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Jewish Agency, 1928-1929.

Strictly Confidential.

Not for Publication.

COPY.

November 20, 1928.

Dear Dr. Weizmann,

At the conference between the authorised representatives of the World Zionist Organisation and of the Organisation Committee of the Non-Zionist Conference of American Jews held on November 3, 1928, to adjust the differences resulting from the resolutions adopted by the Zionist General Council at its meeting held in Berlin on July 19-31, 1928, Messrs. Rothenberg, Simon and I, were designated to formulate the unanimous conclusions reached by the conference with respect to the questions raised by the resolutions of the Zionist General Council, and concerning a resolution adopted at the Zionist Congress held in Vienna in August, 1925, regarding the duration of the proposed enlarged Jewish Agency. Two memoranda have been prepared pursuant to these instructions, in which have been set forth the conclusions referred to. Great care has been exercised in the formulation of these documents, which I now deliver to you at the request of my associates, in order that such action may be taken thereon as may be deemed advisable by the Zionist General Council as to the one and by the Zionist Congress as to the other of these memoranda.

Very cordially yours,

Sgd....LOUIS MARSHALL.

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MEMORANDUM.

The Report of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission and the recommendations therein contained, bearing date June 13, 1928, having been submitted to and considered by the Zionist General Council at its meeting held in Berlin on July 19-31, 1928, which adopted a series of resolutions relating to such recommendations, and the Report having been submitted to the Non-Zionist Conference of American Jews held in the City of New York on October 20-21, 1928, at which resolutions were adopted respecting such Report and the proposed extension of the Jewish Agency and pursuant to which resolutions an Organisation Committee was appointed which, among other things, was empowered in anticipation of the formation of the enlarged Jewish Agency to adjust with the duly authorised representatives of the World Zionist Organisation any differences that may have arisen or that may arise with respect to the interpretation, effect or operation of any recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission, and such Committee having to that end conferred with the duly authorised representatives of the World Zionist Organisation, the following understanding has been reached:

(1) It is recognised that the various recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission are to be regarded merely as a basis for future action, that from time to time conditions are likely to arise which may make modifications advisable, and that

when the proposed enlarged Jewish Agency shall come into operation that body will naturally be expected to deal with the subjects coming within its scope in such a manner as will best conduce to the economic, spiritual and cultural development of Palestine.

(2) It is considered to be a fundamentally sound policy as to the acquisition of lands in Palestine with funds derived from the Jewish Agency, except as hereinafter specified, that they shall be purchased under the direction of the Jewish Agency through the medium of the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kajemeth L'Israel), and that the title to the lands so acquired shall be taken in the name of the Jewish National Fund, to the end that the same shall be held as the inalienable property of the Jewish people: Provided, however, that the terms and conditions upon which the property so held by the Jewish National Fund shall be used, occupied, leased or possessed by any person, association or corporation shall be first approved and sanctioned by the Jewish Agency, and that any changes or modifications that may at any time be made with respect thereto shall likewise have the approval and sanction of the Jewish Agency; and provided, further, that this shall not be deemed as intending to discourage the purchase of lands with private funds so long as such lands are not acquired for speculative purposes or in hostility with the plans of the Jewish National Fund or of the Jewish Agency, and that the latter shall in the exercise of its discretion be enabled to invest part of its funds for the purchase of the shares, bonds, debentures or other securities of any corporation now existing or hereafter organised in order to facilitate the purchase of

...3.

lands in Palestine by private individuals; nor shall it be deemed to interfere with the carrying out of any policy that may be adopted by the Jewish Agency to aid those seeking to settle upon the land with means of their own in such manner and upon such conditions as shall not be inconsistent with the fundamental policy herein set forth.

(3) Without intending to determine the form of land settlement that shall hereafter be pursued in Palestine (Moshav, Kvuzah, or otherwise), it is to be understood that it shall be left to the judgment of the Jewish Agency to determine the economic soundness and practicability of any proposed plan of settlement or of colonisation before appropriating any of the funds within its control for any particular settlement or colony.

(4) So far as Jewish immigration into Palestine is concerned, it is obvious that it should be encouraged and furthered both by the Jewish Agency and the Government of Palestine to the fullest extent practicable and in consonance with the general principles set forth in the recommendations of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission, it being recognised that immigrant workers as well as immigrants with independent means shall be accorded favorable consideration.

(5) In all works and undertakings carried out or furthered by the Jewish Agency Jewish labor shall be employed.

(6) The Hebrew language and Jewish culture are to be fostered.

Dated, New York, November 20, 1928.

Sgd....LOUIS MARSHALL.

Strictly Confidential.

Not for Publication.

M e m o r a n d u m .

At the meeting of the authorised representatives of the World Zionist Organisation and of the Organisation Committee of the Non-Zionist Conference of American Jews held in New York on November 3, 1928, attention was directed to a Resolution adopted at the Zionist Congress held in Vienna in August, 1925, to the effect that the enlarged Jewish Agency then in contemplation be formed provisionally, subject to renewal after three years. On behalf of the Organisation Committee it was urged that this action was taken without consultation with those identified with the so-called Non-Partisan Conferences held in February, 1924, and March, 1925, that in its opinion a temporary Jewish Agency would be impracticable, would interfere with the adoption and carrying out of effective constructive policies, and would inevitably tend to delay the realisation of those aims which actuated the efforts to enlarge the Jewish Agency.

After discussion it was learned that the Zionist Organisation deemed it necessary to provide for the contingency of a possible dissolution of the enlarged Jewish Agency and the legal effect of such dissolution upon Article IV. of the Mandate for Palestine approved by the Council of the League of Nations on September 16, 1922. This being regarded as a proper prudential measure it was thereupon agreed:

...2.

First, that in order to obviate any question which might arise should such dissolution ever occur and to assure the continuance in any event of a Jewish Agency as contemplated by Article IV., appropriate action be taken to secure the sanction of the Mandatory Power, or of such other authority having jurisdiction, to the proposed plan of the enlargement of the Jewish Agency coupled with a proviso that in case of a future dissolution of the enlarged Agency all of the rights and privileges now vested in the Zionist Organisation pursuant to the terms of Article IV shall revert to it in all respects;

Second, that after the arrangement set forth in the foregoing First paragraph shall have been made the Zionist Congress be requested to rescind its Resolution above referred to.

Dated, New York, November 20, 1928.

(Sgd.) LOUIS MARSHALL.

Appendix I.

E X T R A C T

from the Report of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission.

RECOMMENDATION - Par. 12.

In the opinion of the Experts the further establishment of communal settlements (Kvuzoth) is undesirable, but the equipment of existing settlements of this character should be completed. The Commissioners concur in this opinion. As regards new colonies initiated during the past year, they believe that they should not be abandoned, but that necessary means be found to proceed with their equipment, provided their reorganisation can be effected so as to convert them into individualistic co-operative settlements (Moshavim) or for use as training centres.

WRHS



Par. 12.

The desirability of enabling settlers to become the actual owners of land is recognised. Under the present Articles of Association of the Jewish National Fund this seems to be precluded so far as its lands are concerned. It is recognised that there are instances where the settler will be unable to repay the entire cost of the land because of inadequate returns. In such cases it may become necessary to continue the existing, or a modified, leasehold system through the Jewish National Fund. The Jewish Agency should, however, in addition to the lands now owned or hereafter acquired by the Jewish National Fund, secure a land reserve free from similar restrictions.

APPENDIX II.

Resolutions on the Jewish Agency
adopted by the General Council at its
session in Berlin, July, 1928.

A.

The General Council of the Zionist Organisation expresses its cordial thanks to the members of the Joint Palestine Survey Commission for the valuable work that they have rendered, and welcomes the wish expressed in the Report for the co-operation of all circles of the Jewish people in the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home in Palestine, in the expectation that such co-operation will lead to the desired acceleration and strengthening of the work of Palestinian reconstruction.

The General Council records with satisfaction that the Commission, in agreement with the view of the Zionist Organisation, has formulated a number of political demands relating to the duty of the Palestine Administration and the Mandatory Power to create such administrative and economic conditions in the country as will secure the establishment of the Jewish National Home.



In view of the economic recommendations of the Commission, the General Council declares that the Report in some essential points does not take into sufficient account the necessity of bringing certain economic methods into accord with the specific tasks and conditions of the work of reconstruction in Palestine.

1. The Zionist Organisation recognises the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael as the sole instrument of land policy in Palestine. Therefore, and in accordance with the principle of the redemption of the land as Jewish national property, repeatedly laid down by Zionist Congresses, all lands acquired out of the public monies of the Jewish Agency shall become the common property of the Jewish people and be subject to all the principles of the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael in whatever concerns the ownership of lands and their allotment to settlers. In order to safeguard the integrity of the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael, the purchase of lands out of two different funds shall be inadmissible.

The Zionist Organisation has also always recognised as important the private purchase of land and the furtherance of the establishment of settlers with means of their own. An institute subserving this purpose shall not be maintained continuously out of public funds, but shall be assisted to undertake its work merely by a single financial contribution.

2. The General Council calls attention to the underlying principle of Zionist colonisation work in regard to the freedom of the settler to determine the social form of his settlement, and accordingly declares that in future, too, the right of the settlers should be preserved to choose their form of settlement - Kvutza, Moshav or other form - it being understood that every form of settlement shall satisfy economic requirements and afford the possibility of becoming self-supporting.

3. In accordance with the Congress decisions relating to the continuous increase of immigration, the General Council declares it as essential that Jewish immigration into Palestine shall be strengthened and furthered both by the Jewish Agency and by the Palestine Administration, and that immigrant workers, as well as immigrants with independent means, shall receive the requisite facilities to enter the country and settle there.

4. The General Council declares that in all works and undertakings carried out or furthered by the Jewish Agency the principle of Jewish labour must be safeguarded.

5. The upbuilding of the Jewish National Home demands as one of its principles the recognition and development of the Hebrew language and culture.

The General Council accordingly declares that the recognition of the principles laid down in the foregoing five proposals, viz., Jewish labour, the Hebrew language, national land, the settlers' right of self-determination, and constantly increasing immigration, is an unalterable foundation for the establishment of the Agency and the setting up of a programme of work.

The General Council, whilst directing special attention to the foregoing points, declares that the Report of the Commission is, in its general outlines, of essential importance for the drawing up of a programme of work for the Jewish Agency.

C.

The proposal considered by the Commission for the establishment of a Loan and Trading Corporation, with a capital of £ 750,000 - £1,000,000, should be carried out as speedily as possible.

D.

The General Council resolves that in continuance of the negotiations already begun, the requisite steps for the extension of the Jewish Agency in accordance with the resolutions of the 14th and 15th Congresses and the foregoing resolutions shall be taken forthwith. The Executive is requested to continue the negotiations with the Jewish communities of the various countries energetically, and to bring them to a conclusion as early as possible.



EMANUEL NEUMANN,
PRESIDENT

SOL LAMPORT,
TREASURER

DAVID SURDUT,
ASSOCIATE TREASURER

ISAAC H. RUBIN,
SECRETARY

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF AMERICA

(Keren Kayemeth Le Israel, Inc.)

111 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS: HAKEREN
TELEPHONE ALGONQUIN 3600

2

HEAD OFFICE:
KEREN KAYEMETH LE ISRAEL, LTD.
JERUSALEM, PALESTINE

Feb. 4, 1929

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SAMUEL BONCHEK
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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
c/o The Temple,
East 105th St. & Ansel Road,
Cleveland, O.

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Dear Silver:

You must have heard what has befallen me. Unwillingly and prematurely I have been dragged out of the retirement in which I dwelt, to be clothed with a new dignity of presidency of the Jewish National Fund in America. Truth to tell, I was not at all keen on accepting any new Zionist responsibility, because I did not think that my private affairs, as yet, warranted my doing so. But repeated cablegrams from Ussishkin, reinforced by personal appeals from Weizmann when he was here, broke down my resistance, and in a moment of weakness I consented.

On entering upon my duties, it struck me that the first and, perhaps, the most important task, preparatory and preliminary to any plans for heightened activity, was raising the prestige of the Fund in this country, and giving it a broader and stronger backing.

I have found a Board of Directors already elected for the year and functioning; and it occurred to me that the purpose I had in mind might be served by creating also an Advisory Board, to consist of men of influence and authority who would create an intellectual background and an atmosphere in which the J.N.F. could flourish. I am glad to say that our good friend, Julius Simon, has accepted the chairmanship of this Advisory Board and is working in close cooperation with me. As the American member of the Board of Directors of the Keren Kayemeth in Jerusalem, it is but natural that you should take an interest in this work in America; and I am sure that you will consent to serve on this Committee.

Both Mr. Simon and I have definite views about the role which the J.N.F. should play in the future. We feel that this role may be all the more important in view of the impending realization of the Jewish Agency. Since the Jewish National Fund embodies some of the most peculiar and distinctive Zionist ideas, it is of the utmost consequence to the Movement that the J.N.F. continue and prosper, not only for the sake of its immediate practicable function, but also for the preservation of what is finest in Zionism.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver---Feb. 4, 1929

We do not mean to set up the J.N.F. as an institution apart from and hostile to the Jewish Agency. On the contrary, we hope to establish the ~~closest~~ and friendliest relationship; and to this end we have already invited Mr. James Marshall to serve on our Advisory Board. Although he has deferred doing so until after the Agency will have been constituted, we believe that we can count upon sympathetic understanding in that quarter.

We have certain plans for enhancing the J.N.F. activities in the United States and raising it to a higher plane of efficiency and dignity, but I won't attempt to enter into all the details in this letter.

I shall either look you up when you come East again. (Won't you please give me a ring? Our new headquarters of the Century Bank is quite close to your favorite Hotel Belmont. We are at Madison Avenue & 41st St.) or I will write you another lengthy megillah.

I would like to have your acceptance in writing; but, of course, I shall also ~~treat~~ ^{treat} your silence not as contempt, but as consent.

Had lunch a week or so ago with your brother, Max, and talked banking.

With kindest regards to your wife and little ones, as ever

Faithfully yours,

Emanuel Neumann

EMANUEL NEUMANN
PRESIDENT

EN:RC

ouch

Feb. 25th, 1929.

Mr. Emanuel Neumann,
Jewish National Fund,
111 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Neumann:-

Please pardon the long delay in
answering your letter of February 4th. I have
just returned from the Pacific Coast.

I shall of course be most happy
to serve on the Advisory Board of the J. N. F.
which you are organizing.

I hope to be in New York the
end of March and I shall get in touch with you
then.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

March 22d, 1929.

Mr. Emanuel Neuman,
The Jewish National Fund,
111 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Emanuel:-

I shall be in New York on Wednesday
of this week stopping at the Belmont Hotel, and
will remain for three days. Can you have lunch
with me on Wednesday.

As ever yours,

AHS/IR

TELEPHONE
MURRAY HILL 2145



VICE-PRESIDENT
THE CENTURY BANK

300 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ANSWER WIRE 5/31/29

MORRIS ROTHENBERG
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
NEW YORK

ANSWER DATE

STRONGLY IN FAVOR CONVENING AGENCY COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING ZURICH CONGRESS

A. H. SILVER



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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

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IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM LONDON EXECUTIVE FOR EXPRESSION
OPINION BY AMERICAN MEMBERS ACTIONS COMMITTEE TO MEETING NO.
BEING HELD BERLIN CORALNIK FISHMAN GOLDBERG MYSELF AND
LIKELY OTHER AMERICAN MEMBERS WILL SIGN CABLE URGING
CONVENING AGENCY COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ZURICH.

CONGRESS STOP STRONGLY FEEL FURTHER DELAY WOULD MAKE
IMPROBABLE CONVENING FOR ANOTHER YEAR IF AT ALL STOP ONLY
TWO OUTSTANDING POINTS IN PROPOSED AGENCY CONSTITUTION ON
WHICH AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED ARE METHOD OF
ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OF AGENCY AND DISSOLUTION CLAUSE
WILL YOU JOIN IN CABLE PLEASE WIRE AT ONCE=
MORRIS ROTHENBERG.

ההסתדרות הציונית . המשרד המרכזי.

THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION.

CENTRAL OFFICE.

TELEGRAMS: "ZIONIBURO, LONDON."

TELEPHONE: MUSEUM 3817 (4 LINES)

CODES: BENTLEY'S & MOSSE'S.

In reply please address The Secretary,

91.AC.38

and quote the following Reference No.:

77, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,

June 20, 1929. LONDON, W.C.1.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

Dear Sir,

We should much appreciate an early intimation on your part whether you intend to be present at the 16th Congress.

We require this information immediately in order to be able to ask deputy-members of the General Council to attend in lieu of any members who may be unable to come.

With Zion's greetings,

Yours faithfully,

EXECUTIVE OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION

J. Hertz
Organisation Department.

July 2d, 1929.

The Zionist Organization,
77 Great Russell St.,
London, W. C.1,
England.

Gentlemen:-

Attention Secretary.

in Zurich.

I plan to attend the Zionist Congress

greetings, I am

With kindest regards and Zion's

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Member, Actions Committee