss Evans that the offices of two Vice-Chairmen be created and the committee now acting be authorized to bring in recommendations to the next Interim Committee to fill those places.

MOTION: It was moved by Rabbi Miller and seconded by Mr. Rothstein that the motion be tabled. CARRIED.

The chairman stated that unless there was objection, the present Executive Committee will continue to function until the new Executive Committee is constituted.

MOTION: It was moved by Rabbi Miller that the Chairman of the Interim Committee be given the authority by the Interim Committee to name the chairmen of the commissions or other standing committees that are needed. The motion was seconded and CARRIED.

IV. REPORT OF DR. HORACE MARSTON

Reporting on the position of the Jews in Germany, Dr. Marston told of the unity which had been achieved by the Jewish displaced persons. He stated that there was only one solution to their problem - emigration - and that as every day passes the situation of the Jewish displaced persons becomes more precarious. He referred to the plight of the Jews outside of the camps and stressed the need for greater activity in connection with the problem of restoration of property and rights. He stated that the work must be done with men on the spot who must concern themselves not only with the displaced persons living in Germany but with the entire Jewish community in Europe.

MOTION: It was moved by Rabbi Miller that the Interim Committee express its thanks for the "magnificent piece of work" that Dr. Marston had done. CARRIED unanimously.

The chairman then called the attention of the Interim Committee to the incident at Stuttgart and expressed the view that there was tendency on the part of the Army to relax on its denazification program in Germany. The chairman suggested that the Interim Committee authorize the addressing of a suitable and appropriate communication to protest against the incident and the system which it symbolizes,

MOTION: It was moved by Judge Perlman that the chairman be empowered to make such representations to the State and War Departments as he deems advisable. CARRIED.

V. FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Halprin and seconded by Rabbi Miller, that a special committee be appointed to consider the subject matter of procedure and to report to the Interim Committee at its next meeting. CARRIED.

VI. REPORT ON UNRRA CONFERENCE

Mr. Wahl reported briefly on the UNRRA conference which he and Mr. Grossman had attended as representatives of the Conference. (For his complete report see the April Conference RECORD.)

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Halprin and seconded by Mr. Frisch and Miss Evans that the Conference send a representative to the meeting of the Committee on Refugees in London April 8. The Chair suggested that it should be the sense of the Interim Committee that if at all possible we have a representative at that conference. CARRIED.

The meeting then adjourned.

DRAFT OF PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION
submitted to the Interim Committee at its meeting on April 2, 1946.

A Jewish Reconstruction Commission, or Jewish Indemnification Commission shall be established with its offices in New York; the Commission shall be empowered to deal with all aspects of reparations imposed on Axis nations, to be used for the benefit of an indemnification of Jewish war victims.

The Commission shall be empowered to intervene and negotiate with all competent authorities now existing to uncover all sources of such reparations and to prepare and implement plans for the use of all funds allocated for such purposes.

The Commission shall consist of representatives of national and international Jewish organizations engaged in the field of political, economic, and cultural assistance to European Jews.

The Commission shall have full authority to act in the foregoing matters on behalf of all its participating organizations.

The Commission shall commence its functions upon the acceptance of this plan by any two of the following organizations: American Jewish Conference, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Jewish Agency for Palestine, World Jewish Congress.

Additional organizations may be admitted upon the unanimous vote of the members of the participating organizations.

Each constituent organization shall designate three members to serve on the Commission of whom one shall serve full time. Each participating organization shall have the right to replace its representative at any time.

There shall be a functioning Executive Committee which shall be responsible for the day-to-day work of the Commission, composed of one member designated by each participating organization.

The whole Commission shall meet at least once a month.

All the representatives designated by each participating organization together shall have one vote. The decisions of the Commission shall be by a majority vote of the representatives of the participating organizations except that decisions concerning the change of the scope of activities of the commission must be made by unanimous vote of the participating organizations.

The Commission shall enact its own rules and procedures. The expenses of the Commission shall be borne equally by the participating organizations.

The purpose set forth in Paragraph 2 regarding the scope of competence, may be extended to include matters germane to the original purpose for which the Commission is established only by unanimous decision of the members of the Commission.

COPY

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

April 4, 1946

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

At the Interim Committee meeting of the American Jewish Conference on April 2nd, it was agreed that the new Executive Committee of the American Jewish Conference would consist of the officers, the chairmen of standing committees and representatives of the nine groups.

May I call your attention to the fact that the new Executive Committee must assume large responsibilities in the administration of the affairs of the Conference and in the implementation of its decisions, and in my view, it is therefore urgent that the groups designate representatives who are prepared to give a major interest to the Conference and who are in a position to attend the meetings of the Executive Committee. In this connection, may I call your attention to the fact that it was the sense of the Interim Committee that members of the Executive Committee would not be permitted to have alternates because it is essential that we have continuity of operation.

I am calling the first meeting of the Executive Committee on Wednesday, April 24th at 3:00 P.M. in the office of the American Jewish Conference, 521 Fifth Avenue, NYC.

May we have the name of your selection for the Executive Committee so that we may notify him of the time and place of this meeting?

Cordially yours,

Henry Monsky
Chairman, Interim Committee

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

April 3, 1946

C
O
P
Y

Mr. Louis Benstod, Acting Treasurer
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Holly and Avon Streets
St. Paul 5, Minn.

Dear Mr. Benstod:

This will acknowledge with thanks receipt of your check for \$500 which, we assume, is part payment of your \$750 contribution to the 1946 budget of the American Jewish Conference.

We appreciate the promptness with which our constituent organizations are discharging their financial responsibility to the Conference for, since the adjournment of the third session, the expenses attendant thereon are becoming due while contributions from the communities lag at this time of the year, pending completion of their campaigns.

We therefore would be grateful for receipt of the balance of \$250 at as early a date as possible.

Cordially,

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

AJ:FS

CC: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

COPY

April 5, 1946

Hon. James F. Byrnes, Secretary of State
State Department, Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Byrnes:

An incident in the American occupation zone of Germany on Friday, March 29th, not only destroyed the life of one Jew who survived the Hitler terror, but also compromised the fair name of the United States, and the democratic principles for which we, as Americans, fought in World War II.

We refer to the killing in the displaced persons camp at Stuttgart of Samuel Dantziger, 37-year old survivor of Oswiecim concentration camp, who, according to press reports, was shot when 200 German police, armed with guns, rubber truncheons, and accompanied by police dogs, invaded the displaced persons center early in the morning, searching for violators of ration regulations. Three other Jewish survivors of concentration camps were wounded, and 26 were arrested.

That German police were permitted to raid a Jewish camp, in the company of American military personnel, gives courage to the Nazi underground, whose existence AMG admits, and certainly does not help to inculcate democratic principles among the civilian population in Germany. Such an act also demoralizes American occupation troops, who are continually exposed to Nazi indoctrination in their contact with the German population.

The report that one member of the German raiding party was recognized by a Jewish displaced person as a former guard at Oswiecim, is even more serious. For it indicates that Germans used in police work have not been thoroughly screened.

We appreciate that Lt. General Joseph T. McNarney, Commander in the European Theater, promptly suspended the right of German police to enter Jewish displaced persons centers. We believe that every step must be taken to prevent a recurrence of this incident. It is patent that Germans must not under any circumstances be permitted to control or supervise the lives of Jewish displaced persons. German armed guards must not be permitted to patrol borders through which Jewish persecutees enter the American zone. We are confident that the investigation now being conducted will result in punishment of those guilty.

However, the Jewish people of the United States are very much concerned that the causes of this outrage shall be attacked at the roots and shall be eliminated. We therefore urge that denazification in the American zone of Germany be prosecuted with increased vigor. It is apparent that the procedures that have been employed in the past have failed to accomplish this objective.

We recognize the efforts of American military authorities to assist the Jewish victims of Nazi concentration camps, and to improve conditions in the assembly centers. But these of themselves cannot be expected to remove the cancerous growth of anti-Semitism from German soil.

In addressing this letter to you, I wish to state that this situation was reviewed at a meeting of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference on April 2nd, in New York, and I was directed by that body to communicate these views on behalf of the American Jewish Conference.

Respectfully,

HM:rl

(signed)

HENRY MONSKY

Chairman, Interim Committee

Same letter to:

Hon. Robert P. Patterson
Secretary of War, War Department
Washington, D.C.

MEMORANDUM

April 8, 1946

To: Dr. Silver
From: Dr. Goldstein

Will you please indicate if you have any special preference with reference to the representative of the ZOA on the newly constituted Executive Committee of the American Jewish Conference.

Cordial Passover greetings.



American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

April 11, 1946

MAURICE BISGYER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
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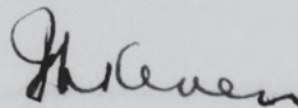
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road & East 105th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Enclosed is a copy of the program for Bartley Crum on the occasion of his return to the United States. It is being worked out by David Wahl, who is a very good friend of Crum's and our Washington Secretary.

We will want the Emergency Council to cooperate with us.

Sincerely yours,



I. L. Kenen

ILK:rl
encl.

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

COPY

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MEMORANDUM

Date April 8, 1946

TO: Mr. I. L. Kenen
FROM: David R. Wahl
SUBJECT: Bartley Crum Program

Some weeks ago I began to look into the matter of making the best utilization of Crum's time after he returned to this country. Since it is definite he will be back very early in May, it was obvious that no time should be lost in building a program and an apparatus. The attached prospectus will give you the story which may be used for the information of key leaders in organizations associated with the Conference. When I first began to deal with the people in P.R. Associate, it was on a basis of some \$15,000 being raised quietly by a couple of our organizations; however, Crum's partner raised certain points as to the vulnerability of Crum in this situation if it became known that he was being used as a front for Jewish money. Therefore he has undertaken to raise the money privately and to guarantee the expenses.

He presented a difficulty because of his close friendship with Proskauer, and he wanted the Committee involved in this picture. I explained to him that this would not do and it was because of this that I felt it necessary to call Crum by telephone. In our conversation he gave me complete authority to tell his partner that he agreed with me absolutely and that he did not want Proskauer or Rosenwald or any elements not approved by me involved in this picture.

His forthcoming book will be an important part of the whole program and in our telephone conversation it was decided that Ruth Gruber, who has been accompanying the Committee, should immediately start working with him on the manuscript. The manuscript would be forwarded to me as sections are completed and I would be responsible for final editing and passing it on to the publisher. In this way we could be assured of publication in a \$1.00 soft-cover edition thirty days after Crum's arrival in this country. Crum has kept a careful diary since the first day of his membership on the Committee. Concerning the decisions to be made by the Committee, the issue is still in doubt, but it is obvious from the conversation that there is no hope of agreement between the British and Crum. There is some slight possibility that Crum can carry the whole American Committee along with him on a separate report, but there is no doubt that Crum himself will write an additional strong minority report. He said that he had lost any vestige of favourable acceptance by the British and he was worried as to what the press reaction of the United States to him is because it has been difficult for him to follow the United States press.

It has long been an established fact that the State Department considers Crum persona non grata, but Truman and Hannegan are ready to pay almost any price for Crum's friendship.

It is for these reasons that I think organized Jewry has a tremendous amount to gain in this program, and can achieve a major public relations coup in the United States, among all sections of the population,, with Crum as a free spokesman for the Palestine solution. Therefore, on the basis of the attached prospectus and whatever remarks in this memorandum which you feel you should use, I should like to recommend that you proceed to contact a small group of key people from appropriate organizations and that we begin to work closely in the control of this whole program. I am completely equipped to keep P.R. Associated and the individuals who will be working with Crum in line on the development of the whole project.



Attachment

April 12, 1946

Mr. I. L. Kenen
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

My dear Kenen:

Thank you for your kind letter of
April 11. The Emergency Council will of course
be very happy to cooperate with you in the program
planned for Bartley Crum. Have you talked with Mr.
Shapiro about this matter?

With all good wishes for a happy Pesach,
I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

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DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

April 19, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President
Zionist Organization of America
41 E. 42nd Street
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

The enclosed letter was sent to the Departments of War and State by Mr. Monsky on behalf of the American Jewish Conference on April 5th, following a decision by the Interim Committee of the Conference. Since it was written we have been informed that the conditions of which we complained have grown worse - not better.

It is our suggestion that you write at once to the Secretaries of War and State in the name of your organization. We urge you to register your protest against existing policies and to join the Conference in pressing for an intensification of denazification procedures. To reenforce our protest, it is advisable that you refer to the American Jewish Conference letter. We will appreciate your sending us a copy of your letter.

Cordially yours,

I. L. Kenen
I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:md
enc.

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COPY

April 5, 1946

Hon. James F. Byrnes, Secretary of State
State Department, Washington, D. C.

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In addressing this letter to you, I wish to state that this situation was reviewed at a meeting of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference on April 2nd, in New York, and I was directed by that body to communicate these views on behalf of the American Jewish Conference.

Respectfully,

HM:rl

(signed)

HENRY MONSKY
Chairman, Interim Committee

Same letter to:

Hon. Robert P. Patterson
Secretary of War, War Department
Washington, D.C.

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

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April 19, 1946

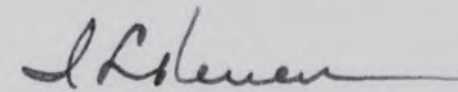
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Ansel R. at E. 105th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

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Cordially yours,



I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

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CHARLES P. KRAMER
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
HON. NATHAN D. PERLMAN
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
MRS. HERMAN SHULMAN
ALEX F. STANTON
HERMANN STERN
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

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

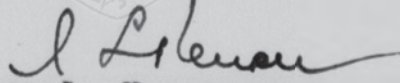
April 19, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road and E. 105th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Mr. Lipsky suggested that I send you a copy of the
transcript of Mr. Monsky's statement to the Interim Committee.

Cordially yours,


I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:rl
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

CHAIRMAN MONSKY: I would like your permission, since I am the only candidate that was mentioned for this single chairmanship, to make a brief statement, and it is not going to be by way of argument to convince you on one side or the other of the question.

If you had been good enough to suggest Maurice Eisendrath for that single chairmanship, then I would be able to make a very strong argument, even a much more effective one than Lipsky made in favor of the single chairmanship, but since you mention my name in connection with it, I am inclined to believe that I should take no position on it and would prefer that you did not even vote on the question today for several reasons.

Let me point out to you: I told you, remember, at the Conference, and told you, Rothstein, that the Organization Committee made a mistake, that as we were approaching this year of negotiation and trying to bring about a new Conference with a new structure, and since we contemplated that we were going to be successful in those negotiations, and that therefore this conference was going to go out of business and be infused into the new structure, it would be just as well if we allowed everything to remain status quo, because I anticipated this argument.

Yet I saw the value of putting to death once and for all time the idea that the American Jewish Conference was just a facade or a front for the Zionist Movement. It is true that I am not identified as an official of any Zionist Organization, but I never failed to identify myself as a Zionist in all of my public speeches. I do that deliberately, even though I say that I have a vice president who is a non-Zionist, but the President of the B'nai B'rith is a Zionist for whatever good it might do to the Zionist cause, and to the Conference. I always make sure to do that, but I am not an official in the official Zionist family; I haven't any desire to be the chairman of the Conference during this negotiation period, because I consider that that takes on an added and much more hazardous -- from my standpoint

and from the standpoint of my organization, after all I cannot separate myself from being the President of the B'nai B'rith, I told you this Maurice, in Cincinnati, I am not so sure that I would like to be the single chairman of the Conference, I am not dealing in conventions now, I am putting the cards on the table. My whole hesitancy to take a single chairmanship if it were tendered me was to keep the B'nai B'rith from being in the position where it was embarrassed. If I am the chairman of the Conference and also the President of the B'nai B'rith, then the B'nai B'rith is in a handicapped position with respect to its negotiations. Some of my B'nai B'rith have called that to my attention; what position will you be in if you are the sole chairman of the Conference and if we find that the B'nai B'rith is unwilling to accede to what seems to be the general consensus of opinion?

My answer to them is, and perhaps it may be a foolhardy answer but you have known me to be foolhardy before if I think the objective is good, "That is the hazard that I am going to have to take."

If that will help to bring the B'nai B'rith into line -- I mean their objections may be capricious and if the psychological effect of my being chairman will help to bring about this new organization, I have to take that hazard.

Were it not for that consideration I would have declined from the beginning any suggestion of becoming the single chairman of this Conference.

So that you know what my thinking is, and that is the reason I have taken no position on the matter.

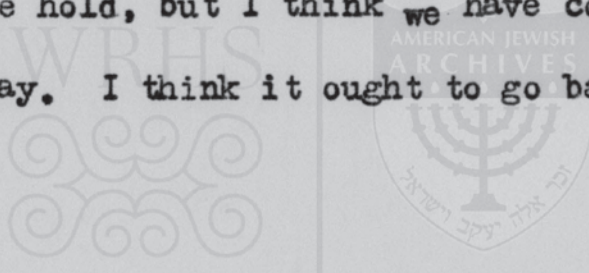
I would not take a single chairmanship under the recommendation of your committee, Mr. Lipsky won't like this, but he will understand it. Under the recommendations of your committee you are recommending the election of a single chairman and the election of an executive committee chairman and I would not take it. I will not take the single chairmanship with supposedly the responsibility of operating the Conference, and then to have an executive committee chairman elected who will stand on a parity with the chairman and have the execution of the program, and I said

that Mr. Lipsky will understand it because it was not more than three hours ago that I had a talk with Mr. Lipsky before this meeting was convened, and while I was eating breakfast, and I asked you, Mr. Lipsky, and told you that I was tremendously interested if the chairmanship were tendered to me that you do remain the chairman of the Executive Committee, so that it is no reflection on Mr. Lipsky, or the magnificent work that he has done, if I were given the appointive power to appoint a chairman of the Executive Committee, the first man I would think about would be Mr. Lipsky and his declination would not stand because if I had any persuasive powers to influence him at all I would appoint him as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

But theoretically, the single chairman, whoever he might be, ought to have the right to name the Executive Chairman, subject to your confirmation. I would not take the chairmanship of this Conference and have the nine groups each of them select the person who shall be on the Executive Committee with one, two, or three alternates of those persons so that your Executive Committee changes from week to week and you have no continuity of policy and each time you have to review everything that has been done before, before you begin to consider any proposal that is before them. That is not sound administration, and therefore you would not accomplish anything by the single chairmanship unless you actually mean to elect a single chairman and to let that single chairman not only have the responsibility but the authority to create the instrumentalities through which to carry out the program.

I heard Rabbi Goldstein this morning, who I know had in mind suggesting me for the chairmanship -- you see there is no misunderstanding on my part concerning all of the things involved here. Rabbi Bernstein says, we want a chairman who will be able to devote his time, who will come frequently to New York -- I come much more frequently to New York now than is comfortable, with flying I suppose I could come twice a month instead of once a month and maybe three times a month.

I am not averse for the responsibility -- it would make me exceedingly happy if we could have a single chairman and if we could find some person either in or out of the Interim Committee, if we could draft him onto the Interim Committee, who would take that single chairmanship and be able to devote his time exclusively to that, I am not yet released from my responsibility to the B'nai B'rith and the only condition under which I gave it any possible consideration was that if my selection as single chairman of the Interim Committee with the responsibility of really running the show for the next year with such colleagues as I would choose from the Interim Committee, and subject to your policy making, would assist in bringing about the objective that is contemplated by that resolution which was adopted at the Cleveland Conference, I was willing to brush aside, Aaron Droock, all of your misgivings and all of the misgivings of my other B'nai B'rith Associates here, and to really take hold, but I think we have come to a position where we ought not to vote on this today. I think it ought to go back to the organizations.



MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

XXVII.

Wednesday, April 24, 1946

PRESENT: Henry Monsky, presiding; Harry Ehrlich, Prof. Hayim Fineman, Jacob Marrus, Rabbi Irving Miller, Samuel Rothstein, Alex Stanton, Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

Also: Maurice Bisgyer

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Col. Bernard Bernstein, David Sherman, Mrs. Ann Jarcho.

I. ADMINISTRATION

1. The following resolution authorizing the sale of stock donated to the Conference was adopted:

RESOLVED, that Mr. I. L. Kenen, Executive Secretary of the American Jewish Conference, be and hereby is authorized on behalf of the American Jewish Conference to execute a stock power for the transfer of 50 shares of stock of United Corporation, represented by Certificate No. Co 480863.

2. It was reported that the Conference had been asked to accept an increase in rent of \$900 a year. The officers and the Executive Secretary were empowered to conclude negotiations with the landlord with authority to accept an increase in rent.

II. ORGANIZATION

1. It was agreed that there be 3 committees each consisting of 9 members representing each of the groups. The 3 committees are Committee on Rights and Status, Committee on Palestine, Committee on Reparations and Restitution. The Chair was empowered to appoint a committee to recommend nominations for the Chairmen of the Committees. (Chair later appointed Messrs. Marrus, Miller, Rothstein, Goldstein and Jane Evans).

2. Cooptions: The question of cooptions was deferred until the next meeting. Consideration of a request from the newly formed National Youth Council for representation for each of its organizations was deferred pending study to be made on the future organization of the Conference.

III. UNITED NATIONS

1. It was reported that representatives of the Conference and the Congress (Messrs. Kenen, Wahl, Perlzweig and Dwork) met with the Department of State to discuss the Jewish aspects of peace treaties with the ex-enemy states. The Department of State requested written proposals.

It was agreed that the draft prepared by the Conference staff be taken up with the World Jewish Congress and submitted at the earliest possible moment.

2. Human Rights Commission: It was reported that Conference representatives (Messrs. Kenen and Barth) had attended a meeting called by the State Department to discuss the work of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations and that organizations have been requested to submit their suggestions to the State Department.

A memorandum was submitted by the staff and it was agreed to set up a committee to review it with the idea of having it submitted to the State Department. The committee later appointed consisted of Mr. Rothstein and Mr. Ehrlich.

3. Economic and Social Council: It was reported that the Conference had raised with the Council the question of whether the Conference was eligible for consultant status under Article 71 of the United Nations Charter. It was agreed that an application be made to the Council.

4. Committee on Refugees: It was reported that Rabbi Philip Bernstein had represented the Conference at the opening sessions of the Committee in London and that a memorandum had been submitted to the Committee jointly by the Conference, The Board of Deputies and the World Jewish Congress. A representative of the Conference is attending the Committee sessions.

V. SITUATION IN GERMANY

1. It was reported that representatives of the Conference and Congress (Messrs. Grossman, Wahl, Tartakower and Dwork) had met with Assistant Secretary of War Peterson to discuss the situation in Germany. These matters had been considered:

- A. Request for the appointment of a successor to Judge Rifkind. Mr. Peterson promised to send a cable to that effect to Gen. McNarney. This was done and we now await a reply.
- B. Question was raised as to why there were German guards at the borders. Reply was that they must use Germans but that the borders are open to Jewish "persecutees".
- C. The order prohibiting German police in the camps given by Gen. McNarney is a permanent order.
- D. Closer liaison between the military headquarters and the displaced persons.

2. It was reported that a protest had been sent to the War and State Departments arising out of the Stuttgart incident and that replies had been received.

VI. REPARATIONS

1. Col. Bernstein reported on the progress of negotiations with the Swiss Government on reparations and masterless property, and meetings with the War and State Departments on problems of restitution. He proposed that a commission of 1 to 3 persons be sent abroad to advise on the problems of restitution, of masterless and communal property and the disposition of art treasures. This was agreed to.

2. Reconstruction Commission: Copies of the proposal of the Conference had been submitted to the World Jewish Congress and the Board of Deputies of British Jews, but no replies have been received. In the meantime, it had been learned that the Board had taken certain steps looking toward the establishment of a Jewish agency to handle Jewish claims for reparation without consulting the co-signers of the tri-partite agreement. It had also invited representatives of other countries to consultations without agreement of the Conference and the Congress. It was agreed that the Board be informed of our objections to unilateral action.

VII. CONSULTATIONS

It was agreed that consultations with the Board and the World Jewish Congress take place in London in May, and that a member of the staff be sent to London in advance of the meetings.

VIII. JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY

Col. Bernstein reported on discussions in Washington in connection with the Jordan Valley Authority.

IX. STAFF

The committee ratified the Chair's agreement with Col. Bernstein for his services as legal counsel and approved the Chair's recommendation for a salary increase for the Executive Secretary.

X. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Action was deferred and Dr. Goldstein was requested to serve as Acting Chairman.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
MEMORANDUM

April 29, 1946

TO: Organizations Affiliated with the American Jewish Conference **DATE:**
FROM: I. L. Kenen, Executive Secretary
SUBJECT:

Last week we sent you a copy of a letter which Mr. Monsky wrote to the Departments of War and State and we suggested that you might wish to reenforce his letter with one of your own.

We have since received replies from Secretary of State Byrnes and Major General Echols. We enclose copies of these letters for your information.

ilk/sc
enc.
oeiu/153

WAR DEPARTMENT, CIVIL AFFAIRS DIVISION

COPY

WDSCA 014 Germany (5 Apr 46)

Mr. Henry Monsky, Chairman, Interim Committee
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

13 April 1946

Dear Mr. Monsky:

The Secretary of War has asked me to reply to your letter of 5 April 1946, on behalf of the American Jewish Conference, in which you refer to the recent incident at the Jewish displaced persons center at Stuttgart and the problem of denazification in the United States Zone of Germany.

The War Department shares your regret that a Jewish displaced person should have lost his life in the Stuttgart incident after having survived many years of Nazi brutality. All aspects of this incident are being carefully and thoroughly investigated by our military authorities in Germany. Pending the results of the investigation, as you recognize in your letter, General McNarney has suspended authority of German police to enter Jewish displaced persons centers, and instructions have been issued that any search and seizure operations conducted in Jewish displaced persons centers will be made only by United States military personnel under careful safeguard.

Denazification has been one of the primary objectives of our occupation of Germany. In the face of the staggering task which confronted the Military Government, noteworthy progress has been made in attacking this problem. You will be interested to know that over 1,000,000 Germans have thus far been investigated and screened by Military Government. Of this number, more than 260,000 active Nazis and militarists were removed or excluded from public employment and from important positions in private industry and other fields. In addition, an unknown but substantial number were removed from office during the combat phase when few records were kept and others deserted their offices to avoid later arrest or dismissal by Military Government. As you may have noted in the newspapers, a new denazification enforcement program was recently put into effect. Under this program, which will be carried out by the German authorities under the careful supervision of the Military Government, all Germans in the United States Zone, 18 years or older, are required to register and to complete a detailed questionnaire. All those who participated in any manner in Nazi activities will be classified into one of the following categories: (1) major offenders; (2) activists, militarists and profiteers; (3) probationers; (4) followers; (5) exonerated persons. Appropriate punishment will be meted out to all those in the first four categories. I am citing the bare outlines of this new denazification program for the purpose of indicating that the Military Government is continuing to pursue this important objective.

I trust that this information will reassure your organization of our earnest desire to accord to Jewish displaced persons the fair and understanding consideration which they deserve, and of our firm determination to continue a vigorous policy of denazification in our zone of Germany.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

O. P. ECHOLS
Major General, USA
Director, Civil Affairs Division

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

April 22, 1946

In reply refer to
A-C/R 740.00119 Control (Germany)/4-546

My dear Mr. Monsky:

I have received your letter of April 5, 1946 relative to the incident of March 29 in the displaced persons center near Stuttgart in which the life of Samuel Dantziger was lost and other Jewish survivors of concentration camps were wounded.

As you are already aware, the use of German police for the purpose of participating in inspections of displaced persons centers in which Jews are housed has been prohibited. It is apparent therefore that steps are being taken which will prevent a repetition of this unfortunate occurrence.

There has not* been and there will not be any relaxation in our denazification program in Germany. The United States Government and the military authorities in the American zone in Germany fully appreciate the necessity of eliminating Nazi ideology in all its forms from German life.

The procedures that have been employed in the past cannot be said to have failed despite the fact that anti-semitism and other dangerous Nazi doctrines still persist among elements of the German people. It would be unfair to judge the results accomplished so far without taking into account the magnitude of the task. It is doubtful if this task can be completely accomplished for a generation or more.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) JAMES F. BYRNES

Mr. Henry Monsky
Chairman, Interim Committee
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

- - - - -
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*The word "not" apparently omitted.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

XXVIII.

Tuesday, April 30, 1946

PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, Acting Chairman; Jacob Alson, Jane Evans, Jacob Marrus, Rabbi Irving Miller, Alex F. Stanton, and Dr. A. Leon Kubowitski (acting for the Labor Zionist Group).

Also: Sam Caplan

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Col. Bernard Bernstein, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, David Sherman, Lillian Friedman.

Dr. Goldstein stated that the meeting had been called for the purpose of discussing the report of the Anglo-American Committee. The recommendations contained in the report were read and a discussion followed.

It was moved and seconded to issue a statement to the newspapers reflecting the feeling of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Conference. CARRIED. Miss Evans asked to be recorded as not voting. The statement which was issued the following day is attached.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Interim Committee be held on Friday, May 24th.

The meeting then adjourned.

L. Friedman

oeiu:153

STATEMENT ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

May 1, 1946

The short-term recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry will be welcome everywhere. Recognizing the plight of the homeless refugees in Europe, the Committee accepts the humanitarian recommendation made by President Truman last fall, a proposal, which will stand forever to his credit. It is a pity that the British Government did not accede to the President's request when it was made, for the rehabilitation of the 100,000 homeless Jews in Central Europe has been unnecessarily delayed for many wasted months.

The report also calls for abrogation of some of the obnoxious features of the 1939 White Paper. Unfortunately, this a posthumous victory for the millions of Jews who were annihilated by the Nazis, many of whom but for the White Paper might have been alive in Palestine today.

But while the short-term recommendations are realistic responses to the necessities of the moment, the long-term recommendations are most unrealistic and unfortunate. They strike a sharp blow at the Jewish people and the Jewish National Home for they propose to brush aside the international obligations to the Jewish people under the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate, the intention of which was to develop a Jewish state in Palestine once a Jewish majority had been established in that country.

Although the White Paper restrictions on Jewish immigration and land colonization are to be removed, the mandatory power will be able, once the 100,000 Jewish refugees are admitted, to revert to political considerations in regulating and restricting the flow of Jewish immigration in the future. Since the 100,000 Jews in Europe to be removed to Palestine constitute but a fraction of the Jewish remnants whose immigration to that country is essential, we fear that the Committee's report will fail to help the great majority of Europe's Jews, in desperate need of settlement in a homeland of their own. Above all, the report fails to solve the major problem of the Jewish people - its national homelessness for a period of over 2000 years. For, while the report recognizes the constructive work undertaken by the Jewish people in the development of the Jewish National Home in Palestine, it suggests that Jews be required, unlike any other people

in the world, to give up their legitimate and natural aspirations to become a self-determining people.

If there has been progress in Palestine during the last 30 years, it is because Jews have reclaimed and built a country promised to them by the nations of the world as their national homeland. The passionate desire of the Jewish people for integration with a land which it could call its own, has been responsible for the dynamic character of Palestine's development, one of the very few positive pioneering achievements in our generation. It was accomplished by a people fired with intense zeal to find itself anew, to recreate itself and to restore itself to dignity and peoplehood. Now it is suggested that this normal desire for Jewish statehood be thwarted and the development of the Jewish National Home arrested.

This is a proposal that the Jews of Palestine will doubtless vigorously reject. It is our view that the overwhelming majority of the Jews in this country and throughout the world will stand firmly by their side, insisting that Jewish rights to Palestine be safeguarded and fulfilled and rejecting every proposal to abridge and to alienate those rights.

oeiu:153

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

MAURICE BISGYER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
SIGMUND W. DAVID
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN
RABBI SIMON FEDERBUSCH
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
DANIEL FRISCH
LEON GELLMAN
HON. LEWIS GOLDBERG
FRANK GOLDMAN
DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN
MRS. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN
DR. ROBERT GORDIS
HAYIM GREENBERG
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN
MRS. HUGO HARTMANN
DR. JAMES G. HELLER
ALBERT E. KAHN
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN
MRS. BARNETT E. KOPELMAN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
ISRAEL KRAMER
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM
MRS. ARTHUR G. LAUFMAN
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
DR. SAMUEL MARGOSHES
MORTIMER MAY
RABBI IRVING MILLER
DR. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN
HON. NATHAN D. PERLMAN
JEFFERSON E. PEYSER
HARRY A. PINE
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
ADOLPH ROSENBERG
DVORAH ROTHBARD
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
BENJAMIN SAMUELS
LOUIS SEGAL
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
EDWARD S. SILVER
SIMON E. SOBELOFF
CHARLES SONNENREICH
ALEX F. STANTON
HON. MEIER STEINBRINK
HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD
DR. JOSEPH TENENBAUM
MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
MRS. STEPHEN S. WISE
BARUCH ZUCKERMAN

Executive Committee

LOUIS LIPSKY
Chairman
MAURICE BISGYER
AARON DROOCK
RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
JANE EVANS
PROF. HAYIM FINEMAN
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
LEON GELLMAN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
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HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG
SAMUEL ROTHSTEIN
MRS. HERMAN SHULMAN
ALEX F. STANTON
HERMANN STERN
DAVID WERTHEIM
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

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

May 21, 1946

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am attaching copy of a letter sent by Mr. Henry Monsky when he was last in town. No reply has been received to date and I am troubling you with this matter now in the hope that I might be able to give him some definite information when I see him at the end of the week.

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Cordially yours,

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

AJ:MG
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

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

April 18, 1946

Mr. Louis Benstod, Acting Treasurer
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Holly and Avon Streets
St. Paul 5, Minn.

Dear Mr. Benstod:

May I urge that your organization pay the \$250 balance, due on its 1946 assessment, at once. The financial position of the Conference is so serious at this time, when community allocations lag, that I am asking all our affiliated organizations to lend their prompt assistance. Last year your Organization contributed only \$500, which was grossly inadequate as compared to the contributions of your fellow member organizations with two delegates.

I am appealing to you for your personal support in my efforts to guarantee that the Conference program may not be retarded or injured by a lack of adequate financial support.

With friendly greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry Monsky, Chairman
Interim Committee

HM:MG

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BULLETIN

OF ACTIVITIES AND DIGEST OF THE PRESS

No. 99

Iyar 28, 1946

May 29, 1946

CONFERENCE DECLINES STATE DEPARTMENT'S INVITATION TO SUBMIT

"VIEWS AND COMMENTS" ON ANGLO-AMERICAN INQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

Objecting that a discussion of the long-term recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry would be "premature and harmful" and would delay the transfer of the homeless Jews of Europe to Palestine, the American Jewish Conference declined the invitation of the Department of State to submit its views on the report of the Committee of Inquiry.

In a letter to Under Secretary of State Dean Acheson made public today, Henry Monsky, Chairman of the Interim Committee of the Conference, declared that the Conference was "in full accord with the position taken by President Truman, that the recommendation calling for the transfer of 100,000 Jews to Palestine should be put into effect immediately." The action was authorized at a meeting of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference, held on May 24 in New York. The Conference letter stated:

"While we appreciate your courtesy, we beg to call your attention to the fact that our views on the Palestine question were presented to the Committee of Inquiry during its hearings in Washington in January. We enclose herewith the statement of the Conference to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, and in addition, the comment of its Executive Committee issued after the publication of the Anglo-American Committee's report.

In our view it is premature and harmful at this time to enter into a discussion of the long-term recommendations of the Committee. This would only serve to delay the implementation of the affirmative recommendations of the report which have been accepted by President Truman.

We are in full accord with the position taken by President Truman, that the recommendation calling for the transfer of 100,000 Jews to Palestine should be put into effect immediately. It would do irreparable injury to the Jews of Europe if the long proposed action to relieve their suffering and distress, delayed now for months, were again postponed to permit an extended discussion which has no prospect of an immediate solution of the problem involved.

We therefore strongly urge that the Department of State undertake immediately to make the necessary arrangements for the transfer of the homeless Jews in Europe to Palestine, in accordance with the views of the President."

During the hearings at Washington in January, the Conference urged the immediate abolition of all existing restrictions and limitations on free Jewish immigration into Palestine and on the right of Jews to purchase and settle on the land there, and the immediate announcement of the determination by the responsible powers to reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth.

The statement of the Conference Executive Committee, issued on May 1, welcomed the recommendation calling for the transfer of 100,000 Jews to Palestine but pointed out that the report would not meet the needs of hundreds of thousands of Jews who must be resettled in Palestine. The Committee charged that the long-term recommendations were "most unrealistic and unfortunate" and "struck a sharp blow at the Jewish people and the Jewish National Home for they propose to brush aside the international obligations to the Jewish people under the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate, the intention of which was to develop a Jewish state in Palestine once a Jewish majority had been established in that country."

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

June 4, 1946

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Chairman
General Zionist Bloc
270 West 79th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

The Executive Committee of the Conference, at a meeting last night, elected Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath to serve as Chairman of the Committee on Rights and Status, Mrs. Samuel Halprin as Chairman of the Committee on Palestine, and Mr. Robert Szold as Chairman of the Committee on Restitution and Indemnification.

At a previous meeting it was agreed that each of these committees would consist of nine members and a chairman, these nine to be nominated by the groups in the Conference.

I am therefore writing to ask that you designate one member of your group to each of the three committees.

Since these committees are to be small, I need not emphasize the importance of securing committee members whose special interests in the problems of the committee will assure their continuing participation in the committees' work.

It is desirable that the committees organize as quickly as possible, and I therefore urge that you designate your nominees without delay.

Cordially yours,

I.L.Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:jr
cc Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ✓

The undersigned have received a request for suggestions concerning the recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on the Problems of Palestine and European Jewry.

At this juncture we wish to put first things first. Therefore we confine this memorandum to the recommendation for immediate action. We submit with all emphasis that the urgent need of the present moment is to save human lives. To that end nothing must be allowed to stand in the way of immediately putting into effect the Committee of Inquiry's primary recommendation: that 100,000 Jews in the Displaced Persons Camps throughout the Continent of Europe be settled immediately in Palestine, and that their resettlement be completed immediately.

The admission into Palestine of these 100,000 Jews of Europe is a matter of simple humanity. The facts are clear. They have been attested to by several official inquiries. The practicability of the recommendation was borne out by testimony of responsible officers of the United States Army who stated that they were prepared to effect the transfer of these displaced persons to Palestine within a relatively short period.

American public opinion has voiced in unmistakable terms its complete sympathy with this objective. We ask our Government to make clear to the British Government the overwhelming sentiment in this country for the immediate achievement of this humane objective. The recommendation of the Anglo-American Committee of six representatives of the United States and six representatives of Great Britain relative to the resettlement of 100,000 Jews was unanimous. The six British members saw completely eye to eye with the six American members on this point. We ask that the British Government be urged at once to follow this recommendation of its own representatives. The voice of America

should call on Great Britain to act in accordance with the best British traditions of humanity and fair play and thus affirmatively implement the Committee's unanimous report. In procrastination lies a definite threat to ^{the} health, morale and the very life of the displaced persons now in camps. Only the immediate and unconditional adoption and execution of this recommendation can save the situation.

Our Government has given tangible evidence of its concern with this matter in consenting to be a party to a joint Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry. We ask that the Government of the United States act in accordance with the dictates of humanity and with the long American tradition of sympathy with victims of persecution.

The situation in the Displaced Persons Assembly Centers has notoriously deteriorated. The evidence of competent observers leads to the conclusions that conditions in these centers will become explosive if steps are not taken immediately to remove their occupants to Palestine. Every moment's delay means added misery for these who have already undergone more than human beings should be compelled to bear. Further discussion can produce only further delay; not further clarification.

We urge that the Government of the United States put into effect the following measures at once:

1. Recommend to the Government of Great Britain that it immediately facilitate the immigration of 100,000 displaced Jews of Europe into Palestine.

2. Express its desire and readiness to give substantial aid in moving these people and in resettling them in Palestine. Such aid should take the form of (a) providing the necessary shipping; (b) assuming the responsibility for the feeding and welfare of these people while in transit; and (c) extending financial aid and other assistance.

The Government of the United States, through its Army, is today defraying the cost of feeding, clothing and providing medical care for

that portion of those dispossessed and displaced persons which is in the Zone of Germany under our occupation. To continue temporarily so to provide for them in Palestine would not be an added burden on this Government. Other assistance should be given by making immediately available portions of American surplus supplies in Europe and North Africa and by applying to the resettlement of these displaced persons part of the reparations allotted to victims of concentration camps.

We pledge ourselves in our private capacities to continue to do our utmost to share in the cost of resettling these victims of Nazi fury.

Through the program we advocate the Government of the United States can bring to fruition its desire to help those who have suffered the longest and most cruelly at the hands of Hitler; its determination to relieve the rapidly worsening conditions in the Displaced Persons Assembly Centers; and its willingness to assist the British Government in fulfilling its moral and legal obligations.

