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Jewish Agency, "I", 1947-1948.

FIGHTING JUDEA

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Issued by the Irgun Zevai Leumi b'Eretz-Israel (N.M.O.)

April 1947

OUR FIGHT

It will be clear to all that our fight with the enemy has entered a new phase after the murder at Acre of our four soldiers. To the long series of crimes committed by the Nazo-British oppressors against our people in the Homeland and against our brothers in exile, they have now added this crowning piece of savagery: the murder of defenceless prisoners of war.

They have decided that the rules of war shall not apply. And there can be but one reaction. Hitherto when prisoners have fallen into our hands we have observed those rules. The lives of prisoners were always sacred to us. Now all that has changed. We shall not give the British barbarians the advantage always enjoyed by the savage: that there are some weapons his civilized enemy will not use. When the United Nations learnt during the war that Hitler was contemplating the use of poison gas he was given warning that there would be retaliation in kind. And there is no doubt that the reply to poison gas would have been poison gas, just as the reply to German area bombing was the bombing of larger areas. We too have warned repeatedly that execution of prisoners of war would be repaid in kind. And our reply to the hangings at Acre will be: that every member of the Occupation Forces who falls into our hands will be tried by a field court martial on charges of illegal entry into our country, illegal carrying of arms and, where applicable, murder, and sentences will be executed on the spot.

The Nazo-Britons know well that we fulfil our promises punctiliously. That is why they have crawled into their holes and emerge only in numbers and heavily protected by armour. But we shall overcome these "security" measures. We are not concerned with any given day or any given week. Let the British hangmen not think that time will erase their crimes or lessen the prospect of their repayment. Payment in full for these murders becomes henceforth a part of our struggle against our barbarian oppressors.

But, we must add, only a part. We do not mean to convert our struggle into a war of vengeance, into a blood feud. Our struggle is for the liberation of our Homeland from the British yoke and the liberation of our people from slavery and from exile. Our attacks against the British military base in our Homeland will continue with ever-increasing strenght. Only, in that struggle, the principle of "prisoners of war" will no longer apply. Any Briton, who is part of the British Occupation regime and who falls into our hands, will be executed, either by shooting or by hanging.

The night of the hangings at Acre revealed not only the full extent of British barbarism. It revealed the depths of cowardice in the hearts of these heroic murderers of the defenceless. They have an Army of more than 100,000 men in the country. Yet in



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THE NIGHT OF BLOOD AT ACRE

This is how they murdered them.

With deceit, with cowardice and with cruelty.

Two days before the murder the lawyers asked, the families asked, men asked: "Has the fate of the prisoners been decided?" And they answered: "There is no reason for anxiety". That little Fritsche, the impudent Nazo-British propagandist Stubbs, told a gathering of newspapermen that the postponement of the execution of the "sentences" of the four still stood. A second British serpent, the head servant of the chief hangman, said: "We are not at all interested in hanging this poor fellow". The Attorney General, the Superintendent of Prisons - all without exception lied deliberately, and donied - and secretly made ready the four ropes for the hanging.

At dead of night, like miserable cowards, hiding behind the armour of their cars, the officers of murder arrived in Acre, to watch the spectacle of the death of captive Hebrew soldiers at the hands of an intoxicated British hangman. Like cowards, trembling at every shadow lest that shadow be an underground fighter who might break through the barrier of their armour, they pressed the hangman: Hurry, hurry. If there is no Rabbi hang without Rabbi, if there is no Confession, hang without Confession. Hurry, hangman, hurry; tighten the noose, there is no time, there must be no delay, we want this blood, we want to hear the death rattle of the son of this hated people on the gallows.

And to their Nazi deceitfulness and their miserable cowardice they added a barbaric cruelty: Dov, our great brother, the man of steel, preserved his dignity, the honour of a captive soldier, to the last moment. He would not stand up in order to listen to the "sentence" pronounced by the messengers of the hangman. Must a soldier, then, who is giving his life for his people, stand up for them? Must he accord them honour by standing up - them, the heirs of Hitler, the pupils of Himmler, the destroyers of his people, the murderers of prisoners of war? And Dov did not stand up. They tried to force him to get up. And they beat him. They beat Dov. They beat a man going to die, a few moments before he gave up his soul.

That was how they murdered the four: with deceit, with cowardice and with cruelty.

And this is how the four died: with a song, with love for their people, with contempt for the cowardly enemy, with belief in victory and in freedom.

And their singing hearts were with their tortured people, with all the holy and the pure who sanctified God's name in every generation, with the slaughtered parents, with the strangled children, with the brothers who were burnt, with the sisters who were murdered, with all those striving to return to their Homeland, with the wanderers on roads, with those driven into exile, with those killed on the Homeland's shores, with the beaten, with the humiliated, with the lovers of freedom, with the believers in liberation.

For indeed it was for them they had fought and for them they had fallen, it was for them that they had sacrificed their all, for them that they had taken the decision that was stronger than death: to bring redemption to their people - or to die.

And they despised the enemy. Oh - how they despised this murderous and treacherous enemy, who does the work of Hitler with phrases from the Psalms and words of democracy on his unclean lips! How contemptuous were they of these murderers, medal-bedecked, befuddled and drunk with hate, who had come to watch their dying in hope that their spirit would break! How they despised this wild beasts, shivering with bloodthirstiness and with fear - fear of the vengeance of God, which will surely come!

Thus did the mighty fall.

They faced their torturers and murderers like bars of steel; and like men of iron they believed to the last in the victory of their people and the liberation of their Homeland.

And when you see with the eyes of your spirit, mourning and proud, the contest between these indomitable spiritual giants and those unclean cowardly murderers; when you see how purity overcame uncleanness, how the spirit overcame brute force, how heroism of the soul overcame death - Oh, then the depths of your blood are permeated by the powerful belief that sprang from the firm steps and the singing hearts of those who sanctified God's name, who sanctified their people and their Homeland.

Repose in your resting place, our great brothers and pure. You shall not be alone in the hills of Galilee. Since the days of Yohanan of Gush-Halav down to the days of Joseph the Galilean and Shlomo Ben-Yosef of Rosh Pina these hills have been soaked in the blood of heroes; and from their rocks bursts forth the conquering echo of the heroic wars of an eternal and unconquerable people. They are your brothers, all these heroes, and your place is among and with them for ever.

A voice is heard from the heights, pure and clear as the heavens:

Avengo our blood
Continue the struggle
Destroy the onemy
Liberate the country
Bring freedom and redemption to the suffering people

Repose in your resting place, our beloved martyred brothers:

Your blood will be avenged
We shall continue the fight
We shall destroy the enemy
We shall liberate the country
We shall bring freedom and redemption to the suffering people.

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R E M E M B E R !

What Asquith said on August 4, 1914:

If I am asked what we are fighting for, I reply in two sentences. First to fulfill a solemn international obligation... second to vindicate the principle that small nationalities are not to be crushed in defiance of international good faith by the arbitrary will of a strong and overmating great Power.

Here follows a selection of our broadcasts and communiques published during the past month.

The first was statement made on the lifting of Martial by the British terror regime.

WHY THEY LIFTED MARTIAL LAW

The tyrants have been forced to lift Martial Law because

- 1) Britain is afraid of international complications. The Soviet Union of Poland could demand discussion by the United Nations Security Council of a state of martial law reigning in time of peace a country which is formally under international supervision
- 2) The blows suffered by the enemy at the hands of the Underground Army in spite of martial law rendered this means of suppression ridiculous.
- 3) Bitterness bordering on mutiny has become evident in the ranks of the Army of Occupation, whose patrols and camps were subjected to the incessant attacks of the Army of Liberation.

The enemy has suffered a stinging defeat.

The enemy has been compelled to retreat.

But we are singing no victory songs.

We are not fighting for the lifting of decrees. We are fighting for the liberation of our country, for the repatriation of our brothers, for the establishment of our State.

To this end we shall continue to fight until victory. And behind us we shall have the mass of the people, who proved throughout the period of trial that they are indeed worthy of Statehood.

From the depth of the underground we send our greeting to the poor of our people who, subjected to the severest of tribulations, courageously stood the test.

BE STRONG AND OF GOOD COURAGE, BROTHERS - VICTORY WILL COME

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A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

When our British enslavers were still using martial law as a threat, they gave the term great publicity. The Colonial Secretary warned in the House of Commons that if we did not surrender - martial law would be imposed. The British High Commissioner in our country did the same. At the time we held the two British prisoners, and thus forced the enslavers not to carry out the murder of our comrade Gruner, the Jewish Agency was presented with an ultimatum containing the clear threat of the imposition of martial law.

But with the imposition of martial law, which followed our widespread attacks, and with its cancellation as a result, mainly, of our continued and intensified attacks - the power of the Nazo-British blackmail threat was considerably reduced. It is a rule that a blackmailer succeeds in extracting concessions from his victim as long as the victim has not experienced fulfilment of the threat, as long as the victim has not crossed the borderland between fear and uncompromising readiness to suffer. With the fulfilment of the threat, with the removal of the irrational fear of the unknown, the influence of the threat subsides and the influence of the blackmailer is destroyed. The victim takes the first step to free himself from the chains of enslavement to the blackmailer.

That is what happened a few weeks ago in the relations between our people and its British enslavers. The whip which had been cracked above our heads in order to subjugate us was taken away; and it was broken, or, to be more precise, we broke it. The people proved they were prepared for this tribulation too, that they would not submit and would not become a herd of informers. And the people learnt that the enemy was not as strong nor his power as unlimited as the panicky ones had imagined. The term "martial law", which had previously caused shivery bones (especially the bones of spineless leaders) lost its power to frighten.

On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that this term had a special ring in international political ears. "Martial law" in conditions of peace, "martial law" in a country formally under international supervision - was likely to cause complications. There is a Security Council of the United Nations, in which the Soviet Union has a seat, in which Poland has a seat. There could be intervention. There could be demands for an inquiry. There could have been trouble. And among the public throughout the world - especially in the United States - "martial law" arouses bitterness and opposition. In short, the term is most unpleasant, and as its psychological value has disappeared the British found it was not worth their while to use it for the future. Consequently there has come a change in terminology - and a new name has been introduced "Controlled Areas". In these areas the Nazo-British soldiery will be given licence - in accordance with the "law" - just as they were given licence in the martial law areas. In these areas unemployment will be deliberately brought about; in these areas the "law" will foster hunger and want; in these areas men, women and children will be murdered by the "guardians of law". But none of this will any longer be called martial law. These will be "only" "controlled areas".

Apt Pupils of Goebbels

This system, of giving modest names to the most cruel means of oppression, is a typically Nazi system. "Uebersiedlung" - transfer of population - was the name given by Hitler to the movement of our brothers to the death-ovens at Maidanek; "Sonderkommando" - special platoon - was the name given to the unite of wild beasts who destroyed one-third of our people. In truth, the Nazo-British enslavers are diligent pupils. They have learnt even the law of euphemistic terminology from their Nazi-German teachers. "Controlled Areas!" How simple! How "legal"! How gentle!

But the enemy forgets one thing. He forgets that we - and the world outside - have learnt to distinguish what is concealed behind these modest terms. It is a vain hope, therefore, that he will be able to deceive anybody by this phraseological trick. We know that the "Controlled Areas" in Eretz-Israel are meant to be a kind of "Warsaw Ghetto" - if we do not break through the barbed wire that will surround them. We know that surrender to the veiled threat is equal to surrender to the open threat: enslavement, ghetto. We know that resignation to the "control" would be a step to a new Maidanek, this time a Nazo-British Maidanek. That is why we shall not submit and not resign ourselves. We shall fight. The whole people will fight. And if the "Controlled Areas" are set up we shall continue to fight and expose to all the evil purpose of the destroyers of our people, the purpose of starving our brothers and our children in order to subjugate and crush them.

"Martial law" or "Controlled Areas" - they are the same thing. And we shall fight in order to bring about the departure from our country of that distintegrating regime which pulls from its pouch the poisoned arrows of Nazi oppression in order to save itself from its inevitable fate: utter destruction. These arrows will not help. The Nazo-British regime in our country will be destroyed.

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BLOOD AND OIL

We have again attacked the Kirkuk-Haifa oil pipeline and converted tons of British oil into fire and smoke, which for hours covered the sky in Haifa. How characteristic that on the day the attack was carried out on this lifeline of the British Empire in the Middle East, there appeared in the "Daily Express" - a newspaper with close contacts with the British oil magnates - a long article trying to explain that Eretz-Israel, under British Occupation, is an ideal base for defence of Middle oil. British correspondents in our country are indeed dogged by bad luck. All their prophecied crumble against the rock of the reality of a country rising up and fighting. Here the "Daily Herald" announced that there was a "truce", and before three days had passed - as we had warned - its announcement was refuted by events. And now the "Daily Express" correspondent painted a comforting picture of a Jewish minority seeking protection from the enlightened British, and of waves of oil flowing peacefully from Kirkuk to Haifa. And before the ink had dried on his despatch there came proof that the place least safe for British oil, in whose every gallon flows a drop of Jewish blood, is

ravished Eretz-Israel. If the poor correspondent who wrote that article still hopes to save his good name he should write at once to his paper that "Eretz-Israel in which we British wish to hold a Jewish minority under our protection, has become, to my regret, the ideal place in all the Middle East, for attacks on our oil".

For so it will be. The British traders, who trade oil for blood, should have learnt by now that in our generation Jewish blood has acquired a new characteristic: it sets things on fire - especially oil.

Written in lead

A Jerusalem journalist, claiming foreign correspondents as his source, published in Yedioth Aharonot a series of fairy-tales about our future plans. We know this journalist and know his attitude to our struggle. Which is why we permit ourselves to doubt whether he did in fact receive the material he published from foreign correspondents. We think the contrary is probably true; that he gave foreign correspondents the spurious stories about "truces", about the establishment of new Jewish political parties and other similar windy stories which it is not even worth while denying in view of the salutary disavowals provided every day by events themselves.

Nevertheless we must refer to one story contained in the report of the Jerusalem journalist. For this concerns a document which we did publish and whose political content this storyteller has tried to distort.

We did not send memoranda to the Big Four Foreign Ministers at Moscow. We approached the representatives of three of the Powers: the United States, Soviet Russia and France, with a demand for the withdrawal of the British Occupation Forces from our country, the ending of the British Occupation authority and the transfer of government in our Homeland to a Provisional Hebrew Government. The contents of this approach are known to every boy in this country, as they were made public. But we must emphasise again - as we emphasised in the original document: we approached only three of the Big Four now in Moscow.

For the only "memoranda" we send to Britain are written not in ink but in lead.

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BRITISH WISHFUL THINKING

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"The wish is father to the thought". And what the wish of the British? They want the fight against their illegal rule over Eretz-Israel to be stopped; they want peace in our enslaved country. They need this peace in order to stop being hated and mocked - in the words of Churchill - by the whole world; they need it in order to be able to present the problem of this country before the world and the United Nations Organisation in classic colonial style: as a dispute between two communities, as a clash between two conflicting claims, requiring an "unbiased" holding of the scales by the British ruler.

The British Press expressed bitter disappointment and revealed considerable irritation when the events of recent weeks made it clear that Bevin's latest tactics had failed. We said immediately after Bevin announced submission of the Eretz-Israel question to U.N.O. that there is no room in our country for British rule or for British Occupation Forces, neither before nor after the approach to U.N.O.. We announced that we should continue to fight against the enslaver in all circumstances until we were rid of him. We gave concrete expression to this announcement. We smote the Occupation forces throughout the length and breadth of the country. In their confusion they imposed martial law. We continued to smite them. They were compelled to lift martial law. Their manouvre failed. The British will not appear as "arbiters" before the world. They will appear in their true colours: as cruel enslavers who have seized a country not their own and who are driving a whole people to perdition. And our people will not appear as a "community" or as a "religious group", as desired by the illiterate professor of "historiography" and theology, Mr. Ernest Bevin. We shall appear as a nation, as a people fighting for its freedom, as a people standing up heroically against the forces of oppression and of tyranny.

But it seems that the lesson of the past weeks has not sufficed for the British Press, which is still anxious that there should be peace in Eretz-Israel during the "transition period" - whose outcome nobody can fortell. And this desire gives birth to the idea: "now that martial law has been lifted there will be a truce".

Poor British newspapermen! They and their employers are so interested in "peace" that they take the risk of endangering their good name and their careers by sending cables to London whose contents are liable to be refuted - by events - at any moment.

The Truce They Would Like

The "Daily Herald" heard "from the horse's mouth" that the Irgun Zvai Leumi favours concentration on political action. But Bevin's newspaper omitted to explain to its readers that the war, the permanent war, the war by every available means, that that is the political action of the Irgun Zvai Leumi. The British readers who for 48 hours have been awaiting the proclamation of the truce are due for yet another disappointment - and the correspondent who misled them - for a rap over the knuckles.

A truce?

There has been no laying down of British arms which rob us of our dearest possession: our Homeland.

There has been no laying down of British arms which bar the doors of our country to our brothers returning to Zion.

There has been no laying down of British arms which crush to extinction our brothers in the countries of exile.

There has been no laying down of British arms which rob us of our rights as men and citizens.

There has been no laying down of the British arms which make our country a trashing-ground for alien soldiers, drunk with wine and drunk with hatred.

There has been no laying down of the British arms which rob our people of the base for its very existence and turn it into a military base.

There has been no laying down of the British arms - the arms of enslavement and murder.

That is why Jewish arms - the arms of freedom - have not been and will not be laid down.

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BOYCOTT !

We are not mystics. We are believers. Disraeli, too, was no mystic, yet it was he who said "God treats every people as it treats the Jews".

In examining human history from the days of ancient Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Greece and Rome, down to the days of Spain and of Germany, it is not difficult to arrive at the conclusion that there is historic truth in this belief. Little wonder therefore that there are many, among both Jews and other peoples, who believe that the amazing succession of blows delivered by Nature against Britain represent the hand of God, that they are punishment from heaven. Those people believe that Britain is beginning to pay the price for her attitude to the Jewish people. What has happened they believe, is only a beginning; that there are more catastrophes to come; that Britain will drink the bitter cup to the dregs.

We too believe that Britain, who enslaves our country, who threatens the life of our people, deserves punishment from Heaven, deserves to disappear from the stage of history, deserves a bitter end. And it will come. But our belief does not cause us to become passive observers, waiting for the account to be closed between the Almighty and those who would trample on his designs. We are fighters. We believe that God will help us smite our enemy, provided we help ourselves and attack him with all the forces at our disposal.

And the forces at our disposal are not so small as some superficial observers sometimes imagine, or as the panic-stricken among our own people believe. The question is not only a test of physical strength - though here, too, we have shown that our strength, drawn from an atavistic love of this little land, from fearlessness and from constructive thinking - that our strength is not small at all. And we have so far only seen the beginning. There will be more blows, we shall still have weapons invented by the Jewish mind, which after thousands of years of intellectual training, has been directed, for the first time in two millenia, to the science of war.

But the question is not one only of a test of physical strenght. There is another field - the economic field - in which we are capable of delivering heavy blows at the enemy, heavier blows, perhaps, than those brought down, in the days of the miracles, on the head of Pharaoh.

It Can be Done

Britain faces the throat of financial and economic bankruptcy. Export is her life-blood. And if the Jewish people, dispersed throughout the world, will declare - as the Irish in America once did - a boycott, to the end, of British goods; if the tremendous opportunities of the Jews of America, whence the much-coveted dollars flow to London - are utilised; if we make a pact - and it would be the most natural pact in the world - with other industrial nations, in order to replace with their goods the boycotted British products; if we organise the boycott systematically; if every son of our people sees - as he must see - that in every yard of British cloth there runs a red thread reminiscent of Jewish blood, shed by the enslaver; if every Jew who causes dollars to flow to the British Exchequer, will remember that with those dollars he is helping the enemy shed our blood, rob us of our country and destroy our people - and acts accordingly - it will not be long before the enemy is brought to his knees.

We therefore call to all our brethren, wherever they may be: boycott British goods! In this way and with the help of other peoples you will bring victory nearer - victory on which depends our future and our very existence as a people.

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LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE !

Those who would silence the struggle, the generals of the "armistice" and the defeatists of all kinds claim that they represent the majority of the people whilst we, the fighting underground are a minority who have rebelled against the will of the majority.

Even if this were so, it would not invalidate our struggle; the obligatory struggle for the liberation of our Homeland for the sake of this generation and the generations yet unborn.

But the fact is that the claim of the defeatists is utterly false. They are the minority; and it is we, the fighters, that express the clearly-pronounced will of the overwhelming majority of the people. Proof may be found even in the results of the elections to the recent Zionist Congress. The Eretz-Israel Labour Party, the Revisionists the Achdut-Avoda-Movement, the General Zionists and the Mizrahi - each and every one of these parties called to the electors to vote for them under the slogan of "struggle", "Hashomer-Hatzair" demanded a struggle (and with arms too) "confined" to immigration and colonisation. One party alone "Aliyah Hadasha" came out openly against any form of struggle - and was rewarded with a paltry few thousands votes. And the fact that in spite of all this, their struggle continues to be nothing more than a shower of words, means only that the leaders of the parties, who themselves favour surrender, have betrayed the mandate given them by the electors. In short - they have deceived the people.

But if these facts are not sufficient, we propose another test:

Let the decision as to resistance be put by the people in the form of a referendum.

We propose that to all our brethren wherever they may be, the following question be put:

Are you for or against war - political, military and economic - for the liberation of our Homeland from the alien yoke, and for the restoration of our independence?

Thus we demand that the will of the people be laid down by the people itself.

Let the decision on the vital question be subjected to the free, democratic vote of every man and woman in Israel.

Let us prevent a handful of defeatists from continuing to throw dust in the eyes of the world by claiming that they represent the majority!

Let us ask the people!

It is futile for the defeatists to cry that they represent the majority. We fight and we will fight in the knowledge that the vast majority of our people wants and demands the fight for the liberation of our Homeland and the return to Zion; that the defeatists are an insignificant minority; that the will of the majority is expressed by those who fight and do not surrender.

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The Ambassador of India

requests the honour of

*Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Madam
Silver
Company at Hotel Pierre, 2 East 61st St.
on Saturday, May 17, 1947
at 6:30-8:30 o'clock (Cocktails)*

Embassy of India

2700 Macomb Street

R. S. V. P.

El. 5-3000 WT. 890

Leon Ilutovich
508 West 114 St.
New York 25, N.Y.

June 8, 1948.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Chairman, American Section of the Jewish Agency
Hotel Sulgrave
New York , N.Y.

Dear Dr. Silver,

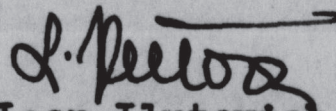
At the suggestion of our friend Jacques Torczyner I am sending to you enclosed the data about myself contained in my letter to Mr. Arthur Lourie, submitted to him on June 1. In the same letter I asked Mr. Lourie to give consideration to my request for a diplomatic or consular position with Israel's government-agencies here.

In the hope that you will give the matter your kind attention I thank you in anticipation.

With kindest regards,

I remain,

yours very sincerely,


Leon Ilutovich

encl.

Leon Ilutovich

Education

I graduated from the Faculty of Law of the Warsaw University with a LL.M. degree in 1937. I know the following six languages : English, Hebrew, Russian, German, Polish & Yiddish.

Zionist background & experience

I am 34 years old. I have been active in the Zionist movement for the last 20 years. I was occupying the following positions on the national scene in pre-war Poland :

- 1934-36 Central Committee member of the General Zionist Youth movement "Hanoar Hazioni",
- 1937 Secretary to the Political Representation of Polish Jewry,
- 1938-39 Secretary General of the Organization of General Zionists in Poland.

I spent the war years in Lithuania, Japan and China where I was representing the Jewish Agency. In 1946 I was head of the World Jewish Congress office in the Far East. I was delegate to the last Zionist Congress in Basel where from I came to this country in January last year.

During the first half of 1947 I served as executive-assistant to Dr. Emanuel Neumann, then as assistant-director of the Palestine Bureau. Since April I am attached to the Zionist Information Service here. I lecture extensively and contribute frequently to the Zionist press throughout the world.

During my 14 years long service to the movement I have acquired a wide political and administrative experience and a deep knowledge of international and Jewish affairs.

Before, during and after the war in the Far East I was engaged in establishing connections and in negotiations with British, American, Soviet, Chinese, Polish and other diplomatic representatives on behalf of the Palestine Office and of the Jewish communities in the Far East. I took a leading part in organizing the aliyah from there and I have great experience in emigration and consular matters.

Remark: During my studies at the Faculty of Law I devoted much time to international relations and political science. I know quite well the problems of central and eastern Europe and of the Soviet Union. I studied the internal and foreign affairs of Soviet Russia still in Poland and later on under Soviet occupation in Lithuania.