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Jewish Agency, minutes, American Section of Executive of
Jewish Agency for Palestine, 1947-1949.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

January 20, 1947

The first meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, following the Basle Congress, was held on January 20, 1947, at 10:00 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Moshe Shertok, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Chaim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel Halprin.

Eliahu Epstein, Arthur Lourie, Gottlieb Hammer (later).

POLITICAL REPORTS

Mr. Shertok reported on the conversation he and Mr. Eliahu Epstein had had with Under-Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Mr. Wilkins of the Palestine Desk of the Near East Division on the previous Wednesday (report on file). He reported further on a subsequent conversation with Mr. Loy Henderson (report on file).

Dr. Silver then said that on his return from Basle, he had seen both the British Ambassador and Mr. Byrnes. He had emphasized that the Resolution of the Basle Congress was not simply a categorical negative to attendance at the Conference. It did mean that we would not participate in present circumstances but if conditions were to change we would reconsider the matter. It was up to the British Government to bring about the kind of change in the situation which might permit us to go. Such a change might be by way of a word or by way of an act. Thus, if the Government would indicate its readiness to accept the Agency proposal for a viable Jewish State, that would create a new situation. Alternatively a new situation would arise if the Government were to start moving the 100,000. That would ease the tension in Palestine and would indicate that Britain is ready to consider a new approach to the whole problem. Both Mr. Byrnes and the British Ambassador had shown their interest in the second suggestion, and Dr. Silver had thereafter received a letter from Mr. Byrnes, dated January 2, in which he stated that he had asked the Ambassador to advise Mr. Bevin that he (Mr. Byrnes) earnestly hoped that something could be done along the lines of the second suggestion in order to make it possible for representatives of the Jewish Agency to attend the Conference.

When Dr. Silver saw Lord Inverchapel, the latter had also spoken to him about a public statement against terrorism. Dr. Silver had referred the Ambassador to the Resolutions adopted by the Zionist Congress on resistance and terror, respectively. He added that he would be happy to draw public attention to the position taken by Congress and to make a plea that these acts of desperation cease in order to enable the new Executive to work out some

peaceful solution. This he had done at the meeting at Manhattan Center that night. At the same time Dr. Silver had pointed out to Lord Inverchapel that it was time for the British Government to do something positive towards an improvement in the situation.

Mr. Shertok reported on other talks which he had had, including a further conversation with the British Ambassador. The Ambassador considers himself a Zionist of old standing and expressed his pleasure at learning that there was renewed contact between us and the Colonial Office; he said that he was pinning his hopes on our getting together with the Government in hammering out some settlement. Apparently, in talking about a concrete solution, what he had in mind was an agreement between the Jews and the British. The Ambassador had referred to his conversation with Dr. Silver and indicated why, although unable to accept his first suggestion, he had taken action on his second one. The Ambassador told Mr. Shertok, further, that he had had a telephone call from Mr. Byrnes, who had asked him to tell Mr. Bevin of the importance he attached to that suggestion. He told Mr. Byrnes that he had already followed up the matter. Lord Inverchapel had then sought to convince Mr. Shertok of two things; first, that the British Government was really seriously and genuinely prepared to relinquish Palestine - the whole matter had become a burning issue with them on account of the change in the internal military situation. So long as Britain had a professional army to rely on things were different; soldiers knew what they were in for, and if occasionally soldiers were killed it was part of their job. The situation was very different where there was compulsory recruitment of young boys from the towns and villages of Britain against their own will and that of their families. If such boys were killed, there was wide resentment in homes all over the country. In that state of circumstances a report that the British Government was getting out of Palestine would be greeted with a sigh of relief throughout Britain. The Ambassador pressed very hard that it was essential in the Zionist interest to meet and to talk with the British and not to give up the historic partnership. He had also, in his talk with Mr. Shertok, pressed the importance of the United States admitting a very substantial quota of Jewish refugees into this country because that would strengthen Bevin's hands vis-a-vis the Arabs. It would also strengthen the position of the American Government in its pressure upon the British. On this matter, Mr. Shertok had indicated that he was hardly in a position to be of help.

Referring again to his conversation with Dean Acheson, Mr. Shertok said that he had been rather taken aback by Mr. Acheson's decidedly reserved attitude. He offered nothing and the conversation was, in fact, a barren one. As appeared from the conversation that Mr. Shertok had subsequently had with Mr. Henderson, Mr. Acheson had himself apparently felt that he had gone too far and it was presumably on instructions that Mr. Henderson had proceeded to soften the impression of the previous conversation.

In talking to one of our friends in Washington, Mr. Shertok had been advised that the merit of the conversation with Mr. Acheson was that, in all probability, Mr. Acheson wanted us not to be under any misapprehension. For the moment, following the conversations which Mr. Byrnes had had with Mr. Bevin, the State Department felt that it was not called upon to take further action.

Mr. Shertok also referred to a previous conversation which Mr. Epstein had had with Mr. Loy Henderson. Mr. Henderson had indicated that if the American Government sent an informal observer to the talks which would take place between Government representatives and ourselves, they would have to send a formal observer to the Anglo-Arab Conference.

The Chairman indicated that on the basis of the existing information it was to be assumed that for the time being no American observer would be appointed.

In answer to a question, Mr. Shertok said that so far as the British Government was concerned, apparently the informal conversations with the representatives of the Jewish Agency were intended to go into the merits of the case and were not to be regarded merely as a preliminary stage. He added that the British Government was apparently concerned as to what might happen in the interval between the conclusion of the talks and the next Assembly of the United Nations which was due to meet in September.

The Chairman reported on a cable which he had received from Dr. Neumann, who was at present in London, which contained the following:

"MY INQUIRIES AND CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON TO DATE INDICATE VIRTUALLY NO BASIS FOR THE CONCLUSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS CRYSTALLIZED VIEWS IN FAVOR OF PARTITION AND WILL PROPOSE OR FAVOR IT DURING THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE. STILL REGARD SYNCHRONIZATION OF OUR TALKS WITH CONFERENCE MOST UNFORTUNATE AND UNDESIRABLE."

Mr. Shertok said that when he was in London the other members of the Executive had also had in mind the undesirability of having our talks take place at the same time as the start of the Conference, but Mr. Ben-Gurion's presence was essential at those talks and it was simply physically impossible for him to be back earlier. On the other hand, there was a certain amount of risk involved in putting off our talks until after the Conference with the Arabs had concluded, lest something should crystallize in those talks without our having had an opportunity to counteract such a development.

Dr. Silver said that on January 12 he had cabled both to London and Jerusalem on this subject. His cable to Mr. Ben-Gurion read as follows:

"THE PRESS HERE CARRIES THE REPORT 'JEWS MAY JOIN PALESTINE TALKS' AND THAT 'GREAT BRITAIN WILL ACT AS GO-BETWEEN FOR ARABS AND JEWISH GROUPS MEETING SEPARATELY BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY IN LONDON. DESPITE JEWISH BOYCOTT OF CONFERENCE BRITAIN WILL CARRY BACK AND FORTH JEWISH AND ARAB PROPOSALS.' THIS SUGGESTS THAT AGENCY IS GOING TO CONFERENCE THROUGH BACK DOOR. THIS AS YOU KNOW WAS CLEARLY NOT THE INTENTION OF THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WERE TO PAVE THE WAY IN THE HOPE OF OBTAINING CONCESSIONS WHICH WOULD CHANGE THE SITUATION AND PERMIT US TO ATTEND CONFERENCE. THE NEW ARRANGEMENT IS PERFECT FACE-SAVING DEVICE FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND

DEFEAT FOR US. STRONGLY URGE THAT INFORMAL TALKS WITH THOSE OF OUR PEOPLE WHO ARE IN LONDON BE CARRIED ON AT ONCE OR SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER ARAB-BRITISH CONFERENCE. PLEASE CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE. REGARDS"

To which Dr. Silver had the following reply from Mr. Ben-Gurion on the 15th:

"YOUR CABLE WAS READ AT THE FIRST EXECUTIVE MEETING TODAY. MEMBERS HERE SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT TALKS BE CARRIED ON AT ONCE BUT NOT ONLY BY LONDON MEMBERS. PURPOSE OF THE TALKS NOT TO PAVE WAY FOR OUR PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE, BUT TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN PRESENT SITUATION AND ELUCIDATE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION REGARDING FUTURE POLICY. AS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SEE THEIR WAY TO CHANGE POLICY BEFORE CONFERENCE WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR 21 JANUARY IT MAY SAFELY BE ASSUMED THAT OUR PARTICIPATION IS FINALLY RULED OUT. IT IS PROPOSED TO SUMMON FULL EXECUTIVE MEETING AFTER CLARIFYING GOVERNMENT INTENTION FOR PURPOSE OF DECIDING OUR ATTITUDE. GREETINGS. BEN-GURION"

Dr. Silver went on to say that he felt that the holding of our talks with Britain at the same time as those of the so-called London Conference was a mistake. This applied also to the publicity which was being given these informal talks. We have been having informal talks right along and it was unfortunate that world attention was concentrated on these talks as something special through statements issued to the press. The fact was that Great Britain wanted the opportunity to point to the fact that they had met with the Jews and had met with the Arabs and that they themselves were the go-between. He felt that we had played into their hands because of our impatience. So far as his own participation was concerned, he felt, therefore, that it was a mistake to concentrate all our leadership in London and that it would be wiser if some of us were not there. The talks should be carried on with the people who are in London. If Great Britain has something to tell us they can tell it to the people who are in London now. Moreover, it was good for Great Britain to know that there are some people in the Agency who are suspicious of the whole thing, who do not regard it as an honest effort and are not inclined to go until they know that there is a change in the British attitude. If something does develop in the next few weeks the Americans can always go over, but the British should not feel that we have all fallen in line with their purposes and plans. Dr. Silver thought that we were moving to a great disillusionment in London and that what we would get would be the Grady report under a different name and with a different sauce on it.

In connection with the attitude of the American Government, Dr. Silver drew attention to the disquieting implications of recent developments in oil politics.

He did not know whether these talks in London could be called off, but he certainly thought that we should put an end to the

statements that were being daily made to the press by our people. We should give the impression (a) that we are not going to the London Conference - no change has taken place; (b) that discussions have been going on with the British Government right along - they are going on now and will continue to go on and there was nothing unusual in this regard. We should underplay rather than overplay these things.

Mr. Shertok said that he did not fully share the Chairman's approach on the question of the Conference, but he did accept his conclusion with regard to tactics now. He did not share his approach because he could not completely disregard the concrete background against which we were placed. Things were moving. If there was one thing which the British were apparently sincere about it was in their desire to get a decision now and take it to the United Nations. It was a question as to whether we could afford to miss a chance of coming to grips with them before they took it to the United Nations. An honest effort was being made to act in full accord with the Congress Resolution and to make our attendance at the Conference dependent upon changes in the situation; but we could not run away from the question put by the British Government as to whether that meant that we were not willing to talk with them. At the same time, he accepted the conclusion that we should not throw all our forces into the front line in these initial stages of what is taking place in London. Thus, among others, not only Dr. Silver in America, but Mrs. Meyerson and Mr. Kaplan in Palestine, should not be brought in at this stage; but he would like to leave here and be able to report to their friends in London that if things do take a serious turn and it is really necessary for all of them to be present and consult together and decide whether they go on, or break off, or what reply would be given, then if Dr. Silver is asked to come over he would come. There may be a very crucial stage in which the opinion of every colleague on the matter would be of the utmost importance.

Dr. Silver said that he would surely wish to come over at such a time and that he would be in close touch with them in London throughout. He reiterated, however, that we must not build this thing up in the eyes of the public, Jewish and non-Jewish, as something special.

Dr. Silver reported that he had been in correspondence with Senator Taft who had indicated that he expected to see General Marshall and hoped to arrange a meeting with Dr. Silver. He added that he thought it might be useful to have some impressive action in the immediate future in Washington, in the Senate and Congress, as for example speeches by three or four Senators stressing America's responsibility in seeing that there should be a just and proper solution and calling attention to the Resolution adopted by the Congress of the United States.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: Appointment of Director and Comptroller.

Mr. Shertok said that he was leaving for London early that afternoon. Moreover, Mr. Neumann was away and Mrs. Halprin would have to leave very soon for an appointment. Under those circumstances he would leave for discussion in greater detail a number of

organizational problems which had to be considered until such time as they would all reassemble. He assumed no changes would be made in the meantime. There were certain matters which had, however, to be dealt with immediately. Mr. Meyer Weisgal had submitted to the Executive, in a letter to Mr. Shertok, his resignation as General Secretary of the New York Office of the Jewish Agency. Mr. Shertok paid a warm tribute to Mr. Weisgal's work in organizing the American Office of the Jewish Agency. Moreover, the fact that the Agency was housed in the fine premises which it now owned in Washington and in New York was primarily due to Mr. Weisgal's initiative.

Mr. Weisgal's resignation was accepted with regret.

Upon a motion then moved and seconded, it was resolved that Mr. Eliahu Epstein be continued in the position of the Director of the Washington Office of the Jewish Agency and that Mr. Arthur Lourie be appointed Director of the New York Office.

Mr. Hammer was then invited to the meeting and his status as Comptroller for the American Section of the Jewish Agency was confirmed. It was pointed out that apart from his functions as financial officer of the American Office, Mr. Hammer had been responsible directly to the Treasurer of the Jewish Agency in respect to various financial matters other than those pertaining to the domestic activities of the American Section of the Agency. Mr. Hammer said that in regard to the Jerusalem transactions, Mr. Kaplan had always insisted upon responsibility toward the Treasury of the Jewish Agency. So far as the financial affairs of the American Office were concerned, during the existence of the Committee of Eight he had naturally accepted all decisions taken by that Committee and he would now likewise hold himself responsible to the American Section of the Executive in these matters.

The Chairman said that there was really no problem; that what the Executive Committee here would expect would be that they should be made aware of what was going on.

Upon a motion offered, it was resolved that the Comptroller and any one member of the Executive be empowered to sign checks, at the same time that a specific member of the Executive be designated who shall customarily sign together with the Comptroller, other members being authorized to sign only when that member is for some reason not available. It was proposed that Mrs. Halprin be designated as the Executive member who would normally sign with the Comptroller. Before agreeing to do so, Mrs. Halprin indicated that she would like to discuss the matter with Mr. Hammer.

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND

At the instance of Mr. Hammer, the following Resolution was adopted:

"The Executive requests the Palestine Foundation Fund to recognize the instructions of the Treasurer of the Jewish Agency relating to transmission of funds and to expedite

the fulfillment of these instructions.

"The Executive authorizes the Comptroller of the American Section, Mr. Gottlieb Hammer, to convey these instructions when received to the Palestine Foundation Fund and to provide the Palestine Foundation Fund with certified copies thereof."

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Mr. Epstein said that for the benefit of our work in Washington there should be a clearly established relationship between the representatives of the Emergency Council and those of the Agency. He gave examples of cases of overlapping and also of instances where representations were more suitably made by one body rather than the other.

The Chairman said that the whole question of the relationship of the Emergency Council and the Agency would have to be defined and could be defined without much difficulty. There would be times when matters would arise concerning which the Agency alone should speak. There were other matters on which the Emergency Council would be the appropriate instrument. It might be desirable in the near future for representatives of the Agency and of the Emergency Council, respectively, to meet together and to talk over these problems.

Mr. Greenberg suggested that while he did not anticipate any friction or misunderstanding in the future, it might be useful for the time being to advise the staff of the Emergency Council that whenever the necessity arose to approach governmental circles, it should be cleared with the staff or with the Chairman of the American Section of the Agency.

The Chairman said that this was a fair approach and that it would be followed. There happened to be six members of the World Executive living in the United States. They would try to act there as the functioning arm of the Jewish Agency. There were certain things which the Jewish Agency will want to do on the American scene. They would communicate to us here and we would use our best judgment collectively to see how those things could be done.

MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE

It was agreed that regular meeting days should be set for Monday morning, at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Shertok said that they would probably have to go into the question of the direction of the office in Washington and in New York, but those matters should hold over until his return.

In adjourning the meeting, at 11:45 A.M., the Chairman stated that the Minutes of the Executive would be circulated and emphasized that they were to be treated in the utmost confidence.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

January 29, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Wednesday, January 29, at 11:00 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel Halprin.

Eliahu Epstein, Gottlieb Hammer, Arthur Lourie.

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and a report was given on action taken with reference to the Weizmann Institute for the release of the space at present occupied by it in the New York premises of the Agency.

POLITICAL REPORT

Mr. Epstein reported on a telephone conversation with London in connection with the conversations with the British Government. He stressed that it was important for us to keep the State Department directly informed of the development of the talks in London and that to this end we would be in the closest touch with our own people there. At the same time, we have the impression that the attitude of the State Department at the moment is, on the whole, rather static. Mr. Acheson had indicated that the American Government had presented their views to the British and that for the present they are not inclined to exert further pressure.

Mr. Epstein also discussed the situation on the Hill as a result of the changes in Congress following the elections.

ARAB ACTIVITIES

Mr. Epstein stated that there was a growing concentration of Arab activities in Washington and that the Arab groups there had been reinforced by representatives of the North African Arabs who have many friends amongst Americans who had been in North Africa with Eisenhower.

There was a great need for increasing our counter-activities against Arab propaganda and in this connection a man was coming out from Palestine to join the Agency Office in Washington who would be able to provide necessary material for the Emergency Council and for our journalist friends in Washington and elsewhere.

CONVERSATION WITH ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER

Mr. Epstein reported on a conversation which he had had with Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger, at which there had also been present Mrs. Anne McCormick and the Editor of the Times, Mr. Charles Merz (report on file).

POLITICAL REPORT - CONTINUED

Dr. Silver indicated that the question of public relations work on the Hill would be discussed further that afternoon at the meeting of the Emergency Council. He reported on a telephone conversation he had had with Senator Taft the previous Saturday. Dr. Silver had explained to him the need for getting into touch with Mr. Marshall as soon as possible, as well as of obtaining some strong expression from the Senate at this time in regard to Palestine matters. Mr. Taft had undertaken to communicate with the Secretary of State.

Dr. Silver also referred to the very favorable letter which Senator Vandenberg had written to Mr. Byrnes on the Palestine situation sometime prior to Mr. Byrnes' resignation. He was taking steps to renew his contacts with Senator Vandenberg.

Yesterday Dr. Silver had seen Mr. Hoover, who was leaving for Germany to make a study of the relief situation there. The question of Germany and the American taxpayers' support of relief in Germany was going to be a serious question for Congress and the American people. Dr. Silver had proposed that Mr. Hoover should visit the DP camps and talk with our people there and should also get in touch with Rabbi Philip Bernstein. Mr. Hoover had left the definite impression that he believed Palestine was the proper solution for most of the Jewish DP's.

NON-ZIONISTS IN THE JEWISH AGENCY

Mrs. Halprin raised the question as to the status of the non-Zionists in the Jewish Agency. There was a brief discussion, in the course of which the Chairman expressed the view that it would be inadvisable to stir up this issue at the present moment. It was suggested that this matter might come up before the meeting of the full Executive which would, presumably, be called after the end of the London talks.

REPORT ON FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Mr. Hammer gave a comprehensive report on the financial and economic activities of the Agency.

Discussing the operation of the trading, or the free gift dollar accounts Mr. Hammer said that almost two years previously, Mr. Kaplan had negotiated an agreement with the Palestine Government whereby American dollars raised through the United Palestine Appeal were to be made available to finance exports of American goods to Palestine. At that time the account was limited to \$5,000,000 for the calendar year of 1945. Subsequently, the agreement was extended to cover all United Palestine Appeal dollars with no ceiling. During the war the Palestine Government had exercised close control over imports because of lack both of shipping and of American currency.

That control had been exercised through the issuance of import licenses. The effect of the present arrangement was that while the requirement in regard to import licenses will continue the problem of payment no longer entered into the picture. The question that faced the Jewish Agency was how to allocate the dollar funds thus made available. An Advisory Committee was set up and priorities established for agricultural machinery, raw material, supplies, etc., but excluding consumers' goods. The mechanics of the account was handled as follows: The Agency opened a special bank account in New York and instead of the Keren Hayesod sending its dollars abroad, the money was deposited to this account upon request of Mr. Kaplan as Treasurer of the Agency. When an import license was issued in Palestine, the importer deposited pounds in the Anglo-Palestine Bank in Jerusalem and then we would be requested by cable to pay to the bank the necessary dollars for the export through a letter of credit in favor of the Anglo-Palestine Bank. This system had continued for about a year and a half. It did not work out as anticipated for several reasons. Exports to Palestine were accelerated to some extent but then interruptions occurred, the most serious of which had been during the previous summer, particularly after the King David affair when, for technical reasons, no import licenses could be granted simply because the Comptroller's Office had been wiped out. There had also been an interruption during the occupation of the Agency Offices. In spite of all this, however, in the past one and one-half years, approximately \$10,000,000 had been disbursed. During these periods of interruption Mr. Kaplan was handicapped only because he had dollars frozen here which he was not able to use and, on the other hand, he needed money for budgetary and other purposes in Palestine. To meet this situation money was borrowed by him from the Anglo-Palestine Bank against these dollars. Finally, an arrangement was worked out whereby the trading account for the "free gift" dollar operations, were transferred with the consent of the Government to the Anglo-Palestine Bank. In other words, instead of the money being deposited here in New York to a Jewish Agency trading account, the dollars would go into the Anglo-Palestine Bank trading account. The Anglo-Palestine Bank could not dispose of these dollars freely at its own will; it was still subject to the control of the Jewish Agency allocation of dollars and also subject to Government regulations with respect to import licenses. The effect of this transfer was to relieve the Agency of inter-expenses it would otherwise incur in connection with its overdraft at the Anglo-Palestine Bank. It speeded up the whole operation which now went entirely through a regular commercial banking channel, and it also simplified the bookkeeping. Insofar as our interests here were concerned, the Anglo-Palestine Bank had been authorized to furnish us such information as is required so that we are familiar with the operations as they proceed. In connection with this account, Jewish National Fund dollars are also eligible for deposit. If the Jewish National Fund remits its money directly to Jerusalem, then the British get the dollars, they go into the sterling pool and the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem gets the pounds. But if the Jewish National Fund's dollars are deposited here in New York to this account, the dollars are available for the accommodation of the Palestine importer, and the Jewish National Fund gets the pounds immediately from the Anglo-Palestine Bank. Our dollars are thus serving an important economic function. All told, during the past year we handled in this way in New York \$10,000,000; \$6,000,000 of which came from the Keren Hayesod and \$4,000,000 from the Jewish National Fund.

At the same time, for some reason, the Jewish National Fund seems reluctant to avail themselves of these arrangements. They should have no hesitation about it and they should be advised to deposit monies to the account of the Anglo-Palestine Bank. Indeed, in Basel, Mr. Kaplan and other members of the Treasury indicated, as they have done since by cables received here, that all available Keren Hayesod Funds, above those earmarked for specific purposes, should go into this account. The Agency immediately gets pounds for such deposits, the result being the same as though the money were cabled across it is the same as remittances.

All this is only a part of the budgetary problem of Zionist fiscal matters here in the United States to which attention should be drawn, and it might even be desirable to call together the various Zionist bodies in this connection to synchronize our efforts. One matter which might require consideration is the time lag which sometimes arises between the receipt here by the Keren Hayesod of monies from the United Palestine Appeal and the turning over of those funds to the Agency by reason of the reserve fund kept by the Keren Hayesod. That reserve is held so that if something special comes up the funds are available. Mr. Hammer was not attempting to criticize this practice, but he thought that it might be useful for all concerned to meet and work out a joint policy so that it would not be necessary to maintain frozen funds which might otherwise be working. At the same time, negotiations were in progress for a credit at one of the banks here so as to enable the Keren Hayesod to borrow money in anticipation of receipts from the United Palestine Appeal. It was primarily a question of inter-organizational adjustments.

Addressing himself next to the work of the Economic Department, Mr. Hammer said that for the past year or so that Department had been concerned with a number of major specific assignments which had come to us from Palestine from time to time in regard to such matters as allocation of building materials, freight rates, steel, pipes, etc. A serious question with which they had dealt during the past year was the embargo on oil seeds which had arisen as a result of famine conditions in India. It was a difficult problem which, after a good deal of negotiation, had resulted finally in our obtaining an emergency allocation from other sources (details on file). On freight rates a differential had existed during the war to the detriment of Palestine importers - the difference between New York and Alexandria - and New York and Palestine - amounting to \$10.00 a ton.

Then there were problems arising out of the war - the reclamation by the Agency of the property of Jews who had been massacred in Europe - heirless property - reparations and restitution. In this connection there were two items of special interest; one, the so-called Becher Deposits, which consisted of a large quantity of gold, diamonds and other valuables which at the time of the occupation of Austria by the American Army had been turned over by a Gestapo agent, in the hope that it might buy him some consideration at the hands of the American occupation forces. The whole story had elements of the fantastic in it but finally, after months of investigation and negotiations with the Army and the State Department, the authority has been given to hand over this property, estimated to amount possibly to two or three million dollars, to representatives of the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee.

The second matter is still in process of negotiation. This concerns the "Hungarian Gold Train" with valuables estimated at something in excess of fifty million dollars. Here there are all sorts of international complications. About half the property is in the hands of the Americans and half in the hands of the French. A Joint Committee, representing the Jewish Agency, the Joint Distribution Committee, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress, have been working in cooperation on the matter. In order to exclude the claims of the Hungarian, Czechoslovakian and other governments, the efforts of the Joint Committee have been directed to having the property turned over to the Inter-Governmental Committee, and this has been successful so far as that part of the property in the possession of the American Government is concerned. We are still pursuing the matter with reference to the French holding.

The Inter-Governmental Committee will inventory and protect the property and at least 90% of it is earmarked for the resettlement and rehabilitation of Jews. As between the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee, a private arrangement has been reached, whereby any funds that will be made available will be allocated two-thirds to the Jewish Agency and one-third to the Joint Distribution Committee. The Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee have established a common policy in regard to the whole problem.

At the same time, the attitude of Sir Herbert Emerson, of the Inter-Governmental Committee, gives cause for dissatisfaction. It is to be recorded, further, that as yet the Inter-Governmental Committee has not received the twenty-five million dollars allocated for Jewish resettlement under the reparations agreement. These monies were supposed to come from funds in Switzerland and Sweden and difficulties have been raised by those countries which, in turn, has raised the question of the disposition of the heirless property in the United States of Jews slaughtered by the Nazis. It may be necessary to obtain legislation with regard to this property in New York State as well as in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Illinois and, maybe, one or two other states, waiving the states' rights to this heirless property. Secondly a trustee organization would have to be set up to take title to these assets. Then the assets would have to be liquidated and, finally, there is the question of the beneficiaries. The joint committee of the five organizations, on which sit Colonel Bernstein, Oscar Gass, Jacob Robinson, Maurice Boukstein and others, have worked very hard on this question. There have been negotiations with the State Department and the matter is now coming to a head, and it is hoped that the State Department will ask the individual state legislatures to pass the necessary legislation.

Mr. Hammer also reported on work that had been done sometime previously, under the lead of Mr. Gass, in developing a detailed program for financing the transportation and settlement of the 100,000 including such questions as the provision of prefabricated housing, UNRRA and army assistance, etc., in the event that the Report of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry had been fulfilled.

In answer to a question as to Mr. Boukstein's status with the Jewish Agency, Mr. Hammer stated that he was on a retainer basis and confines himself to specific assignments. In particular, there was a continuing need for his services in connection with questions of restitution, reparations and heirless property which are of vital interest to us, and on which he has acquired a special background of knowledge and experience.

Appreciation was expressed of Mr. Hammer's comprehensive report.

In answer to the question as to whether any subventions are made by the Agency to organizations here, Mr. Hammer stated that the only such subvention is one, on instructions from Jerusalem, in the annual sum of \$16,000 to Hechalutz organizations in America.

UNITED NATIONS

A discussion followed on our work with regard to the United Nations. Dr. Silver again stressed the importance which he attached to engaging some outstanding personality on the American scene to represent and work with us. It was suggested that a definite plan be prepared for the whole Executive.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

A.L.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

February 17, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on February 17, 1947, at 9:00 P.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 2210 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Emanuel Neumann.

Arthur Lourie.

CONVERSATION WITH DEAN ACHESON

Dr. Silver reported on his conversation the previous Friday with Dean Acheson. The meeting with Dean Acheson had followed a luncheon meeting which Dr. Silver had had a few days previously with Mr. Loy Henderson. At that time the news had not yet come through of Mr. Bevin's statement issued in London the same day that the Palestine matter would be referred to the United Nations. Mr. Acheson had obviously been under the impression that the London talks would continue and that the British proposals contained in the Bevin memorandum were in fact preliminary to further proposals. In response to Dr. Silver's suggestion that the American Government should renew its representations to the British at this point, reiterating its own previous stand, Mr. Acheson had indicated that he felt that further representations at this time would not be helpful and might even be resented. Replying to Dr. Silver's further suggestion that if the negotiations were in fact concluded and the matter referred to the United Nations, it was inevitable that there would be long delays and that in the meanwhile the intolerable situation in the camps would continue unchanged, Mr. Acheson spoke as though he were sure that a change would have to be made by way of increasing the present immigration schedule. At one point Mr. Acheson had emphasized that the primary responsibility in regard to Palestine rested on Great Britain, and he had also indicated that "no one on the Hill would favor our military intervention." At the same time, Dr. Silver had received the impression that the American Government had put itself on the record with Great Britain and had indicated the line of action which it was itself prepared to support. Mr. Acheson did not indicate, however, the extent to which the American Government would be prepared to press in behalf of that point of view.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. HERBERT B. SWOPE

Dr. Silver also reported on a telegram which he had received from Mr. Swope in which, referring to contacts which he and Mr. Baruch had had on the

Palestine matter, Mr. Swope had stated "you can be reasonably sure that the Executive and Legislative branches are more than favorably disposed towards an increase in immigration as a measure of economy, but London does not seem open to American suggestions at this moment."

SENATORS TAFT AND VANDENBERG

Dr. Silver had also been in touch with Senator Taft who had subsequently sent him a copy of a letter which the Senator had sent to Secretary Marshall (letter attached "A").

Senator Vandenberg had also undertaken to interest himself in the situation (letter attached "B").

PROPOSED DELEGATION TO THE PRESIDENT

It had been proposed that a delegation, which should include Dr. Silver, Mr. Monsky, Judge Proskauer and leading non-Jews, should call on the President. A memorandum had been prepared by Mr. Kenen and Mr. Lourie and had been submitted to representatives of the American Jewish Committee for their consideration. Apparently the matter had been taken up at a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the American Jewish Committee, and a telegram had subsequently been received by Mr. Monsky from Judge Proskauer, reading as follows:

"DO NOT THINK PRESENTATION YOU SUGGEST IS ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME. I PREFER FOR THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE TO STUDY SITUATION FURTHER BEFORE TAKING ACTION. KIND REGARDS."

At the same time, a telegram was received from Mr. Connelly, Secretary to the President, stating that the President's schedule would not permit of a meeting with him the following week and asking that this "important situation" be discussed with the Secretary of State, Marshall, at the earliest possible date.

Doubt was expressed as to whether a further appointment with the Secretary of State should be sought at this stage, in view of Dr. Silver's recent talk with him. It was decided, nevertheless, that Dr. Silver should discuss the matter with Mr. Monsky and, if possible, arrange for an appointment with Mr. Marshall.

MEETING OF WORLD ZIONIST EXECUTIVE

A cable was read from the London Office of the Executive, suggesting a meeting of the full Executive on March 4 and of the Actions Committee on March 7 in Jerusalem. In behalf of Dr. Silver, a cable had been immediately sent to London, urging the advisability of holding the meeting in the United States and pointing out the serious implications of having the American

members absent from here at this time.

After discussion a telegram was authorized, reading as follows:

"YOURS SEVENTEENTH AMERICAN MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY FAVOR MEETING FULL EXECUTIVE NOW BUT CONSIDER ACTION COMMITTEE POSTPONABLE TO SOME LATER TIME STOP ALL MEMBERS HERE CONSIDER PALESTINE VENUE PRESENTLY UNFEASIBLE STOP WHILE UNDERSTANDING DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED PALESTINIANS DEPARTURE ABROAD PRESENT TIME SILVER URGES MOST STRONGLY MEETING AMERICA WHICH POLITICALLY VALUABLE STOP IN ADDITION OTHER REASONS CONTAINED HIS CABLE FIFTEENTH HE WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT LEAVE HERE AT PRESENT STOP NEUMANN LIKEWISE BELIEVES AMERICA DESIRABLE. GREENBERG HALPRIN GOLD FAVOR PARIS OR ELSEWHERE EUROPE AS READILY ACCESSIBLE BY AIR TO PALESTINIANS. STOP HAVE CABLED PALESTINE."

(Since then a further telegram was received from the London Office, reading as follows:

"EXECUTIVE CAREFULLY RECONSIDERED POSITION IN LIGHT YOURS 18/2 BUT CONFIRMED THEIR PREVIOUS OPINION BOTH MEETINGS BE HELD PALESTINE 4/3 AND 9/3 STOP FULLY APPRECIATE YOUR SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES BUT EARNESTLY HOPE VIEW SPECIAL EMERGENCY YOU WILL OVERCOME THEM AND ATTEND STOP CABLING JERUSALEM ACCORDINGLY.")

LOAN

Mr. Neumann reported that he had been asked to look into the possibilities of raising a loan, and he was authorized to investigate the matter.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

It was urged that there was need for a more adequate exchange of information between the American Office and the Agency Offices in London and Jerusalem, and it was suggested that a weekly report should be prepared of developments for transmission abroad.

It was pointed out that if Minutes of Meetings were kept up to date this would serve to meet this need to a large extent. It was suggested that, in addition to Minutes of the Jewish Agency Executive, copies of Emergency Council Minutes and reports be also regularly transmitted to London. In the present circumstances, it was not advisable to send confidential material direct to Jerusalem.

EXTENSION OF THE AGENCY

It was stated that at the Congress in Basle it had been agreed that the American Section of the Executive should study the situation in regard to the non-Zionist section of the Agency.

MISSING PAGE (S)



After discussion, it was agreed that a sub-committee be appointed to consist of Mr. Tulin and Judge Rothenberg which should, entirely privately and without contacting the non-Zionists at this stage, examine the situation and prepare a report for the information of the Executive.

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

The question was raised as to the action to be taken to develop and intensify the work of the Agency in relation to the United Nations, in view of the forthcoming submission of the matter to the Assembly.

Mr. Neumann reported on a conversation which he had had with Mr. Shertok in which Mr. Shertok had analyzed the situation as follows:

- (a) There was work which would have to be done during actual meetings of organs of the United Nations before which there was a prospect of the Palestine matter arising. At such time there should be a number of members of the Executive on the scene who would consult together and decide on the day-to-day decisions.
- (b) Apart from this, there was the regular, steady day-to-day work of winning the support of the various governments. This had to be carried out both in the United States and within the different countries themselves. Several Executive members, he thought, should be designated to deal with specific regions, with one member of the Executive as general supervisor of these activities.

Dr. Goldmann had also spoken to Mr. Neumann on the subject and had suggested that he would be ready to devote himself to some of the Western European countries. Others should be assigned to Latin America, the Oriental countries, etc.

The plan would be considered at a plenary meeting of the Jewish Agency Executive.

So far as the current work was concerned, the suggestion was made that Mr. Gelber be invited to give a report at a forthcoming meeting of the Executive.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENCY AND LEGAL COUNSEL

Dr. Silver stated that we were facing a major political activity. The forces lined up against Zionism would be formidable, and if we lost in the United Nations our cause would suffer a very serious set-back. A plan of action on a scale commensurate with the need must be prepared. He suggested that a public relations agency, accustomed to working for governments, should be called in to advise - also, that the most expert legal talent in the United States be invited to prepare a legal case. We must avoid the mistake of too little or too late.

With reference to the hiring of a public relations firm, Mr. Neumann stated that he had had some experience in regard to an earlier approach to such an organization and the result had not been altogether satisfactory. In the last analysis, the Executive must use its own judgment.

Mr. Lourie referred to a list of some of the best-known international lawyers which had been prepared and to most of whom objections were found to exist; either the man was unsympathetic or he had outlived his reputation. A further difficulty had been illustrated by the experience of the Agency in pleading its case before the Shaw Commission in 1930 and the Peel Commission in 1937, respectively. In the former case one of the leading members of the English bar had been hired at great expense to appear on our behalf, but the presentation made in 1937 by Leonard Stein, working alone, who was steeped in the Zionist problem and appeared rather as a direct representative of his people than as an outsider working on its behalf, had been far more effective.

It was decided that Mr. Neumann and Dr. Greenberg should look into the question of obtaining appropriate legal and public relations help. It was also suggested that efforts be made to enlist the active help of Mr. Sumner Welles; also that this and related matters be discussed with Mr. Shertok on his arrival.

U.S.S.R.

There was a brief discussion on the question of the Russian attitude towards Zionism and it was suggested that someone, possibly Mr. Wallace, who could talk to the Soviets, be asked to pursue the matter further on our behalf.

ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The question was raised as to the attendance of members of the staff at meetings of the Executive (including senior members of the staff of the Emergency Council).

Dr. Silver stated that in general it was desirable to limit attendance at meetings of the Executive, and the view was also expressed that it was important that there be one place where the Executive could meet alone as a small deliberative body.

On the other hand, Mr. Neumann pointed out that in London a number of the men connected with the political department had taken part in the meetings of the Executive; and Dr. Greenberg urged that for the purposes of the United Nations work it was necessary that the head of that department be present so that he might have first-hand information on the line to be pursued.

After discussion, it was decided to take the matter up again at a future date for decision.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 P.M.

A.L.

COPY

"A"

February 17, 1947

Honorable George C. Marshall
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear General Marshall:

As you know, I have been interested for a long time in the Palestine problem. While I sympathize with the British difficulties, it seems to me they have not been pursuing either a reasonable or a consistent position. The last proposal made by the British Government does not seem to me to meet in any respect what I understand to be the official position of this Government. In the first place, it does not provide for the admission of a hundred thousand immigrants immediately to relieve the situation in German camps. Instead of that it postpones the whole matter because of Arab objection, until the United Nations meet six months from now. Furthermore, it provides for admission at the rate of only four thousand a month, so that it will be two and a half years before the American suggestion is really complied with.

In the second place, the proposal for partition is not a proposal for partition. Only a shadow of self-government is to be given in the Arab and Jewish areas, and the proposal seems to contemplate a federal state at some time in the future without saying who shall control that state. I have understood that the American Government approved the idea of a partition within a definite time, and complete autonomy for the Jewish territory.

Since the British proposal does not comply with the policy of the American Government in any way, I suggest that proper representation to that effect should be made to the British Government.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ ROBERT A. TAFT

RT:o

COPY

"B"

UNITED STATES SENATE

February 17, 1947

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

This will acknowledge your note of February 12th.

It goes without saying that I share your disappointment regarding developments at London. On the other hand, perhaps it is just as well that this controversy should head toward the United Nations for settlement if there is no other way out. There must be a conclusion to it somewhere. I am frank to say, however, that I still prefer an immediate determination of the issue on the basis of the viable partition of Palestine.

Since our last talk upon the subject, I have found the occasion to re-emphasize this view to our own State Department and through it to the British Foreign Office.

Thanks for your last visit. You are always welcome.

With warm personal regards and best wishes,

Cordially and faithfully,

/s/ A. H. Vandenberg

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

February 24, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on February 24, 1947, at 10:30 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York, N. Y.

PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel Halprin, Emanuel Neumann, Moshe Shertok, Dr. Moshe Sneh.

Eliahu Epstein, Gottlieb Hammer.

POLITICAL REPORT

Mr. Shertok, who, together with Dr. Sneh, had arrived from London the previous day, reported on a meeting which had taken place at the Colonial Office after the termination of the so-called informal talks with the British Government. The Zionist representatives in London had discussed with Mr. Creech-Jones and his advisers the Government's interim policy in the light of its announced intention to refer the Palestine issue to the United Nations. Reference to the United Nations in September does not mean a decision in September, on the contrary, it may mean a very long delay and the question of interim policy, therefore, was a matter of urgency.

Our representatives had pressed two main points, the abrogation of the land restrictions and the immediate increase of Jewish immigration. Mr. Creech-Jones had indicated that he was fully alive to the importance and urgency of the two problems raised. He had indicated further that also to the British, the position in Palestine was intolerable. Among other things they were in the humiliating position of having virtually been segregated and it was difficult for them to carry on under those circumstances. On the other hand, he said, there was always the danger of trouble on the side of the Arabs if they acceded to our request. Mr. Shertok had replied that while our information might not be infallible, it was certainly worth something, and that it all tended to show that serious trouble was improbable. Although there were circles among the Arabs definitely interested in fomenting trouble, there was for a variety of reasons deep-seated reluctance among the Arab masses to engage in any trouble whatsoever. For one thing, many of them had done well as a result of the war and they did not want to forfeit their gains. Furthermore, they were afraid of a very sharp reaction on the part of the Jews and knew that the strength of the Jews had grown very much in recent years. They also recalled the effect on the Arab internal position of the anti-British, anti-Jewish disturbances of 1936-1939, when more Arabs were killed by Arabs than either by the Jews or the British.

Mr. Ben-Gurion had been particularly effective on the question of the land law and there was reason to believe that his remarks on this subject had made an impression. As a whole, however, the talk was inconclusive and we were informed that a decision would have to be taken by the Cabinet.

Mr. Shertok reported further on preparations that had been made for the debate in Parliament. Among others it had been expected that Mr. Churchill would speak (owing to the death of his brother, Mr. Churchill did not in fact participate). Several attempts had been made to see him without success -- indeed Mr. Churchill did not like to be briefed. From reports which we had received from close associates of his, apparently he was sincere in his publicly expressed view that Great Britain should quit Palestine.

A report by Dr. Sneh followed. (In Hebrew, note on file) In the ensuing discussion emphasis was placed on the need for pressure in the period immediately before us on the immigration issue in regard to the interim period. There was also an expression of opinion on the position in regard to the United Nations Organization and it was pointed out that the British Government is not proposing to obligate itself in advance in regard to any decision that might be reached there; there was indeed a studied vagueness in the terms of Mr. Bevin's announcement that the matter would be referred to the United Nations.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL COUNCIL

A considerable interchange of cables had taken place with London and Jerusalem regarding the proposed meeting of the full Executive and the General Council. There was apparently a clear majority of the Executive in favor of having the meetings in Jerusalem and the dates now proposed were the 10th of March for the Executive meeting and the 16th of March for the meeting of the Council. After a full discussion the Chairman stated that it was clear that the majority of the Executive want the meeting at this time and the meeting will have to be set. If he could go he would do so.

LOAN PROPOSAL

Dr. Sneh reported on action that had been taken in regard to the proposal for raising a loan in this country.

Mr. Neumann indicated in conclusion that he would like to have discussed at the next meeting the question of the organization of the work in America.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

March 3, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on March 3, 1947, at 10:30 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Moshe Shertok, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Hayim Greenberg, Emanuel Neumann, Dr. Moshe Sneh.

EXPENDITURES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of those who had indicated that they would be attending the meeting of the General Council were reported. It was reported further that in the course of the previous two and one-half weeks three cables had been dispatched to Jerusalem requesting authorization for the travel expenses of members of the Actions Committee. No reply or acknowledgment of any kind had been received.

Expenditures for the travel expenses of the members of the Actions Committee were approved.

POLITICAL REPORTS

Mr. Shertok reported on the meeting which had taken place between Mr. Bevin, Mr. Creech-Jones, Mr. Locker and Dr. Goldmann in London on the previous Thursday. The meeting was called on the initiative of Mr. Creech-Jones and a discussion took place with reference to paragraph 17b of the Jewish Agency memorandum of February 13, in which it was urged that if the Government is not prepared at this stage to adopt a decision as to the ultimate status of Palestine the Mandatory regime should continue but that the execution of the Mandate should be true to its letter and spirit i.e. immigration to the full extent of the country's economic absorptive capacity, encouragement of close settlement by Jews on the land and repeal of the discriminatory land laws. The Jewish Agency representatives pressed very hard for an interim change in regard to immigration and land. Mr. Bevin, however, had again proposed a substantial immigration for a two-year period after which the Arabs should have a say in the regulation of immigration. This was resisted and the result of the conversation was inconclusive.

Mr. Shertok added that in view of the impending departure of Mr. Bevin for Moscow and Mr. Creech-Jones for a tour in Africa it appeared probable that the question of a change during the interim period until the matter came before the United Nations would again be left pending for weeks and possibly months. He

believed that the interim policy decision was now buried under the debris of the Goldsmith house in Jerusalem.

The question of a possible reaction by the President to the Bevin statement had been taken up at the White House. There was reference in this connection also to the speeches in the Senate.

Mr. Shertok then reported on his talks with the Secretary of State. The conversation (recorded separately) had lasted twenty minutes. The Secretary had listened very carefully but had himself volunteered very little, save that at the end he had expressed deep interest in the problem and stated that he was anxious to learn all the facts and to help. The Secretary of State added that he had not yet had an opportunity of discussing the matter with Mr. Bevin personally but would talk to him about it in Moscow.

By way of inoculation against what Mr. Bevin might say to Mr. Marshall, Mr. Shertok had stressed that Mr. Bevin seems to be riveted to the idea that he can make a sacrifice of our future for the sake of the present, but in that he would not succeed.

Mr. Shertok also saw Lord Inverchapel and found him very depressed about the whole situation.

Finally, Mr. Shertok reported on a talk which he had had with Judge Proskauer on the latter's invitation yesterday.

MARTIAL LAW IN PALESTINE

A discussion took place on possible action in connection with the situation in Palestine and the possibility of an organized protest.

POLITICAL REPORTS (CONTINUED)

Mr. Neumann reported that he had had a conference, which lasted nearly two hours, in the State Department with Mr. Henderson and his aides, in which he had informed them of what had happened in London.

He reported further on the dinner meeting in Washington at which Dr. Silver and he had discussed our problem with a group of fourteen Senators, among which eight or nine members of the Foreign Relations Committee, Democrats and Republicans, presided over by Senator Brewster. There had been a very earnest discussion and he received the impression that there was a growing recognition that America must take some measure of responsibility in the whole situation.

Mr. Neumann had also seen Mr. Dolivet and the United States Delegate to the Security Council, Mr. Austin.

Mr. Neumann stated that he had also communicated with Mr. Sumner Welles, who was in Florida. He was anxious to find out from him to what extent he might be willing to be helpful, particularly in relation to Latin America.

Dr. Silver reported that he had spoken on Friday, February 21, by telephone with Governor Dewey -- told him about the situation and asked his help. The

Governor had indicated that Mr. Dulles was at that time in Mexico but that he would speak to him on his return. The following Friday Mr. Dewey had telephoned Dr. Silver and informed him that he had discussed the matter with Mr. Dulles who was very much interested and who intended to take the matter up both with Mr. Bevin and Mr. Marshall in Moscow. Dr. Silver was to meet with Mr. Dulles that afternoon.

He was also to see Mr. Hoover that day. He had spoken with Mr. Hoover before the latter left for Germany, at which time he had arranged for him to meet with Rabbi Bernstein.

ZIONIST POLICY

Dr. Silver said that he might not be able to attend the meeting of the Executive in Jerusalem and proceeded to outline his views on the general situation for the information of the other members of the Executive in the event that he found himself unable to leave America. He thought that only after it were made clear to Great Britain that her attitude on Palestine was likely to interfere with good relations between America and Great Britain and a common long-range American-British policy, would the British be induced to remedy the situation. It was essential, however, in pursuing such a line that we did not again repeat errors which had been made in the past when there had been a failure to stand by a position initially established.

Dr. Silver also urged that if our matter comes up before the United Nations, we have no compromise to offer and have nothing to present except our legal rights.

In the course of a brief discussion which followed the importance was strongly pressed of Dr. Silver's personal attendance at the meeting in Jerusalem in order to present his views there. Mr. Shertok, in referring to the United Nations program warned against over-simplification. It would be relatively easy if the only issue which confronted us was that of delivering a petition to the United Nations or the contents of a direct appeal (if that were practically possible) or address to that body. But when it comes to actual conversations with the different national representatives, in Paris, in Prague, in the Scandinavian countries, in the Latin-American capitals, and so forth, we may be faced with a great many questions, to some of which it will be difficult to give an answer simply by making a declaration and then leaving it at that.

Mr. Neumann drew attention to an article of Fielding Eliot in the Tribune, in which Mr. Eliot argued against reference to the United Nations with its attendant delays and made a strong plea for an Anglo-American agreement on the subject. The importance of the article lay in its stress on the fact that ultimately it will be up to these two countries to lead the United Nations in a decision and to carry out in reality, whatever may come from the United Nations. He felt that this was a line that we ought to press as hard as we can. It was entirely possible that the whole business of reference to the United Nations was another diversionary step, politically and propagandistically, on the part of the British Government. So far as the United Nations is concerned, Mr. Neumann summarized our problem as being to try to maintain and strengthen as far as we can and as long as we can our legal position under the Mandate. There is no secure ground on which we can stand at this time other than the Mandate. The real problem was

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

June 4, 1947.

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Wednesday, June 4, at 11:00 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Eliezer Kaplan, Emanuel Neumann, Moshe Shapiro, Moshe Sneh.

MEETINGS OF ACTIONS COMMITTEE AND OF FULL EXECUTIVE

With reference to the proposed meeting of the Actions Committee to take place June the 16th, a cable from Mr. Ben-Gurion dated June 2nd reporting the request of the General Zionists in Palestine for a postponement until the end of July had been circulated. Information to hand now indicated that a majority of the 19 members of the Executive had placed themselves on record as favoring postponement of the Actions Committee Meeting. The Plenary meeting of the Executive, however, would take place as scheduled in the second week of June.

A discussion ensued with reference to the line of policy to be followed by the Agency representatives in presenting the Zionist case to the Special Committee of Inquiry. As regards the Actions Committee, the view was expressed by a number of those present that it would be wiser to call the meeting at the end of August or early in September. July was not a "political date" since the United Nations Committee would by then have completed taking evidence in Palestine but we would still be without any indication as to the United Nations Committee's conclusions upon which the Actions Committee could base its own decisions. It was agreed to canvass the members of the Executive before the end of the week with regard to the calling of the meeting of the Actions Committee in July or August and to cable Palestine accordingly. It was also proposed to pass on to Jerusalem the suggestion that for the purposes of the forthcoming meeting of the Executive in Palestine, members of groups not in the coalition should be invited to attend.

LIAISON OFFICER WITH THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION

Reference was made to a report which had appeared in the press of the appointment of a member of the Jewish Agency staff as liaison with the Inquiry Committee and a brief discussion followed with regard to the type of representative required in the circumstances.

DIRECTION OF WORK IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

A discussion developed on the direction of our work abroad in the period immediately ahead. It was assumed that contacts with the United Nations Committee of Inquiry would be the responsibility of the Palestine Section and of such other members of the Executive as will be there during the period of Inquiry. Dr. Goldmann was proposing to visit Prague on his way to Palestine. He had also contemplated a visit to Belgrade but Dr. Sneh indicated that a request had been received from Belgrade that they be left alone for the time being until the Special Economic Mission at present in Yugoslavia had completed its visit. While the general over-all direction of the United Nations work in Europe remained the responsibility of the American Section, the Paris Office had been asked to keep an eye on activities on the European continent. Dr. Sneh pointed out the importance of contacts from Paris in respect not only to United Nations activities but also to other matters. He remarked that his office had been concerning itself with the "satellite" states and he also urged that the Scandinavian countries be directed from London. It was agreed that Dr. Neumann and Dr. Sneh should discuss the matter of the organization of European activities further together with Mr. Shertok upon his return to New York on Friday.

RESTITUTION COMMITTEE

Mr. Kaplan referred to the forthcoming meeting of the so-called Restitution Committee. A Board for that Committee would have to be elected. There were actually only two bodies involved, the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The Restitution Committee would establish offices in Europe and conduct its main work there but it must have official representatives here to present a united Jewish front in relation to the American Government and also later to other Jewish groups. An agreement had been reached with the majority of the other organizations involved. Mr. Edward Warburg of the Joint Distribution Committee would be elected President of the Restitution Committee; and Mr. Kaplan recommended that Dr. Neumann be nominated for the Chairmanship of the Administrative Committee, Mr. Eliezer Kaplan as Honorary President and Mr. Maurice Boukstein as a member of the Board on behalf of the Jewish Agency. These nominations were unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Kaplan reported briefly on the present situation with reference to the United Jewish Appeal. While the total of the pledges received in the spring campaign had amounted to the not unsatisfactory figure of \$115,000,000, the cash situation was extremely serious. For the first five months the United Jewish Appeal had received only \$1,600,000 instead of the hoped for amount of \$6,000,000. Monthly receipts were so low as to be quite alarming and were creating a critical position for the Joint Distribution Committee and the Agency. Mr. Kaplan had had a number of meetings with the banks with a view to obtaining substantial credits. Their line however, is to postpone a decision of their own until there is some clarity with regard to the decision to be taken by the United Nations. The only prospect of immediate additional credit

for the moment was in connection with the export of American machinery which involves commercial and not political channels. Mr. Kaplan also reported that he had made an effort to renew negotiations with the State Department and other official bodies with regard to the grant of substantial aid in the event of there being a positive political solution so that there should not be any unnecessary loss of time at that critical period.

Mr. Kaplan also referred to meetings which he had had with the Finance Committee of the American Section of the Executive in which budget of the Agency had been considered and also the procedures followed with regard to some of the large financial transactions in which the Agency was engaged. He was hopeful that some unnecessary conflicts and delays which had occurred in the past would be eliminated. Mr. Kaplan added that in the light of the difficult financial situation it was necessary to make a study of expenditures here and as far as possible to exclude overlapping. The Financial Committee had undertaken to look into this matter in the name of the whole Executive. It was necessary to review from the financial angle the work of the Zionist bodies in America just as had been done in the case of Palestine.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE

JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

June 9, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Monday, June 9, 1947 at 11:00 A.M. at the New York Office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Moshe Shertok, Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel Halprin, Eliezer Kaplan, Moshe Shapiro.

NOTE CIRCULATED BY U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL

A letter was read which had been sent that morning to the Secretary-General of the United Nations containing observations by the Jewish Agency on the circulation by him of the British note with regard to "illegal immigration". A copy of the Agency's letter had also been sent to the Chairman of the Special Committee which was about to have its last meeting before leaving for Palestine (letter on file).

DISCUSSION WITH NON-ZIONISTS

Dr. Greenberg reported on a conversation that Mr. Neumann and he had had with Judge Proskauer. In conclusion it had been suggested that a tentative draft be prepared by the Agency for further discussion with the non-Zionist representatives. It was resolved that further information be sought from the Jerusalem executive on a memorandum which had been prepared by them.

UNITED NATIONS MATERIAL

A discussion took place on action to be taken to place on a more regular basis the receipt by the Agency of documentation of the United Nations and also with reference to the appointment of a liaison to the Special Committee.

BOOK ON SPECIAL SESSION

Approval was given for the idea of the preparation by Dr. Robinson of a book within the next two months dealing in some detail with the proceedings at the Special Session of the Assembly on Palestine.

ACTION ABROAD BEFORE SEPTEMBER SESSION

The question was raised with regard to action in various countries abroad in preparation for the September Session. The proposal for a visit

by Miss Kirchwey to Australia was welcomed. A report was also received on conversations by Major Comay with the Australian, South African and New Zealand representatives in Washington and at the United Nations. It was suggested that the whole question of contacts abroad be remitted to Mr. Neumann and Dr. Greenberg as a sub-committee of the Executive for further detailed consideration.

REFUGEE TRANSIT

A report was given on the problems arising in connection with the departure from the American Zone of DP's and their transit through adjoining territories.

A.L.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

June 16, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Monday, June 16, 1947, at 12:00 P.M., at the New York Office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Hayim Greenberg, Emanuel Neumann, Moshe Shapiro.

SHEKEL REMITTANCES

It was reported that a communication had been received from the Organization Department in Jerusalem requesting that action be taken with reference to a Shekel campaign this year and to the question of Shekel remittances from America in general. The ZOA and Hadassah had failed to remit Shekel monies for the current year on the ground that the other organizations were not taking action in regard to their dues. After discussion it was agreed that a meeting of the parties represented on the Shekel Board should be convened and the matter discussed; also, that attention be drawn to the difficulties involved in conducting campaigns both this year and next year, and suggesting as an alternative that at an appropriate time a single campaign to cover a two-year Shekel be instituted.

LIAISON OFFICERS

A cable from Jerusalem was read as follows:

FOR MEMBERS EXECUTIVE EBAN HOROWITZ TODAY APPOINTED
BY EXECUTIVE LIAISON OFFICERS ALREADY ENTERED THEIR
FUNCTIONS STOP ALL THOUGHT IN VIEW RESTRICTED SCOPE
LIAISON AND LEVEL GOVERNMENTAL LIAISON APPOINTMENT
MEMBER EXECUTIVE INADVISABLE STOP CERTAIN MISGIVINGS
EXPRESSED NEWYORK UNSHARED HERE STOP COMMITTEE MEETING
GOVERNMENT TOMORROW VIEW HEARING FACTUAL ACCOUNT
STRUCTURE ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION
REGARDING COUNTRY STOP SIMILAR MEETING WITH US TUESDAY
STOP BOTH MEETINGS CLOSED PURELY INFORMATIVE NO
QUESTIONS POLICY DISCUSSABLE STOP COMMITTEE THEREAFTER
TOUR COUNTRY BE ACCOMPANIED BY US IN PLACES JEWISH
INTEREST.

CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON

It was agreed that a cable be sent to the Executive requesting information on conversations, if any, which Dr. Goldmann and Mrs. Meyerson may have had, when in London, with members of the Government.

BOOK BY MR. SCHECHTMAN

It was agreed that the Agency should participate in the publication of the second volume of Mr. Schechtman's work on population transfers.

DISCUSSIONS WITH NON-ZIONISTS

A report was made on a memorandum received from the Jerusalem Executive on the reorganization of the Jewish Agency. In this connection, Dr. Greenberg and Mr. Neumann had had a conversation with Judge Proskauer who had suggested that a tentative and informal memorandum should be prepared for purposes of discussion. It was agreed that Dr. Robinson should prepare a draft and that the matter should be followed up by Dr. Greenberg and Mr. Neumann as a sub-committee of the Executive.

CIRCULATION BY MR. LIE OF BRITISH MEMORANDUM

Following a discussion on the action previously taken on behalf of the Agency with reference to the circulation by Mr. Lie of the British note with regard to "illegal immigration" it was agreed that at an early opportunity a member of the Executive should call on Mr. Lie. It was also agreed that an inquiry be directed to the Jerusalem Executive with regard to the idea of sending a letter of our own to the member States of the United Nations, dealing with the British action, and once more presenting the case for Jewish refugee immigration.

ARAB BOYCOTT

It was agreed that a memorandum be prepared for possible action by the Emergency Council discussing the real meaning to be attached to the boycott.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

July 14, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Monday, July 14, at 11:00 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Emanuel Neumann.

UNITED NATIONS MATTERS

A cable dated July 10 from Mr. Shertok in Jerusalem expressing great concern at the attitude of the Australian members of the United Nations Special Committee and making suggestions for action here was reported. Steps had been taken by the New York Office to arrange for Miss Freda Kirchwey to communicate with Dr. Evatt, the Australian Minister for External Affairs. Dr. Evatt was at present on his way to Japan but Miss Kirchwey hoped to communicate with him either by cable or by telephone. A communication had also been sent to the Zionist Federation in Sydney.

A brief report was given on developments in connection with the Special Committee and was followed by a discussion on the application of Transjordan for admission to the United Nations.

LETTER FROM GREEK AMBASSADOR

A letter, dated July 17, 1947, from the Greek Ambassador and Delegate to the United Nations, dealing with the claim of the wife of a former Greek Foreign Secretary to property in Tel-Aviv was read. It was resolved that an appropriate acknowledgement be sent and that the matter be remitted to Jerusalem since there was no possibility of determining the facts in New York.

LETTER FROM STATE DEPARTMENT RE: HUFTI'S DOCUMENTS

A further letter from the State Department to the Emergency Council regarding the publication of documents relating to the wartime activities of the Hufti was reported. The view was expressed that in the light of that letter there was little or no prospect of obtaining the publication of these documents by the State Department in time for the September session of the United Nations. It was clear that a further direct approach would not be effective. At the same time, it

was felt that such assistance as might be obtained from friends in Washington should be reserved at this time for other matters and that this thought be conveyed to the Council.

SITUATION IN WASHINGTON

Dr. Silver reported that our effort to get the Administration to declare itself more concretely and specifically as regards its position on the main issue had not been successful. The State Department had taken the line that a restatement of its position at this time might be regarded as an attempt to influence the Special Committee and was inadvisable. At the same time, an assurance had been received from Mr. Marshall that the Government would not confront us with a fait accompli and would call us in for consultation before announcing or restating its position. In the course of further discussion it was suggested that even if the American Government does not make a public announcement of policy at this time, there were other ways of getting it to show its hand. Without public pressure and public demand, the officials in the State Department would continue freely to pursue their own hostile line. It was further suggested that more must be done to persuade the United States Government that the national interest would be served by a pro-Zionist solution in the light of its oil and military strategy. Also that Senator Vandenberg should be spoken to again.

In this connection Dr. Silver reported on correspondence which he had had with the Senator which indicated that while opposed at this time to public action, which he felt might impair the effectiveness of anything he might later seek to do on the Palestine issue, he was definitely anxious to be helpful at the appropriate moment. It was proposed that inasmuch as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is now meeting regularly with Secretary Marshall in executive session that it should be suggested to the Senator that the Palestine issue should be brought up in one of these meetings for discussion.

LETTER FROM JUDGE RIFKIND

A letter from Judge Rifkind was read informing the Executive of a proposal for the printing of the brief prepared under the auspices of the legal committee at the expense of the members of that committee "for use in connection with such fruitful purposes as may appear." It was agreed that there was no objection to such publication.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE

JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

July 21, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Monday, July 21, at 11:00 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Emanuel Neumann.

REPORT BY MR. ARYEH ESCHEL

Mr. Aryeh Eschel, of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, who was in New York enroute for South America, was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Eschel reported on developments in Palestine in connection with the United Nations Special Committee and on the personalities and attitude of the Committee members. (Report on file)

SEIZURE OF THE "EXODUS 1947"

Mr. Daniel Shind reported on news received in connection with the seizure of the EXODUS and a discussion ensued on possible action.

AGENDA OF SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY

Dr. Robinson reported on the Provisional Agenda of the forthcoming session of the Assembly which had been made public on July 18. The Agenda comprises 45 items and includes three items on Palestine - numbers 21, 22 and 23. Most of the earlier items are of an introductory and formal character, so that Palestine is likely to come on at a fairly early stage. Item 21 consists of the request of the United Kingdom's, of April 6, to put the question of Palestine on the Agenda of the Second Regular Session. Item 22 is the report of the Special Committee on Palestine. No. 23 is an item submitted by Iraq and Saudi Arabia and calls for the termination of the Palestine Mandate and the recognition of Palestine's independence.

Mr. Epstein reported that the British were doing their best to obtain the admission of Transjordan to membership of the United Nations at the coming session and that they apparently had the support of the American Government in this connection.

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE

A telegram from Palestine was read from which it appeared that the majority of the Committee seemed to be thinking along lines of partition and the establishment of a Jewish State, but that there were serious dangers with regard to the area proposed and also in connection with the insistence of some members that the Arab and Jewish areas be combined in a federal state.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Mr. Epstein reported on developments in Washington and referred to the greatly increased influence of Mr. Loy Henderson in connection with the Palestine issue. He also reported on conversations which he had had with a senior official in the War Department. The latter had referred to a memorandum submitted to the Chief of Staff by Judge R. The War Department representative had expressed the opinion that the memorandum stated our case clearly and well but he warned that present thinking on strategy in the Middle East held that if war came within the next two or three years the whole area would have to be evacuated. He suggested that that possibility was not taken into account in this memorandum. The Department was very much interested in keeping the Middle East in a state of peace. At the same time, the official indicated that it was only by a miracle that Syria and the Lebanon had survived their first year of independence in view of the internal state of affairs in both countries. He himself was a supporter of the idea of Greater Syria. They had had a considerable discussion on possible solutions and, in particular, on the question of a transition period in the event of a decision to establish a Jewish State.

Mr. Epstein emphasized the importance of doing everything possible at this stage while decisions are in the making to influence and inform leading members of the Government. Among those whose opinions counted were, in addition to the Secretary of State and some of his assistants, Secretary of the Navy Forrestal and also Mr. Harriman. We would also have to seek the active support of the White House. He thought that the time had come to develop a major publicity activity, and concluded by drawing attention to the growing Arab activities, not only in this country but, more particularly, in South America.

In the course of the discussion which followed, Dr. Silver stated that it was highly desirable to obtain the informed help of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Also that things were being done with the help of the Emergency Council to organize favorable sentiment throughout the country. A petition was circulating amongst Christian ministers and an impressive document had been prepared for signature by the Governors of States to which, so far, 23 signatures had been obtained and probably another 10 would be received in the course of the coming weeks. The forthcoming public demonstration at Madison Square Park would also be helpful.

There was a reference to the work of the Latin American Department of the Agency and Mr. Epstein was asked to arrange for Dr. Roitman to give full time to the work of the Agency in the coming period.

GIFT TO MR. ROBERT NATHAN

Approval was given for the purchase of a gift for Mr. Robert Nathan on the occasion of his marriage.

JEWISH RESTITUTION COMMISSION

In connection with the establishment of the Jewish Restitution Commission the J.D.C. and the Jewish Agency had agreed to the establishment of a joint account on the basis of a deposit by each of \$12,500 for operating expenses. Payment of the deposit was approved. Dr. Neumann was further authorized as representative of the Agency on the Board of the Commission to act in connection with a sub-contract that is to be signed with the Cultural Reconstruction Foundation with reference to the acquisition for Palestine of large numbers of books of Jewish interest which the American Army is ready to turn over.

ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA

Dr. Greenberg referred to the situation in Latin America, where he felt that there had been some deterioration in our position of recent weeks. On the other hand, the Arabs were greatly increasing their propaganda activities. After some discussion it was agreed that a conference of leading Zionists from various Latin American countries be called in Mexico City in the second week of August at which Mr. Eliahu Epstein should be present and should report. It was also suggested that Mr. Eschel and possibly others from Palestine should be asked to visit different countries in South America.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

August 5, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Tuesday, August 5, at 11:00 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Emanuel Neumann.

EXODUS 1947

A cable had been received from Mr. Linton in Marseilles with reference to developments regarding the EXODUS refugees. A report was given on action taken in this connection, including requests to prominent Americans to send wires to the British Prime Minister, the Archbishop of Canterbury and President Truman. Mr. Murray had agreed to send a telegram to the leaders of the British Labor Party, but Mr. William Green's initial reaction to the request made to him had been a negative one as a result of the view he had taken of the hanging of the two British Sergeants.

Among those who had been asked to help were Mr. Baruch and Mr. Frank Buxton. The Emergency Council was active in trying to obtain editorials. Dr. Wise had communicated with Mrs. Ogden Peed about an editorial on the subject of the EXODUS refugees in the Herald Tribune. An editorial which subsequently appeared, however, was devoted mostly to the terror and not to those aboard the prison ships. The American Jewish Committee had been contacted and had issued a helpful statement to the public press.

A report was also given on a telephone conversation with Dr. Snoh regarding the attitude of the French authorities.

POLITICAL REPORTS

The Chairman reported on a discussion which Mr. Leo Sack had had in Washington with Mr. Leslie Biffle, Secretary of the Democratic Party in the Senate and a close friend of President Truman. Mr. Biffle had subsequently discussed the Palestine issue with the President.

Dr. Silver also reported on a satisfactory talk which he had had the previous week with Mr. John Foster Dulles. While Mr. Dulles would be one of the United States representatives at the next meeting of the Assembly and while he would be bound to accept State Department direction on the use of his vote, he had nevertheless made it clear to the Department that he would not be a rubber stamp and must be entitled to a voice in the actual

decision. In discussing the Palestine issue, Mr. Dulles remarked that he had met with some people the other day who had tried to impress him with the Arab military strength and the possibility of trouble in Palestine should the United Nations agree on a solution favorable or partially favorable to the Jewish cause. Mr. Dulles was friendly and remarked that he had helped obtain the inclusion of the Palestine plank in the Republican platform.

Dr. Silver also expected to meet with Mr. Vandenberg in Washington on his return. In addition, Mr. Swope had undertaken to suggest to the Secretary of State the advisability of discussing Palestine with Senator Vandenberg.

It was reported further that Mr. Epstein was to have lunch that day with Mr. Wilkins in the State Department and later with Mr. Niles.

A telegram, dated July 21, from Mr. Shortok regarding difficulties which had arisen in connection with the attitude of the Yugoslav member of the Special Committee was read and a report given on a conversation which Mr. Epstein had had that morning with the Yugoslav representative in Washington. Arrangements were being made for Mr. Shortok to pay a visit to Belgrade; Dr. Snch had undertaken to visit Warsaw and Prague.

ENLARGED JEWISH AGENCY

The matter was again raised of action with regard to the reconstitution of the enlarged Agency. It was suggested that if the American Jewish Committee was unwilling to go ahead at this time non-Zionist representation should be sought through the medium of the American Jewish Conference and other bodies. The possibility that the status of the Executive might be impugned on grounds of constitutionality at the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations was emphasized. After a full discussion of various possibilities in the light of the constitutional position, it was decided to recommend to the Actions Committee that a meeting of the Council of the Jewish Agency be convened and that a call to such a meeting, or a request to the Co-Chairmen of the Council to issue a call, be made for the end of October or the beginning of November of this year.

It was further suggested that after the Executive or the Actions Committee meeting takes the formal step of announcing that the Council of the Agency will be convened and upon the return of the Executive from Zurich, the American Jewish Conference might issue a statement or write a letter to the Agency calling its attention to the fact that as the representative body of American Jewry they would like to consult with the Agency regarding plans of reorganization of the Agency for proper representation of the American Jewish community.

In addition, it was agreed that Judge Rothenberg should be asked to enter into initial discussions with the leaders of the non-Zionists and explain to them the necessity, by way of a demonstration at the time that the United Nations will be discussing Palestine, of announcing arrangements for a meeting of the Council in November. Dr. Silver added that the meeting

of the American Jewish Conference would be a very important one and that they should be given every encouragement and support in making of it a great demonstration.

REPORT BY OSCAR GASS

Mr. Oscar Gass, who had spent several weeks in Palestine and who had just returned, was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman. Mr. Gass gave a report on economic and political aspects of the situation in Palestine. (Report on file.)

ARREST OF THREE JEWISH MAYORS AND OTHERS IN PALESTINE

It was agreed that cables be addressed, in behalf of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency, to the arrested Mayors individually and also to the Vaad Loumi expressing the indignation of the Agency at the action of the British authorities and its support for the persons arrested.

VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN CELLER TO INDIA AND PALESTINE

It was agreed that Congressman Celler should be invited to visit India and Palestine. The question of arranging for a delegation of other Congressmen to visit Palestine was referred to the Emergency Council.

ACTION IN SOUTH AMERICA

It was reported that the proposal to hold a gathering of leading Zionists from the various Latin-American countries in Mexico would not be proceeded with in view of the Rio Conference at which Mr. Toff and a number of our leading friends would be in attendance. In addition to persons mentioned in a memorandum from Dr. Reitman as visiting Rio at the time of the Conference, it was suggested that Mr. Chill and Dr. Pirez, of Argentine, and also Miss Adolson should attend the meeting; also that Mr. Tulin be invited to go down to Rio for the Conference.

ABSENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Chairman pointed out that as from August 16 all members of the Executive would be away for at least three weeks. Responsibility for the affairs of the American office would rest, in their absence, with Mr. Lourie and Mr. Epstein.

VISIT OF DR. LOWDERMILK TO PALESTINE

It was reported that Dr. Lowdermilk was at present in North Africa and would be interested to make a second visit to Palestine. It was agreed to sponsor such a visit.

HAITI

There was a brief discussion on the situation which had developed with regard to relations with the representatives of the Government of Haiti.

It was agreed that in view of the absence of the members of the Executive the matter would have to remain over until sometime in September and that those concerned should be informed accordingly.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

A.L.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

September 17, 1947.

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Wednesday, September 17, 1947 at 11:00 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Abba Hillel Silver (presiding)
Rabbi Wolf Gold
Nahum Goldmann
Mrs. Rose Halprin
Hayim Greenberg
Emanuel Neumann
Moshe Shertok

MARSHALL STATEMENT

The Executive approved the text of a release with reference to Secretary Marshall's statement on Palestine at the General Assembly.

REPORTS FROM LONDON

Reports from London indicated that the foreign affairs committee of the Labor Party had recommended the acceptance of the recommendations of the majority report of the U.N. Committee. There was apparently strong opinion in favor of the evacuation of Palestine. Field Marshal Montgomery was also reported in favor of such evacuation. In the discussion on the reports from London the view was expressed that there was a danger that the British might attempt to establish a bridge between the recommendations of the majority and minority reports.

POSITION OF U.S. DELEGATION

Dr. Silver reported that there were indications that the American Delegation would support the majority report. He also drew attention to the statement issued by Governor Dewey and mentioned that a statement would be issued by Senator Taft. He was in touch with Senator Vandenberg and there was a possibility that the latter would issue a statement in support of the majority report.

A meeting would probably be held with Secretary Marshall.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. MORGENTHAU.

Mr. Shertok reported on an interview with Mr. Morgenthau. The latter had stressed the need to show the United States Government that it would have the approval of the great bulk of American Jewry if it endorsed the majority resolutions. He had urged that the Nazi affiliations and war record of the Arabs be shown up and that we continue the exposure of the Mufti in the public press and otherwise. He had indicated his interest in extended support of the JVA.

WASHINGTON REPORT.

Mr. Eliahu Epstein reported on the influence the affair of the "Exodus" had exerted in the State Department. He also reported on an interview with Ben Cohen, as well as on conversations with David Niles, Lovett and others.

Mr. Epstein further reported that General Hildring would serve as liason between the White House and the U.S. Delegation. Robert Nathan had been asked by Hildring to assist him in his contact with Jewish organizations. Loy Henderson was not likely to be in New York often during the U.N. session.

The association of George Wadsworth with the U.S. Delegation was viewed with concern by the Executive and the view was expressed that action should be taken to block his anti-Zionist activities.

Mr. Epstein reported that instructions had gone from the White House to the State Department to publish the material on the Mufti, but he had not yet heard what the response of the State Department had been.

It was agreed that an effort be made to publicize further the material dealing with the Mufti - possibly through some large newspaper syndicate. It was reported that the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League was due to issue a new pamphlet on the subject.

INTERVIEW WITH HEAD OF THE EURASION DIVISION.

Mr. Epstein reported on an interview with the head of the Eurasion Division of Military Intelligence in which the latter indicated a more favorable attitude towards a Jewish State than had hitherto been the case.

INTERVIEW WITH TRYGVE LIE

Mr. Shertok reported on an interview which he had had with Trygve Lie who had indicated that the setting up of the Ad Hoc Committee would speed up the discussions on Palestine. Lie took it for granted that the Jewish Agency would be admitted to the Committee and assumed that we would have to make a statement fairly early. (Full report on file.)

REPORT OF CONVERSATION WITH CLAYTON.

Mr. Shertok relayed a report from Mr. Zaslani of a conversation the latter had in Cairo on September 8th with Brigadier Clayton. Clayton had remarked that the influence of the Mufti was on the decline and that it might be possible that the implementation of the majority recommendations would not produce violent reactions in the Arab countries with the exception of Iraq. Clayton expressed anxiety lest the implementation of the Commission's report play into the hands of the Russians.

The view was expressed by members of the Executive that it was important to ascertain where the USSR presently stood. It was agreed that Bartley Crum should be invited to come to New York for a few weeks.

STAFF DURING UN SESSION

It was agreed to allocate to members of the Executive and of the staff, respectively, responsibility for specific countries. A sub-committee of two members of the Executive would be appointed to recommend an appropriate allocation.

It was agreed to invite Mr. Berl Locker to come to New York.

The following members of the staff of the Agency abroad would be available in addition to those already in New York: David Horowitz and Aubrey S. Eban, both of whom had acted as liaison officers with UNSCOP; Elias Sasson who would be useful for contacts with the Arabs; Michael Comay, of South Africa; Dr. M. Kahany; and Dr. Walter Eytan would co-ordinate the work at Lake Success. In addition, Mr. Toff was expected back shortly from Buenos Aires and Mr. Epstein would be coming to New York from the Washington office.

ADDITIONAL OFFICE SPACE

The need for additional office space was indicated and a suggestion for a possible arrangement with the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute which occupies one of the floors was approved.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The need for a closer exchange of information between various sections of the Executive was stressed and Dr. Neumann relayed a request from London on the subject. It was suggested that Dr. Eytan should undertake the preparation of information digests. The Emergency Council should be asked to contribute information and an attempt should be made to obtain information regularly from London. It was suggested that all information should be circularized to members of the Executive by Dr. Eytan.

BOOK BY DR. ROBINSON ON "PALESTINE AND THE UN"

The volume had appeared on schedule and had already been circularized among UN Delegations.

MEETING WITH OTHER JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS.

It was decided to convene a meeting on the following evening of representatives of the World Jewish Congress, American Jewish Conference, American Jewish Committee and Agudath Israel. In the meantime the readiness of the Jewish Labor Committee to cooperate should be sounded out. The object of the meeting would be to give these organizations information and listen to any suggestions that might be made. The proposal that a delegation of Jewish organizations and individuals see the President might be discussed at this meeting.

DISCIPLINE

Attention was drawn to the fact that a member of the Revisionist organization had made representations to the State Department. It was decided that a copy of the resolutions adopted by the Actions Committee be sent to the Revisionist organization and the pertinent resolution should be quoted in an accompanying letter.

It was decided to send a copy of the resolutions also to Hashomer Hatzair.

It was agreed to have a further meeting on the morrow at 11:00 A.M.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

October 5, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Sunday, October 5, 1947, at 9:30 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Moshe Shertok (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Berl Locker, Emanuel Neumann.

VISIT OF JUDGE PROSKAUER TO WASHINGTON

Mr. Shertok reported on a number of interviews which Judge Proskauer had had in Washington the previous Friday and also on his interview with Secretary of State Marshall in New York on Thursday. The interview with Secretary Marshall had been largely a monologue. Judge Proskauer had spoken for half an hour without interruption. He had urged that it would be more difficult for the United States to implement nothing than to implement something; that while the situation was difficult at present it would be more difficult a year hence and still more difficult two years hence; and as regards implementation, that American participation did not necessarily mean the use of conscripted troops as volunteers would be readily forthcoming. At the conclusion of Judge Proskauer's statement, Mr. Marshall had thanked him for his helpful exposition and told him that he had nothing to say at that time but that he would like to see Judge Proskauer again later. He asked him to continue his talk with General Hilldring.

In Washington Judge Proskauer had seen Mr. Lovett who said that he spoke as a friend and supporter of the report. They resented very much the pressure campaign which was being conducted by the Zionists, but he indicated that they would not let these feelings affect their action which would be in favor of the report. He referred to the attacks on Wadsworth and said that Wadsworth had no influence on policy whatsoever. He was necessary to them, however, as a contact with the Arabs and drew attention in this connection to the appointment of Hilldring as a specific contact with the Jews.

Mr. Lovett was critical of the reference to Great Britain in Dr. Silver's speech. As regards the oil issue he denied warmly that that aspect had played a part in determining the State Department's conclusions.

Mr. Lovett said that at this stage the question of the tactics to be pursued by the United States in seeking approval of the majority report was most important. It was "nip and tuck" that there would be no two-thirds majority. The Department was canvassing discreetly the other delegations in this connection and it did not wish, by untimely intervention, to risk putting up the backs of some of the other states. They were working entirely with an eye to action. At the same time, Mr. Lovett indicated that the Government was keeping up their sleeve an alternative plan if no two-thirds majority were achieved - a plan for interim action. He gave no indication as to its nature. Judge Proskauer remarked that Mr. Lovett spoke in very complimentary terms of Mr. Epstein.

Judge Proskauer had dined with Lord Inverchapel and had spoken in very critical terms of Mr. Creech-Jones' statement that Britain would not participate in implementing a solution which did not meet with her approval. Lord Inverchapel had sought to convince him that if the majority report were approved by the United Nations and England's cooperation were sought that she would do her share.

In general, Judge Proskauer had come back from Washington reassured as to the American position and he was of the opinion that the campaign of wires and letters to the White House should now be checked.

REPORTS OF TALKS WITH UN DELEGATES

A number of reports followed of conversations by various members of the staff with delegates of a number of countries, including the Netherlands (whose representative had obviously made a deep study of the problem); Sweden; Poland; South Africa (whose delegation, while definitely favorable in principle, was reluctant at this stage to come forward); Czechoslovakia; and New Zealand (which apparently had been much affected by Creech-Jones' statement and was not committed at this stage to supporting the majority report). There was also a report on the attitude of the American Delegation which had met on Saturday to discuss the Palestine matter. The discussion was based on the assumption that America would support the majority report. Much of the talk had centered around the question of obtaining the necessary two-thirds majority and also that of implementation. Wadsworth was not present and apparently was not entitled to attend policy meetings.

Mr. Elias Sasson, who had just arrived from Palestine, reported on conversations he had had in Cairo with Brigadier Clayton and Mr. Philip Ireland of the American Embassy. It was the Arab view in Cairo that the United States would not take up a definite attitude.

DISCUSSION ON IMPLEMENTATION

Dr. Goldmann said that on the basis of talks that he had had with the Slavs he did not expect a decision from the U.S.S.R. one way or the other until they knew who would implement the recommendations. He felt that we should not press the United States itself to implement militarily

- a) They would not agree to do so; and even if they did agree
- b) the whole Slavic bloc would in that event vote against the recommendations.

As to the proposal that neutrals be invited to implement, in the event this were approved by the Assembly, it would nevertheless involve considerable delay. He therefore felt that the Assembly should request Great Britain while reducing her forces to implement the proposals with the help of some of the smaller states.

Mr. Lourie reported Dr. Silver's view that it would be extremely ill-advised for us to recommend that Great Britain be entrusted with any major responsibility for implementation as that would immediately place the British in the position of being able to dictate the terms on which they would implement and would further enable her to sabotage any plan which was not to her liking. It would be preferable to seek implementation by the United States plus neutrals.

Mr. Shertok agreed that any scheme of implementation which centers itself around Great Britain would place enormous bargaining power in British hands and this might be fatal.

Dr. Neumann was also of the opinion that for Britain to become the central factor in implementing the Report would lead us into a trap from which there would be no escape. At the same time he did not see how in any case Britain could evacuate without handing over executive power to someone. It could hardly just pull out and leave disorder in its immediate wake. It had vital interests which it had to protect - the pipeline and the Haifa Refineries - and which would have to be handed over to the care of some constituted authority. He felt that the British notice of evacuation was in fact a bludgeon intended to bring pressure upon the Jews and upon the Assembly to achieve its own objectives. It is conceivable but not practical that they would hand authority over to the Arabs and in fact their position was not as simple or as favorable to them as might appear. They could not afford to pull out and leave a vacuum. He felt that the neutrals and in particular the

Dominions should be interested to see a decent consummation of the U.N. deliberations. Reduction of the British forces in Palestine must in any case take time and the formula should be that during that time a mixed force of the U.N. should step in and help implementation *pari passu* with the British. He agreed that to urge American entry would antagonize the Russians. Dr. Neumann went on to say it was technically desirable to break the issue down into

a) Internal security in a given area. This should as rapidly as possible become the responsibility of Jewish forces.

b) Maintenance of frontiers which should initially be the business of an international force. In this connection he emphasized the importance of recalling to the minds of delegates the precedent of the Saar.

Mr. Locker said that the British might announce the date of their withdrawal before any finality was reached in the U.N. just as in India they had done so before any agreement had been achieved between the two proposed states. Mr. Locker added that our criticism of Britain's refusal to implement might be read to mean that we really looked to the British to participate in implementation. He felt further that not only Britain but some of her associates whose help we needed were extremely sensitive to attacks on Britain at this time and that we should tone down our verbal assaults. He shared the view that it was undesirable for us to press for American participation.

Mr. Gelber commented with reference to Dr. Neumann's remark about the Dominions that Australia had stated publicly that it would not participate in implementing.

Dr. Eytan felt that it would be fatal to the plan if either the Americans or the Russians were asked to participate actively in implementing it. He agreed with Dr. Neumann that withdrawal must necessarily be a gradual process and that elementary police duties must remain the task of a British force in Palestine as long as the British were there. Our plan should not envisage sending any new troops to Palestine. On leaving Palestine the British would have to make some provision even if it was only a one paragraph ordinance resigning authority. What we should therefore aim at would be to ask the U.N. to organize a purely political implementation commission together with an administrative staff to supervise handing over of power to the Jewish and Arab states. The U.N. should not be asked for military forces but should rely on the assistance of such military and police forces as are in Palestine at present or could be immediately organized. This would not be British implementation. The U.N.'s commission would, as a first step, seek the establishment of local security forces of Jews and Arabs in their respective areas which from day to day would take over further local duties. In a relatively short time

the Jews would thus assume responsibility in their area. If the Arabs refused to cooperate in the Arab area this might fall into a state of increasing lawlessness from which they could be saved only by their own action or by the entry of Trans-Jordan forces.

Dr. Eytan emphasized that we could not count on the neutrals being ready and willing to send their troops to be shot at in Palestine. Moreover from the purely Palestine view we know how difficult it is for the foreign troops to achieve an understanding of the complicated situation there.

Mr. Eban said that it was generally agreed that if the British were predominant in implementation they would also be predominant in policy. Also we knew that the Chiefs of Staff have advised the Cabinet that implementation must be carried out in a manner which would not further antagonize the Arabs. Whether, however, we can go as far as suggested by Dr. Eytan and require nothing further from the U.N. than political control and direction depends on our estimate of our own military capacities. He felt that neutral implementation was preferable to great power implementation. At the same time we must consider seriously the possibility of the Assembly ending without a final decision and a situation arising where the U.N. would not wash its hands of the situation but seek some interim arrangement which might attempt to maintain the status quo or some modifications thereof.

Mrs. Halprin expressed the warning that to accept Dr. Eytan's statement was to lose sight of the possibility that we might not be able by ourselves to withstand Arab threats. Lawlessness would be most serious among the half million Arabs who would be left in the Jewish area. The Trans-Jordan forces might be used against us and we might find ourselves in a most difficult military situation. It was her view that U.N.'s assistance on a substantial scale must be sought. If this were so then the help of the small neutrals was not an answer and we would have to ask the larger powers to come in. It would be dangerous to lull ourselves into the belief that we could rely exclusively on our own forces.

Mr. Epstein said that acceptance of Mrs. Halprin's position would destroy at once any possibility of implementation. The extent of our military capacities was at present under most active consideration by our people in Jerusalem. The fact remains that unless we indicate that we will be in a position to maintain ourselves, if need be, then vis-a-vis the U.N. we are lost. Mr. Epstein added that the British position in Palestine remains a serious factor in spite of the anticipated evacuation because neither Russia nor the United States will readily see Britain replaced by the other and at the same time there will be obvious objections to the creation of a vacuum.

Dr. Robinson raised the question of the implementation also of the other parts of the Majority Report such for example, as the clauses regarding an economic agreement between the states.

Dr. Goldmann clarified his original remarks. He felt that we should not come out officially and say that we would look for implementation by the British. At the same time if such a request emerged on the initiative of others it would be a desirable development. He felt that if Britain said that it wants no part in implementation then we are in an impossible position because it meant that they would in fact not be prepared to maintain law and order while evacuating. Therefore we should aim to have the British, as long as their troops were still in Palestine and while in the process of evacuation, help maintain law and order. The Assembly should appeal to Great Britain along these lines.

Mr. Comay suggested that in dealing with delegates our answer to the questions frequently put by them viz: a) Can you handle the situation yourself? and b) Do you want U.N. participation? should, in both cases be in the affirmative. There was a strong feeling among many delegations that it would be most undesirable to have Jews and Arabs left to fight it out themselves.

Mr. Comay further suggested that we should ask for a U.N. commander under U.N.'s authority to recruit forces on the spot.

Mr. Horowitz said that his information from Mr. Beeley indicated that the foreign office position was that there should be no implementation as long as Britain was evacuating. This might create a prolonged interim period and would be very dangerous. Moreover it might be succeeded by a kind of power vacuum resulting in a repetition of the Spanish situation. He believed that none of the great powers today could afford such a development - the creation of a kind of free-for-all in Palestine - and we too must resist this possibility. There were two other possibilities. First, that there would be no decision at this session on implementation but an interim arrangement would be recommended supported by U.N. sanctions. This would create a very dangerous situation and must also be resisted by us. There remains then the question of implementation which itself called for answers as to who should implement and how. The idea that the big powers should implement might be very desirable but was well nigh impossible of achievement for reasons already given. So far as the British were concerned in view of the position which they had taken up he saw no possibility of British implementation. We must therefore fall back on the small powers. The task of a small power force would be

- a) Symbolic. The mere fact of the presence of U.N. representatives would decrease the probability of attack by the Arabs.
- b) Such a force might be small but if well equipped and comprising technical formations could be of great importance.

The Jews have manpower but not equipment and such a technical force might be of vital importance if supplemented by auxiliary Jewish manpower. Mr. Horowitz threw out the idea of a U.N. force of 5000 with tanks and 50 planes supplemented by 50,000 Jews from Palestine.

Mr. Shertok said that he believed that Mrs. Halprin's pessimism was exaggerated but even if her fears are justified that does not resolve the problem. There is a question of tactics. Suppose that we are in fact now ready. The most effective way to destroy ourselves would be to appear as suppliants in all our weakness. We must show that we are ready and can be more than ready given a little time. This does not require us to overstate our case but even if it looks like a gamble it would be the safest course in the end. At the same time we have to stress that the matter was one of international responsibility. It is the business of the U.N. to help achieve a solution. They should know however that if they are unable to act then we shall have to do so and the responsibility of what happens will be that of the U.N. Mr. Shertok emphasized that even if the British evacuated as quickly as they could the process must take time and he distinguished between a U.N.'s decision with regard to implementation of the Report and the maintenance by the British of law and order while their troops are still there. He gave as an example possible revolt in Palestine under the direction of the Mufti immediately following a favorable decision on the Report by the U.N. Obviously whether they wished to or no the British would have to react.

Summing up further Mr. Shertok said that even while evacuation was going on a Jewish force should be officially established. He doubted that we should make any specific proposals with regard to international forces but could in private discussion indicate that a small international force could have a great symbolic value, that is to say, we must indicate that we recognize the possibility and even the desirability of an international force but not its indispensability, and in any event if we are to assume complete military responsibility we must be given facilities for arms and volunteers.

Mr. Toff stated that the Assembly at present was working under the influence of

- a) Arab threats
- b) Mr. Creech-Jones' statement, and
- c) United States silence.

If the Americans continue to ask who will implement any Report the South American countries will conclude that the United States does not want a solution. So far as our own proposals are concerned we must

realize that the U.N. was not interested to create a Jewish army against the Arabs. The question was, at this stage, to obtain the necessary support for the majority solution and not to concentrate on implementation.

It was agreed that a sub-committee consisting of Dr. Neumann, Dr. Goldmann, and Mr. Shertok should, in the light of the discussion, work out conclusions in written form.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

A.L.



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October 15, 1947

NOTES ON A MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE, HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1947.

The American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine has received a number of urgent requests from Jerusalem within the last few days. These requests have been substantiated by reports submitted subsequently. These requests and reports mainly deal with the questions of security and defense. The Executive has given very serious consideration to these problems, since they are a part of the complex of questions that arise as events at the United Nations and in Palestine develop.

The problems referred to above may be regarded as three-fold, namely, the immediate, the interim, and the long range.

These problems have to do with:

- (a) The recruitment of a small cadre of technical personnel.
- (b) The procurement of equipment.
- (c) The availability of adequate funds.

The recruitment of personnel and the procurement of equipment are mainly technical problems which, although serious, are not insoluble. Their solution depends to a large degree on political decisions at the United Nations and in Washington, and availability of funds. Assuming that workable political decisions will be forthcoming, the problem before us reduces itself to a strictly financial one.

The immediate and most urgent financial problem is:

- (1) The availability of a \$2,000,000.00 fund to be provided by the two national funds in equal shares. This fund is designed to increase the domestic production potential of our security forces.
- (2) The availability of 1,500,000 Pounds (\$6,000,000.00) for operational uses in Palestine. This sum must be secured from sources other than the normal channels of income, since all anticipated income in the foreseeable future from the Keren Hayesod is either earmarked for specific purposes, or heavily mortgaged to meet current loan obligations.

The interim problem is the raising of a sum presently and tentatively estimated at \$25,000,000.00 for the purpose of equipping an armed force of the proposed Jewish State.

The long range problem is concerned with the availability of large sums that will be required in the developmental stage. With respect to this problem, it is not contemplated that the work of immigration, resettlement and economic expansion and development will or can be borne by the gifts that will be forthcoming through the United Jewish Appeal. Inter-governmental assistance will be required. What will be required from us, however, will be large sums to tide us over the transitional stage and to

provide the impetus to the expanded developmental projects that will have to be initiated at the earliest possible date.

In this connection it may also be borne in mind that large dollar credits must accrue to the Jewish Agency if it will succeed in obtaining U.S. assistance in the form of loans and credits. Such contemplated loans and credits, in a magnitude of tens and even hundreds of millions of dollars required for the implementation of our program and amortizable over a long term, are dependent upon settlement in dollars. Thus our problem must be to provide the necessary dollars to form the hard core of our economic foundation.

The Executive has considered various means of solving these financial problems. A number of suggestions have been offered, namely:

- (a) The utilization of JNF reserves now held both in New York and Jerusalem.
- (b) An extensive separate fund raising campaign.
- (c) Private borrowings from individuals.
- (d) Short term loans from banks in anticipation of current income.
- (e) Assistance from the J.D.C.
- (f) Readjustment in the United Jewish Appeal campaign for 1948, both as to the target goal and distribution of funds.

The merits of the various techniques suggested have been discussed by the Executive. Plans for solving the immediate and most urgent needs are now under consideration. Emergency measures will have to be taken.

As to the long range problem, however, the Executive is of the opinion that none of the techniques suggested, with the exception of an enlarged United Jewish Appeal campaign for 1948, will serve the purpose. The Executive feels that for 1948 the United Jewish Appeal should embark upon a campaign for \$250,000,000.00. The keynote of this campaign should be "MAASER". The proceeds of this campaign should be distributed in a fashion designed to take care of the needs of the JDC and the USNA, and to provide the major portion for the needs of the United Palestine Appeal agencies. To this end the Executive has invited the leaders of the United Palestine Appeal for a preliminary conversation in order that current negotiations now in progress with the JDC may be carried on on a realistic basis. In addition, Dr. Silver, on behalf of the Executive, has contacted Mr. Warburg for the purpose of discussing with him and his friends the general over-all problems facing us in 1948.

G.H.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

October 30, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Thursday, October 30, 1947, at 4:00 P.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Nahum Goldmann, Hayim Greenberg, Berl Locker, Emanuel Neumann.

TRANSFER OF MORTGAGE

Mr. Hammer reported that he had completed negotiations with the Eastern Life Insurance Company to place a mortgage on the building at 16 East 66th Street for \$25,000.00, at an interest rate of four percent over a period of fifteen years. This would replace the existing mortgage in favor of the Weizmann Institute. It was agreed to authorize the transaction.

INFORMATION CENTER FOR SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES

Mr. Hammer reported on a meeting which had taken place with Mr. Storch, who had advocated the establishment of an information center for the Scandinavian countries and the provision by the American Section of the Jewish Agency of a budget for such office. After discussion it was decided to keep the proposal in abeyance for the time being. It was suggested that it could be raised again at a later stage.

INTERNAL CONFLICTS IN THE YISHUV

The Chairman drew attention to disturbing information he had received on this subject. After discussion it was decided to communicate with the Executive in Jerusalem advising them of the deep concern which these developments were arousing in America. The Executive in Jerusalem should be informed that we wished to have full information as to what was being done to correct the situation and, in particular, what action was being taken by the Committee of Three appointed at Zurich. It should be further indicated that the American Section had under consideration a suggestion for the issuance of a statement and that we would like to have the views of the Executive in Jerusalem on this proposal.

STATEMENT BY U.S. DELEGATION

Mr. Nathan reported that U.S. Delegation would, on the morrow, issue a statement on questions of implementation and economic union.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION OF JEWISH STATE

Mr. Lourie drew attention to the appointment of a Committee in Jerusalem to draft a constitution for the Jewish State. He mentioned that Professor Milton Handler of Columbia University had indicated his readiness to be of assistance in any such matter. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Executive in Jerusalem indicating that there were available here persons such as Professor Handler who were competent and willing to assist in the task of constitution drafting, if invited.

LEGAL ADVICE

It was reported that a memorandum had been received from Professor Lauterpacht on the competence of the United Nations to decide on the partition of Palestine. It was suggested that this and other material might be brought to the attention of Mr. Fahy, of the American Delegation. It was suggested that the help of Judge Rifkind and Dr. Robinson should be invoked in this connection.

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

A report was given on the work of sub-committee 2, and on other U.N. developments.

REQUEST FROM AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

A letter was read from Mr. Louis Lipsky on behalf of the American Jewish Conference asking the American Section of the Jewish Agency to grant a sum of \$30,000 to enable the Conference to wind up its work. After discussion, it was agreed the Chairman should be authorized to acknowledge the letter explaining why the funds of the Agency were not available for the purpose even if the purpose in itself was laudable.

SHEKEL BOARD

Mr. Hammer reported a suggestion that the Shekel Board be provided with a budget by the Executive so as to enable it to transmit net funds intact. It was agreed that the attention of the Shekel Board be directed to the constitutional provisions relating to the use of such funds and that they be asked to submit a budget for the consideration of the Executive.

DR. MAGNES

Rabbi Gold drew attention to the address by Dr. Magnes reported, under very tendentious headlines, in that morning's issue of the New York Times. It was felt that it was not feasible for the Executive to take any action in the matter.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

November 2, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Sunday, November 2, 1947, at 3:30 P.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Moshe Shertok (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Nahum Goldmann, Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Berl Locker, Emanuel Neumann.

STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR HERSCHEL JOHNSON ON IMPLEMENTATION

The Chairman reported on the statement of implementation made by Ambassador Johnson, on October 31, 1947, on behalf of the United States Delegation, to the sub-committee and referred also to the questions which had followed this statement. An informal suggestion had been transmitted by us to the United States Delegation for the incorporation of an amendment, by virtue of which there would be an immediate transfer of authority in Palestine to the United Nations if Britain did not accept the American proposal.

The view was expressed by the meeting that if the United States Delegation did not introduce the amendment, we should stimulate another delegation to do so. Possibly such a suggestion could be made to the South African Delegation.

It was also urged that an attempt be made to ensure that the United States press for the acceleration of a British decision.

Attention was drawn to the difficulties which might arise if we were called upon to assume control in Palestine without opportunity for adequate preparation and equipment. The British authorities would be in a position to veto any preparatory step we took on the ground that, in their view, it might lead to disorders. It was therefore suggested that a plan be worked out under which authority be relinquished by the Mandatory to a provisional Jewish government, progressively in respect to one area after another in accordance with a pre-arranged schedule. The area of the Jewish State might be divided into a number of provinces for this purpose. Thus, if Tel-Aviv and its environs constituted the first area to be entrusted to the central Jewish authority we would have relatively early a base for operations.

It was agreed before proceeding with this proposal to await further developments.

U.S.A. AMENDMENT TO UNSCOP PROPOSALS ON CITIZENSHIP

The Chairman reported on an amendment introduced by the U.S.A. Delegation to the UNSCOP proposal for citizenship. In terms of this amendment Arabs resident in the Jewish State would opt for citizenship either in the Arab State or in the Jewish State but if they opted for citizenship in the Arab State they were required to take up residence in that state, and vice-versa with Jews resident in the Arab State. The Chairman stated that the Political Advisory Committee had expressed opposition to the amendment whereas the Executive in Jerusalem was prepared to support it. Referring to one of the difficulties which it had been thought would militate against the American amendment - the Arabs opting for the Arab State might still refuse to leave the Jewish State - Dr. Neumann suggested that to overcome this a clause might be introduced that if anyone who opted for the citizenship of the other state did not take up residence in that state within a certain period of time his option would automatically lapse. The view was expressed that if the American amendment came up for discussion and we were called upon to make a statement we should indicate that we had no particular interest in the adoption of that amendment but that, if it was adopted, we suggested the inclusion of the further clause relating to the lapse of the option.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

November 5, 1947.

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Wednesday, November 5, 1947, at 11:15 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Nahum Goldmann, Hayim Greenberg, Berl Locker, Emanuel Neumann, Moshe Shertok.

BOARD FOR RESTITUTION OF JEWISH PROPERTY

It was agreed to nominate Dr. Goldmann as an additional representative of the Agency on this Board.

ADVISOR ON JEWISH AFFAIRS IN AMERICAN ZONE

It was reported that a meeting of the five interested organizations would take place on Thursday afternoon in order to discuss the recommendation of a successor to Judge Levinthal. Dr. Neumann undertook to attend this meeting on behalf of the Agency.

ATTITUDES OF DELEGATIONS

Reports were given on the position of the Ethiopian and Belgian and French Delegations.

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Mr. Epstein reported on the successful Balfour Day Reception which had been organized by the office in Washington. He reviewed a number of talks which he had had with officials in Washington.

REPORT BY DR. LAUTERBACH ON ORGANIZATION MATTERS

The Chairman stated that Dr. Lauterbach who was about to return to Jerusalem wished to raise a number of matters with the Executive.

Dr. Lauterbach drew attention to a resolution: adopted at Zurich that the Actions Committee should be convened within a month after the termination of the present session of the General Assembly. He wished to have an expression of opinion from the American Section for communication to the Executive in Jerusalem as to the date and place for such meeting. It might be desirable to send out a notice to members of the Actions Committee to keep themselves in readiness for a meeting.

It was pointed out in a discussion which followed that it was difficult to predict when the debate on Palestine would conclude. It was suggested that January would be the most suitable month for the meeting and that Jerusalem should be the venue of the meeting. The possibility of a meeting at an earlier date should, however, be kept in mind.

Dr. Lauterbach also pointed to a re-adjustment in the program and structure of the Zionist Organization which the new developments might necessitate. The time would come when we would need to stimulate a public discussion on such re-adjustment. The Chairman indicated that if our efforts at Lake Success were fruitful, the World Zionist Organization might need to appoint a Commission to re-examine the structure of the Zionist Organization.

Reporting on his observations of Zionism in the United States Dr. Lauterbach discussed briefly the relations between the Zionist parties. He stressed further the need for obviating irregularities and hoped that there would be a proper transmission of all shekel monies.

DISCUSSION ON BOUNDARIES

Mr. Nathan reported on a talk with General Hilldring who had indicated the desire of the U.S.A. Delegation to obtain certain boundary changes in order to facilitate the two-thirds majority for the proposal. Messrs. Gass and Horowitz also reported on discussions which had taken place on territorial re-adjustments. Discussion followed on the criteria which we should adopt in discussing territorial re-adjustments and on the method of approach to negotiations on this subject.

Mr. Moshe Yuval who had just returned from Jerusalem reported on his visit. He conveyed the greetings of the Executive in Jerusalem and its congratulations to the American Section on the manner in which it was handling our case at Lake Success. Mr. Yuval dealt with the position in the Yishuv in matters of employment, cost of living, security and preparation for assumption of the administrative functions of the government.

CABLES FROM JERUSALEM AND LONDON

A cable from Mr. E. Sasson of Jerusalem was reported in which he stated that the Arabs had received an estimate that there were 16 votes in opposition to the Majority Report and 10 abstentions. A cable from London indicated that no decision had been taken on the American proposal for implementation and that such decision awaited the arrival of the Colonial Secretary.

THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY

A discussion took place as to the possible release of the views which had been obtained from legal experts regarding the need for a two-thirds majority. It was agreed, on the suggestion of Dr. Neumann, to obtain the opinions also of one or two non-Jewish lawyers in the United States.

Meeting adjourned at 3 P.M.

A.L.



SECRET

INTERVIEW AT THE COLONIAL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY, THE 22ND OCTOBER, 1947, AT 3 p.m.

PRESENT:- Mr. Trafford S
Mr. E. N. Fitzgerald
Dr. S. Brodetsky
Mr. J. Linton

Mr. Trafford Smith said that Sir Thomas Lloyd regretted that he was unable to be present owing to the short notice given for the appointment.

He began by saying that we desired to raise the question of the use of Arab troops in Palestine. He understood that the Transjordan Frontier Force was stationed on the northern frontier and that the headquarters of the Force had recently been transferred to Rosh Pinah. Secondly, that additional troops of the Arab Legion were being brought to Palestine and that some of the troops were being moved southwards and had already reached Tel-Litwinsky. The use of these troops in strategic and Jewish areas in Palestine coupled with reported heavy withdrawals of British troops from northern Palestine had given rise to speculation and a great deal of anxiety. Only recently, there were rumours of a plan of evacuation which would have the effect of permitting the Arabs to organise military in the greater part of the country behind the protection of British troops concentrating towards Jewish areas on the coastal plain.

Mr. Trafford Smith said that the use of the Transjordan Frontier Force and Arab Legion was not connected with the question of the British withdrawal from Palestine. Withdrawal had not yet started. In fact, there was no definite scheme of withdrawal yet, though they were discussing and planning it. It would not be a simple task to evacuate so many troops and so much equipment. It would take some weeks and perhaps months to plan the withdrawal. The use of the Frontier Force ("Transjordan" was a misnomer and would be dropped) and the Arab Legion was anyhow now a new departure.

We replied that the Agency had made representations in the past against the use of the Arab Legion in Palestine. It was a foreign force owing allegiance to a foreign potentate and ought not to be in Palestine. We did not know by what international authority or sanction foreign troops were being used in Palestine at all. But now after H.M.G. had announced their intention of withdrawing from Palestine, and the Arab States had declared their intention of invading Palestine after the British withdrawal, it was all the more incomprehensible that the Arab Legion should be maintained in Palestine. Presumably, the Arab Legion was one of the Arab armies which the Arab States thought of launching against Palestine, and H.M.G. was conveniently helping the invasion even before the withdrawal of the British troops.

Mr. Trafford Smith said that the Arab Legion had been used in circumstances for the protection of personnel, buildings, etc., because it was thought that Jewish terrorists would not attack them so as to avoid a quarrel with the Arabs.

We replied that whatever the reasons were in the past in the new circumstances the presence of the Arab Legion constituted a provocation and was likely to lead to regrettable incidents. In regard to the Transjordan Force, we admitted that there was some difference because they were regarded as part of the British Imperial Forces, but here again their use on the northern frontier and other strategical positions was, in our opinion, ill-advised, likely to be misinterpreted, and might give rise to grave incidents. It was not as if H.M.G. had not had experience with that Force during the Rashi Ali revolt. Was it possible to believe that if a patrol of the Transjordan Frontier Force composed of Arabs were to meet a group of Syrian guerillas trying to cross the frontier it would fire on them? Or was it more likely that it would turn a blind eye.

Mr. Trafford Smith said that of course he saw the possibilities if such situations were to arise.

We said that the press had reported that some Syrian troops had already crossed the frontier, and it was on the orders of the G.O.C. that the Transjordan Force had acted, and that eventually some 14 of the Syrians had been arrested, and subsequently sent back to Syria. The transfer of the headquarters of the Force to Rosh Pinah also lent itself to sinister interpretation. Rosh Pinah was a strategic centre commanding access to some of our northern Settlements. We had received denials in London, New York and Jerusalem about the existence of a pro-Arab or anti-Yishuv evacuation plan. But not every Jewish villager had received this assurance, nor might he believe it if that assurance were given to him, when he saw that the withdrawal of British troops was followed by the installation of Arab troops in their place. It was not human to expect that people would wait quietly and inactive to see whether step number 1 was followed by steps numbers 2 and 3. of a plan which they feared might exist. We thought that a situation full of potential danger was being needlessly created.

They asked what we suggested should be done about the Transjordan Force. We said that it should be removed from Palestine. They said that it would be difficult to do so without special authority. We replied that such authority was apparently given during the Rashid Ali revolt, and similar action could be taken now. They replied that there was no intention of leaving the T.J.F. in Palestine when the British withdrew. The Force would be disbanded. We asked whether it would really be wise to wait for the last moment. Did they expect the Arab troops to remain until they are disarmed on a particular day and a particular hour. Plans for the disbandment of the Force would have to be worked out some days or perhaps weeks beforehand, and before "D" day came, the soldiers would have disappeared with their arms and equipment. We suggested, therefore, that the T.J.F. should be disbanded as quietly as possible, and in the meantime they should be removed from strategic areas.

We suggested that as the British troops were being thinned out, the Government should increase the number of Jewish Settlement Police so as to enable them to play a proper part in maintaining local law and order. Mr.

Ben-Gurion recently proposed to the High Commissioner that the J.S.P. should be doubled and the new men equipped with rifles. We strongly supported that request.

Mr. Trafford Smith said that he admitted that there was a great deal in our contention that a new situation had been created in regard to the use of Arab troops in Palestine. He would take up the points we had made as well as their request about the Jewish Settlement Police.

In the conversation which followed, Mr. Trafford Smith complained about the rumours which had been spread about the existence of a particular evacuation plan. We said that the statements made by the Foreign Office spokesman and the High Commissioner had helped in the spread of this rumour. We asked in what manner they intended to withdraw.

Mr. Trafford Smith said that they wanted to withdraw decently and with fairness.

We said that "fairness" presupposed some plan. They could not possibly be thinking that the local commanders should be given the right to decide in each case to whom and by what method they would hand over the administration and the maintenance of law and order. Such a plan would lead to chaos and bloodshed. But if there was to be a plan, would it be a plan worked out by H.M.G. without reference to U.N.O. or a scheme decided upon by U.N.O.; but in fact Mr. Creech-Jones had said that if U.N.O. came to a decision, H.M.G. would examine whether such a decision was inherently just and what force would be required for its implementation before it decides whether to help or not in its implementation. Was it really their intention to set up the British Government as a Court of Appeal from the judgment of the highest International Tribunal. If Britain had special knowledge or criteria by which to judge the problem not available to U.N.O. why were they not ready to place the benefit of such knowledge and criteria at the disposal of U.N.O. One thing was certain; if the withdrawal was to be made decently and with fairness, it should be related to a decision of U.N.O. on the lines of the Majority Report, and the policy of the Government at Lake Success should have been directed to that end.

London.

3rd November, 1947.

MINUTES OF MEETING
AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

November 18, 1947.

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Tuesday, November 18, 1947, at 9:00 A.M. at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Nahum Goldmann, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Berl Locker, Emanuel Neumann (later), Moshe Shertok.

PROPOSALS ON IMMIGRATION

A report was given of the reaction of members of the sub-committee to our proposal on immigration. A discussion followed in which attention was drawn to the difficulties involved in pressing our proposal. At the same time cognizance was taken of the risk of leaving the question of immigration unsettled by the sub-committee since no date had been fixed for the evacuation of the first area.

It was agreed that our efforts in regard to immigration should be concentrated on ensuring an early and specific date for the evacuation of the first area which should include a seaport.

U.N. COMMISSION

It was reported that on the motion of the delegate of Venezuela the sub-committee had agreed that the U.N. Commission should be composed of the nominees of Uruguay, Guatemala, Poland, Norway and Iceland. A discussion followed in which it was agreed that it would be undesirable for the Agency to take any initiative in seeking a change in the membership of the Commission.

LEGAL BASIS OF ASSEMBLY DECISION

Dr. Robinson reported that he had prepared the material relevant to the legality of an Assembly decision on the enforcement of partition.

He undertook to discuss the matter with Mr. Feller of the U.N. staff and with representatives of certain leading delegations.

CONSULTATION WITH LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATES OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Toff drew attention to the need for a greater measure of consultation with the three Latin American members of the sub-committee.

BOUNDARIES

It was agreed that in the event of any further demand by the U.S. Delegation in regard to the Negev we should make no concession beyond that already discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

A.L.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

December 2, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Tuesday, December 2, at 11:00 A.M., at the Office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Moshe Shertok, Nahum Goldmann, Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Eliezer Kaplan, Berl Locker, Emanuel Neumann.

THE UNITED NATIONS DECISION

The Chairman extended congratulations to the members of the Executive and their co-workers on the staff who had carried out an historic task with rare devotion and competence. He referred to the harmony which had prevailed and expressed special gratitude for the way in which Mr. Shertok had represented the Agency at the United Nations.

Mr. Shertok paid tribute to Dr. Silver's chairmanship and also associated himself with the tribute to the staff.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE AND ACTIONS COMMITTEE

A cable from the Executive in Jerusalem, dated November 30th, was read, proposing that the meeting of the Executive be convened for December 24 and that of the Actions Committee for December 28. It was agreed that in order to allow for the completion of certain tasks at this end, a later date -- January 11 for the meeting of the Executive and January 14 for the meeting of the Actions Committee - should be suggested to the Executive in Jerusalem.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AND THE STATUTE FOR JERUSALEM

A report was given of developments in the Trusteeship Council. It was reported that the Trusteeship Council had nominated a working group to prepare the statute for Jerusalem and it was agreed that an effort be made to establish contact with this group and that a letter should be sent to the Trusteeship Council making a formal request to participate in the work of that body regarding Jerusalem.

Mr. Shertok reported that he had cabled to the Executive in Jerusalem suggesting that Messrs. Auster and Eliash come to New York for liaison with the Trusteeship Council in the matter of Jerusalem. It was also suggested that Mr. Zalman Lifschitz remain in New York for some time.

It was agreed that representatives of the Agency meet with Mr. Trygve Lie on the following day.

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION

A report was given on contacts with the leaders of the Jewish community on the Philippines.

Mr. Toff also reported on communications he had had with friends in Bolivia and Panama.

MILITARY ADVISORS

Following a report by Mr. Shertok it was agreed that before direct contact was established with the War Department a consultation should be arranged as soon as possible with a number of friends in Washington.

REPORT BY MR. KAPLAN

Mr. Kaplan was welcomed to the meeting. He expressed the gratitude of the Executive in Jerusalem to the American Section of the Executive and all others who had been responsible for the presentation of the Jewish case before the United Nations. He proceeded to give a report on the situation in Palestine (report on file).

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

December 9, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Tuesday, December 9, at 10:15 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Moshe Shertok (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Nahum Goldmann, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Eliezer Kaplan, Berl Locker, Emanuel Neumann.

CONVERSATION RE DANISH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. Shertok reported on a telephonic conversation with Mr. Linton, of the London office, in which, inter alia, a possible candidate to represent Denmark on the United Nations Commission was mentioned. In the discussion which followed concern was expressed at the delay in the appointment of the members of the United Nations Commission.

INTERVIEWS IN WASHINGTON

Mr. Shertok reported on conversations which he had had in Washington with General Hilldring, with Mr. Loy Henderson and other members of the State Department, and with Mr. S. Tsarapkin of the Soviet Embassy. Dr. Goldmann reported on an interview with Mr. Gromyko on the attitude of the USSR in the event that Palestine would be discussed in the Security Council.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was agreed to authorize the Finance Committee to consummate such loans as the treasury of the Jewish Agency may secure from banks or private sources.

DISTURBANCES IN PALESTINE

Rabbi Gold drew attention to possible dangers which might follow the decision of the Palestine Government to withdraw its military forces from the Tel Aviv area. Mr. Kaplan indicated that this was based on an arrangement reached between the Palestine Government and the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem and he explained the reasons which had animated the Executive in this connection.

REPORT FROM JERUSALEM

Mr. Shertok reported on a telephone conversation that morning with Mrs. Meyerson in Jerusalem about the security situation. Stress was laid on the urgent need for additional funds. Mr. Kaplan undertook to discuss with Dr. Neumann the latter's suggestion that a substantial loan be raised from Jewish sources.

DEPARTURE OF DR. GOLDMANN FOR LONDON

Occasion was taken to bid farewell to Dr. Goldmann who was leaving for London. Dr. Goldmann indicated that he expected to have talks with a number of people in London and on the continent.

STAFF OF UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION

The view was expressed that it was highly desirable that members of the staff of the United Nations Commission should arrive in Palestine without further delay. Mr. Shertok stated that he intended to have a discussion with Dr. Bunche on this at the earliest opportunity.

INFORMATION ON SITUATION IN PALESTINE

Attention was drawn to the need for more adequate information to the Jewish public about developments in Palestine.

Reference was also made to the inadequacies of the press reports here which failed to give a proper background picture. It was felt that this matter must in the first place be dealt with by the office in Jerusalem and any statement on the situation should come from the Executive there. At the same time it was suggested that action might also be taken at this end to place events in their proper perspective.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Executive should be held on Wednesday, December 10th, at 4:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

December 10, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Wednesday, December 10, at 4:00 P.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Moshe Shertok, Nahum Goldmann, Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Rose Halprin (later), Berl Locker, Emanuel Neumann.

DISCUSSIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Shertok reported on conversations with Dr. Bunche and Mr. Sobolev of the United Nations staff. Dr. Bunche had agreed to the importance of the early arrival in Palestine of the United Nations Commission. He was also agreeable to the suggestion that an advance party of United Nations officials be dispatched, but had pointed out that this could not be done until the Commission was constituted. The form of our participation in the Trusteeship Council and its working group on the Jerusalem Statute would be decided by Friday, and Dr. Bunche had suggested that we wait until Friday for more definite information on the basis of which we could extend our invitation to Messrs. Auster and Eliash. Mr. Sobolev had suggested that we apply immediately to the Secretary-General for participation in the Security Council. He suggested that in making our application we recall the decision of the Special Session of the Assembly which had accorded a certain status to the Agency.

Mr. Shertok was informed that a reminder would be sent by the United Nations secretariat to the countries composing the United Nations Commission if no notification of their appointees were received within the next few days.

Mr. Shertok also reported on talks with Messrs. Sayre and Gerig, American representatives on the Trusteeship Council.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Mr. Eban reported on the discussion on Palestine which had taken place in the Security Council and on the talk which he and Mr. Horowitz

had had with Mr. J.L. Hood, chairman of the Security Council. Arising out of Mr. Eban's report the need for continued contact with members of the Security Council was stressed. In view of the fact that the question of Palestine would remain on the agenda of the Security Council and in view, furthermore, of the delay in the departure of the United Nations Commission, the Chairman stated that it would be necessary to consider the advisability of certain members of the Executive remaining here during the time of the Executive and Actions Committee meetings in Jerusalem. It was also suggested that certain members of the staff should remain in New York and it was indicated that arrangements had already been made in this connection.

Mr. Horowitz reported on talks with Mr. Lisicky, who was proceeding to England for a brief visit, and with Mr. Mohn, who would be a member of the United Nations staff assigned to Jerusalem.

It was suggested that an application by friendly states to participate in the Security Council sessions on Palestine should be encouraged. Dr. Robinson undertook to examine the basis under which such an application could be made.

CABLE FROM MR. BEN-GURION

A telegram from Mr. Ben-Gurion stressing the need for the early departure of the United Nations Commission was read.

THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE

Cables reporting on the situation were read from Mr. Ben-Gurion and Mrs. Meyerson.

CONSTITUTION

It was proposed that a small committee of experts be set up in this country which might cooperate with the group at work in Jerusalem in preparing a draft of the constitution for the Jewish State. Mr. Kaplan pointed out that the committee in Jerusalem was operating under the aegis of the Vaad Leumi. After discussion, it was agreed that the preparation of the constitution should be in the hands of one body, namely that in Jerusalem. The latter would no doubt wish to avail itself of the best advice it could obtain. But the initiative in seeking help from experts in this country must rest with the people in Palestine.

The Chairman indicated that this matter could be further discussed at the time of the meeting of the Executive in Jerusalem.

STATEMENT ON PLACE OF RELIGION IN JEWISH STATE

Rabbi Gold stated that he had received cables from religious leaders in Jerusalem about a statement purported to have been made

by Mr. Shertok in the course of a press interview about the place of religion in the Jewish State. Mr. Shertok mentioned that a cable had been received by him from Rabbi Fishman which made reference to a statement by Rabbi Silver and himself. He indicated the exact nature and intent of the statement he had made. Dr. Silver stated that, while he had certain views on the subject, he had not issued any statement.

FORM OF BRITISH WITHDRAWAL

Dr. Neumann pointed out that the form of British evacuation of the Tel Aviv area -- which involved a withdrawal of British military responsibility from the area without the withdrawal of British administration or the provision of a seaport allowing for immigration -- was the reverse of the procedure which had been contemplated in the discussions which had taken place in the Sub-Committee at Lake Success.

It was agreed that attention be drawn to this and that every effort should be made to expedite the appointment of the remaining members of the United Nations Commission. Dr. Goldmann would be asked to do whatever possible to hasten the appointment by Denmark of a suitable representative. The appointment of a candidate by Panama was reported, and it was stated that efforts were continuing in relation to Bolivia. Action in relation to the Philippines was also indicated.

It was agreed that Dr. Goldmann should be asked to establish contact with the responsible authorities in Belgium and France regarding the attitude of their representatives on the Security Council.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

December 18, 1947

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Thursday, December 18, at 10:00 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding); Moshe Shertok, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Eliezer Kaplan, Berl Locker, Emanuel Neumann.

MEETING OF ACTIONS COMMITTEE

It was resolved (the Chairman dissenting) that a recommendation be sent to the Executive in Jerusalem that the meeting of the Actions Committee be postponed to the first week in February.

REPORTS FROM PALESTINE

Cabled reports on the situation in Palestine were read to the meeting.

REPORT ON INTERVIEWS

Mr. Shertok reported on an interview with Mr. Sobelov, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, on matters relating to the Security Council. He also reported on a conversation with Assistant Secretary Norman Armour, of the Department of State, and on an interview with Mr. Herschel Johnson at which the matter of the Constanza ships had been discussed.

A talk with Dr. Joseph Schwartz, representative of the Joint Distribution Committee in Europe, on the position of the Jews in Roumania, was also reported.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT ASSETS

A question was raised in regard to the projected sale by the Palestine Government of certain of its immovable assets, and Mr. Kaplan undertook to ascertain what had happened.

ARGENTINA

It was reported that a suggestion had been made by Dr. Mibashan that a suitable person from the United States visit Argentina in connection with the situation there. It was agreed that the possibility of such a visit should be explored and it was suggested that Mr. Sumner Welles be consulted.

Mr. Toff stressed the importance of action in Washington in connection with the Argentine situation.

PRESS DEPARTMENT

It was agreed that the Chairman would discuss with Mr. Kenen his availability for further full-time service in charge of the Press Department of the Agency and that this matter should be clarified by the time of the next meeting.

MEETINGS OF PRO-RUSSIAN GROUPS

Arising out of invitations which had been extended to members of the Executive to participate in an American-Russian-Palestine Friendship dinner under the auspices of the Society of Writers, Artists and Scientists, a discussion took place on the desirability of accepting such invitations. It was pointed out that the difficulty did not arise in regard to functions sponsored officially by the representatives of the U.S.S.R., but rather when invitations came from local organizations and that the Agency might be in a somewhat different position in this regard than the local American Zionist bodies.

In this connection attention was directed to the anti-Zionist propaganda which was seeking to confuse the public mind about the relation of Zionism to Communism. The Chairman suggested that it might be useful for the American Zionist Emergency Council to take action to clarify the matter; a statement might also come from the Agency.

It was further suggested that the American Christian Palestine Committee might be asked to deal with this anti-Zionist propaganda.

WORLD PALESTINE COMMITTEE

A letter from Mr. Mowat was read, in regard to the future of the New York office of the World Palestine Committee. The Canadian Zionists had urged that he return to his former duties in Canada. It was agreed that it was desirable that the New York office should be maintained with the aid of a full-time secretary; that Mr. Mowat should return to Canada but should, at the same time, maintain contact with the New York office; and that he should be available to come to New York when needed on special occasions.

It was agreed that a special letter of appreciation for his services should be sent under the signature of the Chairman to Mr. Mowat, and a further letter to Sir Ellsworth Flavelle, the Chairman

of the Committee, expressing appreciation for Mr. Mowat's services.

ADVANCE VISIT BY UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL TO PALESTINE

A telegram from Rabbi Berlin regarding action through the United Nations on the security situation in Palestine was read. It was recalled that this matter had been discussed with Mr. Lie and that the desirability of members of the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission proceeding to Palestine without delay had been stressed by our representatives. Until the Commission actually assembled, however, no action in this connection was to be expected. The Chairman stated that it was to be hoped that this would be one of the first questions to be taken up by the United Nations Commission as and when it met.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 P.M.

A.L.



~~MINUTES OF MEETING~~

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

March 9, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Tuesday, March 9th, at 3:30 P.M. at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Mr. Moshe Shertok, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

UNITED NATIONS

Reports were given of talks with Mr. Trygve Lie, Mr. Parodi, Dean Rusk, and Mr. Gromyko (on file).

It was further reported that talks with M. Spaak in Brussels and the Belgian Delegate to the Security Council at Lake Success had indicated a change for the worse in the Belgian attitude to the General Assembly Resolution.

PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

A letter from Mr. Ben-Gurion to Mr. Shertok dated March 3, on the subject of the Provisional Council of Government and security problems was read to the meeting. A cable from Palestine about the proposed composition of the Provisional Council and the "central administrative organ" was also read. In this connection a report was given of a talk with Rabbi I. M. Lewin of the Agudath Israel.

FINANCIAL DEMAND OF AGUDATH ISRAEL

A letter from Mr. Eliezer Kaplan to Mr. Shertok referring to the demand of the Agudath Israel for an allocation from the proceeds of the United Palestine Appeal was read. Whilst indicating a reluctance to concede the demand in its entirety, Mr. Kaplan stated that he was prepared to support allocations to Agudath Israel and Poale Agudath Israel for specific purposes.

MR. FEDERSPIEL'S SPEECH

A draft of a letter criticising the speech delivered by Mr. Per Federspiel, member of the Palestine Commission, before the New York Herald-Tribune Forum was read to the meeting. It was agreed that the letter should be sent to Mr. Federspiel.

VISIT OF MRS. ROOSEVELT TO PRESIDENT

A suggestion was reported that Mrs. Roosevelt be asked to approach President Truman with a request for the lifting of the arms embargo. It was agreed that if Mrs. Roosevelt did approach the President, it should be in the interests of the wider issue rather than just the matter of the arms embargo.

VISIT TO PARIS

A proposal that Dr. Goldmann visit Paris and interview M. Bidault was discussed. It was agreed such a visit was unlikely to lead to useful results at this time.

MILITARY ADVISERS

After discussion it was agreed that in the light of a letter from Mr. Ben-Gurion of March 3 it would be helpful to have a military expert presently in Palestine come to the United States for a brief visit. Mr. Shertok undertook to send a cable to Palestine in the matter.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE

JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

March 11, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Thursday, March 11, at 11:00 A.M. at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Mr. Moshe Shertok, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Golda Meyerson, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

MEETING OF ACTIONS COMMITTEE

A cable from Mr. Sprinzak, on behalf of the Presidium of the Actions Committee, was read. It was agreed to advise the Executive in Palestine that it would not be possible to hold a meeting at the end of March and that we would be in a better position to advise them in the middle of next week about the time of the meeting in April.

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Mr. Epstein reported on information received about views on Palestine expressed by the President in talks with several persons. Reference was also made to the views of former Secretary of State James Byrnes on partition. Mr. Epstein stressed the need of a special liaison officer with the President performing a function similar to that of General Hilldring at the time of the General Assembly sessions. A report was also given by Mr. Epstein of a talk with Mr. Tsarapkin of the Soviet Embassy. Dr. Neumann suggested that the aid of Mr. Byrnes be enlisted in our behalf.

UNITED NATIONS

Miss Adelson reported on a talk with Dr. Lopez of the Colombian Delegation. A report was given on Mr. Hooffien's appearance before the Palestine Commission on certain financial and economic matters. Mr. Toff reported on developments in the Palestine Commission in connection with the Provisional Council of Government. The Palestine Commission had received a cable from Dr. Azcarate of the Advance Party indicating the need for the services of certain experts.

The position of Mr. Lisicky, Chairman of the Palestine Commission, was discussed, and it was reported that Dr. Goldmann was due to see Mr. Lisicky on the following day.

PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

Correspondence from the Executive in Jerusalem was read giving details of the negotiations for an agreed list for the Provisional Council of Government.

SITUATION IN PALESTINE

The minute of an off-the-record meeting between General MacMillan, commanding British troops in Palestine, and Mr. Eliezer Kaplan was read at the meeting.

CONSULTATION OF PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL

The Chairman reported on a talk with Ambassador Austin. At this stage of the proceedings information was received of an invitation extended to the Jewish Agency to appear before a meeting of the permanent members of the Security Council (apart from Great Britain). It was agreed to accept this invitation if such meeting was a meeting of the Big Four Powers and that the Chairman and Mr. Shertok should appear on our behalf.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

It was reported that the discussions on Jerusalem in the Trusteeship Council had been suspended until the end of April.

BLASTING OF JEWISH AGENCY BUILDING IN JERUSALEM

Reference was made to the tragic occurrence involving death and injury to a number of persons.

LETTER TO NEW YORK TIMES

Referring to the publication by the New York Times of alleged negotiations between the representatives of Dr. Magnes' Ichud and the ex-Mufti, and the failure of the paper subsequently to give due prominence to a denial issued by Dr. Magnes, Mrs. Halprin reported that she had addressed a letter on the subject to the "Times".

MEMORANDUM ON ARAB AGGRESSION

It was reported that a supplement to the memorandum on Arab Aggression had been prepared for submission to the Palestine Commission and the Security Council.

VISITORS FROM PALESTINE

On behalf of the American Section of the Jewish Agency, the Chairman expressed profound thanks to Mrs. Golda Meyerson and Dr. Mordecai Eliash for their work in this country. In reply, Mrs. Meyerson expressed gratification at the response to her mission. Dr. Eliash stressed the seriousness of the peril facing the Yishuv.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE

JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

March 12, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Friday, March 12, at 11:30 A.M. at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Mr. Moshe Shertok, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

INVITATION TO CONSULTATION WITH PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL

Mr. Shertok reported on discussions with Mr. Gromyko and Mr. Trygve Lie. It was reported that a list of questions had been received to which our representatives would be asked to reply at the meeting of the permanent members. The representative of the USSR had not participated in the preparation of the list of questions. It was reported that it was uncertain whether Mr. Gromyko of the USSR Delegation would participate in the meeting, but it was learned later that he would be present.

A discussion took place as to whether representatives of the Jewish Agency should attend the meeting. It was agreed by a vote of four to two that we should attend.

It was agreed that our representatives should state that we were not prepared to enter into a discussion of any revision of the General Assembly's Resolution and we should give our reasons for this attitude. It was suggested further that we should use the occasion to submit positive proposals in regard to the implementation of the Resolution of the General Assembly. The draft of a memorandum containing a series of proposals in this connection was submitted to the meeting and after certain amendments had been incorporated, it was decided that they should be presented to the permanent members of the Security Council. (Attached hereto).

On the question relating to economic union, it was agreed that we should state that while economic cooperation was desirable and would be sought, the principle of economic union was not a condition precedent to the scheme of partition.

Dr. Eliash suggested that we should indicate our readiness to accept the proposals of the Trusteeship Council for the Statute of Jerusalem. It was suggested that a corollary be added to the effect that we accepted these proposals as far as they were within the framework of the general scheme of partition.

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

The Chairman reported that as a result of a communication from Mr. Monree Goldwater followed by a request from Mr. Morgenthau, a meeting of various Zionist organizations had been summoned by the Agency in order to obviate the concurrence of any other campaigns during the period of the United Jewish Appeal campaign in New York. The Chairman reported that he had been unable to obtain the complete cooperation of the organizations principally concerned and he now placed the matter in the hands of the Executive.

Speaking on behalf of Hadassah, Mrs Halprin reported that a small committee of that body was due to meet with Mr. Montor of the United Jewish Appeal in order to reach an agreement on Hadassah's position. Dr. Greenberg undertook to discuss the matter with the leaders of the Gewerkschaften campaign.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

A.L.



STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY SECURITY COUNCIL FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. To assume the responsibilities assigned to it in the General Assembly's plan for implementation.
2. Determine any attempt to alter by force the Assembly's Resolution as a "threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression".
3. Determine that a threat to the peace does exist in view of actions by certain Arab governments.
4. Call upon Arab member states to stop recruiting and organising armed forces to resist the Assembly's Resolution, and to withdraw their nationals already sent for this purpose.
5. Call upon Arab States to stop their warlike propaganda and incitement contrary to unanimous Resolution of Assembly against warmongering (October 12, 1947).
6. Call upon Mandatory Power to prevent the entry of unauthorized foreign forces and to expel those already in Palestine.
7. Instruct the Palestine Commission to proceed with all speed with all phases of implementation, with special priority to the establishment of Provisional Councils of Government and the organisation and equipment of militias.
8. Call upon Member States to offer arms to parties co-operating with the U.N. Resolution and to withhold them from those defying it.
9. Empower the Palestine Commission to take all steps which may assist in the maintenance of peace in Jerusalem.

March 12, 1948.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

March 15, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Monday, March 15, at 9:00 P.M. at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Mr. Moshe Shertok, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

REPORTS FROM LAKE SUCCESS AND WASHINGTON

Reports were given of talks with Mr. Trygve Lie, Mr. Gromyko of the Soviet Delegation, Dean Rusk of the United States Delegation and with Mr. Lisicky, Chairman of the Palestine Commission.

It was reported that the Palestine Commission had presented its third report to the Security Council.

A report on developments in Washington indicated that the materialization of an international force was unlikely. The Chairman read to the meeting a statement from a well-informed friend predicting the policy which the United States Government was likely to follow with regard to Palestine.

PROPOSAL FOR TRUCE

The Chairman reported that the Chairman of the Security Council had addressed a query to him as to whether the Jewish Agency would be prepared to enter into the necessary agreements to bring about an effective truce in Palestine. A written reply was called for. It was understood that a similar question had been addressed to the Arab Higher Committee. We had transmitted this question by cable to the Executive in Palestine for their consideration.

In the discussion which followed, it was agreed that we should await the reaction of the Executive in Palestine before submitting our reply to the Security Council. A letter should in the meantime be forwarded to Mr. Trygve Lie indicating that we were awaiting the reply of the Executive in Palestine before formulating the response to the question addressed to us.

A discussion then followed as to the form of the reply and it was agreed that in order to expedite the final formulation, the gist of this discussion be forthwith relayed by cable to the Executive in Palestine.

FINANCIAL AID FOR TEL AVIV PORT

It was reported that a letter dated March 11th had been received from Mr. Charles Ress, President of the Keren Hayesod, seeking the advice of the American Section of the Jewish Agency in regard to certain proposals for the financing of improvements for the Port of Tel-Aviv. It was agreed that before any reply could be given, Mr. Eliezer Kaplan should be consulted by cable. The Keren Hayesod should be informed of the need for such prior consultation with Mr. Kaplan. It was assumed that the Keren Hayesod would advise Mr. Rokach as to where the matter presently stood.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 P.M.

A.L.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

April 28th, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Wednesday, April 28th, at 9:00 P.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Mr. Moshe Shertok, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

LETTER FROM HECHALUTZ ORGANIZATION

A letter was read from the Hechalutz Organization applying for a loan in the sum of \$8-10,000 to provide passage money for a group of chalutzim who were ready to proceed to Palestine on May 4th. After discussion, it was agreed to advance the group such money by way of loan as they might still need after recourse to other sources.

LOAN TO PALESTINIAN STUDENTS

It was reported that about 200 Palestinian students who were preparing to return to Palestine would be in need of passage money. It was agreed that, in the cases where aid was required, the money should be made available as a loan.

POSTAL SERVICES TO PALESTINE

A proposal was made for the establishment of an emergency service whereby mail would be forwarded to Palestine as air-freight until such time as regular communications would be re-established. Authorization was asked for the establishment of a corporation with adequate administrative facilities. It was proposed that stamps should be printed and that an appropriate public announcement should be made about the institution of the service. It was reported that meanwhile negotiations designed to obtain recognition for an appropriate body from the international postal union were in progress. K.L.M. was prepared to undertake passenger and mail service to a destination in Europe whence it was hoped the service would be continued to Palestine by Palestinian planes.

It was agreed to authorize the establishment of the organization as proposed subject to the discussion of the details by the Finance Committee.

CAMPAIGNS FOR IRGUN

It was reported that inquiries had reached us from Zionist bodies as to the attitude to be taken in regard to campaigns for funds for the Irgun Zvai Leumi in view of the agreement reached between Haganah and Irgun. In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that the agreement merely indicated that the Irgun received no funds from us. This in no way would relieve disciplined Zionists from the duty to direct their contributions to Haganah.

LEAGUE FOR FREE PALESTINE

A letter was read from Mr. David Wahl, Executive Director of Americans for Haganah, drawing attention to the need to counter the activities of the League who were sponsoring a special conference in Washington and a large rally in Madison Square Garden. It was agreed that the letter be referred to the American Zionist Emergency Council with a request from the Chairman that Zionist groups be informed of the real nature of these activities.

TRUCE PROPOSALS

Mr. Shertok reported on truce proposals made to him by Dean Rusk of the United States Delegation. Several amendments had been introduced by Dean Rusk to his original proposals and, as they presently stood, they referred to a truce for a period of three months. Mr. Shertok indicated the objections, as stated by him to Dean Rusk, to the terms of the proposed truce agreement. He had also informed Dean Rusk that the decision on the truce proposal would have to be taken by the Executive in Palestine and he had accordingly related these proposals to Jerusalem. Despite the fact that no agreement had been reached, Secretary of State Marshall had made an off-the-record statement asserting that there was virtual agreement on 13 of the 14 points and that the only outstanding question related to immigration. Mr. Shertok stated that he was addressing an urgent communication to Mr. Marshall correcting the impression the latter had gained.

Mr. Shertok stated that he had cabled to the Executive in Palestine urging an extension of our de facto control of various services. He undertook to send them a further cable setting forth a critique of the proposals based on fuller study. The Chairman urged that no assent be given to any truce proposal until discussed by the Executive.

DEVELOPMENTS AT UNITED NATIONS

The Chairman reported on developments in the Political Committee of the General Assembly.

Mr. Eban reported on a talk with Mr. Finn Moe, of the Norwegian Delegation, who had urged that we enlarge the extent of our de facto authority in Palestine. It was further reported that at a meeting of delegates of the Scandinavian countries, it was agreed not to support any

trusteeship unaccompanied by means for its enforcement. Mr. Comay reported on the views of the Australian, New Zealand and South African Delegations. In a discussion of our tactics in the Political Committee, it was agreed that we should seek to protract the discussions of that Committee.

The text of a statement circulated among members of the Political Committee reiterating our opposition to trusteeship was read.

It was reported that we had undertaken to recommend to the Executive in Palestine a "cease fire" for the Walled City of Jerusalem. A similar undertaking had been made by the representative of the Arab Higher Committee. The Chairman of the Trusteeship Council in recommending this agreement had noted that the "cease fire" for the Walled City was regarded as merely the first step to a wider agreement encompassing the entire Municipality of Jerusalem. It was reported further that we had taken occasion to express our views on a police force for Jerusalem at which time we had indicated the desirability of providing immediately contingents totalling 10,000 men.

INVASION BY ARAB STATES

Reports were given on the information received about the projected invasion of Palestine by Arab armies from Transjordan and other states. It was agreed that the matter should be drawn to the attention of the Security Council, and Mr. Shertok and Dr. Goldmann undertook to establish contact with Dr. Lopez and M. Parodi, Presidents of the Security Council for April and May respectively. It was further agreed that urgent representations should be made on the subject to the State Department. It was suggested that the New Zealand Delegation should be asked to raise the matter in the Security Council, and Mr. Comay undertook to see Sir Carl Berendsen in this connection. The introduction by one of the delegations of a motion on the subject of the invasion in the Political Committee was urged.

GENERAL HILDRING

It was agreed that General Hildring should be contacted at an early opportunity in order to ascertain from him the significance of his appointment in relation to American policy.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed a further meeting should be held on Saturday evening, May 1, to which the Palestinian members of the Political Actions Committee should be invited.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

S.H.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

May 2, 1948

A joint meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Political Advisory Committee was held on Sunday, May 2nd, 1948, at 10:30 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Moshe Shertok (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

MEMBERS OF POLITICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENT

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Joseph Bankover, Mrs. Moses Epstein, Leon Gellman, Jacob Greenberg, Zvi Herman, Joseph Klarman, Dr. Siegfried Moses, I.I. Posniansky, J. Rivtin, Louis Segal, Dr. O. Wolfsberg, Samuel Zachs, Baruch Zuckerman.

INVASION BY ARAB STATES

Dr. Goldmann reported on a talk with M. Parodi, President of the Security Council, on the subject of action by the Security Council in relation to the reported invasion of Palestine by Arab armies.

TRUCE PROPOSALS

Mr. Shertok reported on the American proposals for a three months' truce. He drew attention to the insistent demand from Dean Rusk, of the United States Delegation, for the acceptance of the proposal, and to the latter's statement of the consequences that were likely to flow from its rejection. Mr. Shertok indicated the objections he had raised to the terms of the truce and also reported that he had dispatched a letter to Secretary of State Marshall correcting the impression that the latter had gained about the truce negotiations.

On the conclusion of Mr. Shertok's report, questions were addressed to him by members of the Committee.

In the course of his reply, Mr. Shertok mentioned that no reply had yet been received from the Executive in Palestine to his cabled communication of the truce proposals. The Delegation of the USSR had been informed by us of the negotiations.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. CREECH-JONES

Mr. Shertok reported on a talk with Mr. Creech-Jones, of the United Kingdom Delegation, at Lake Success.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

A report was given of the proceedings in the Trusteeship Council and of the reactions to the American proposal for a special provisional regime for Jerusalem.

DR. MAGNES

Dr. Eliash reported that he had been in contact with Dr. Magnes in an effort to confine the latter's activities to the question of Jerusalem. Several members objected to any contact with Dr. Magnes and expressed the desire to discuss the matter further at a later meeting.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the discussion should be continued at a meeting to be held on Monday evening at 8:30 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

S.H.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

May 3, 1948

A joint meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and Political Advisory Committee was held on Monday, May 3rd, 1948, at 9 P.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Mr. Moshe Shertok, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mrs. Samuel Halprin, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

MEMBERS OF POLITICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENT

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Joseph Bankover, Leon Gellman, Jacob Greenberg, Zvi Herman, Joseph Klarman, J. Rivtin, Dr. Joseph Schechtman, Louis Segal, Samuel Zachs.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENTS

Mr. Eban reviewed the developments at Lake Success and reported on the view prevailing at Lake Success that the American working paper on Trusteeship would be withdrawn.

TRUCE PROPOSAL

Mr. Shertok reported on a further development in the American truce proposal. It had now been proposed that the General Assembly adjourn for ten days during which time representatives of the Jewish Agency, Arab Higher Committee and certain states would journey to the Middle East in a special Presidential plane for truce negotiations on the spot. It was anticipated that the reply of the Arabs would be in the affirmative.

A discussion initiated by Dr. Goldmann then followed on the advisability or otherwise of accepting the American truce proposal. It was agreed that the discussion should concentrate on the political aspects, and that, in view of the military considerations involved, the decision would rest with the Executive in Palestine. It was agreed, furthermore, that the proposals in their present form were unacceptable. A number of members, however, expressed themselves in favor of the consideration of a three months' truce. In the course of their arguments, the consequences of our non-acceptance in the face of the insistence of the State Department were examined. It was further pointed out that we were at liberty to do whatever was not expressly forbidden by the truce agreement. Implied in the proposal was a recognition of our de facto control which in the meantime we were extending. It was further argued that a revival of Arab enthusiasm for war would be difficult after the hiatus produced by the

truce. Dr. Goldmann mentioned as two indispensable conditions for our acceptance: the dissociation of the truce from trusteeship and a U.S. guarantee of help in the event of an invasion by the Arab States in view of the latter's freedom to acquire arms during the truce.

Those members opposed to any deferment of the May 15 proclamation stated that no development had taken place which necessitated the revision of the Declaration of the Vaad Leumi and Executive and of the Actions Committee Resolution. They asserted that the position had in fact improved. They referred to reports from Washington about the attitude of the President and of military circles and pointed to the possibility of recognition by the United States of the Jewish State after May 15. They doubted whether the consequences seen as resulting from non-acceptance would necessarily follow. The truce proposals in their view constituted a provisional political settlement involving the imposition of an international authority. We surrendered our freedom of action but the Arab States could augment their military potential during the months of the truce. With the failure of trusteeship, the objective of the postponement appeared to be to enable the State Department to find a new formula. There was no assurance regarding a Jewish State at the end of the three months, and there was no likelihood of obtaining a guarantee from the United States against invasion. It was doubtful if all sections of the Yishuv would abide by a truce. The effects on the Jewish people and world opinion of any failure to meet the psychological expectations created by the declaration of our intentions for May 15 would be harmful. Dr. Neumann suggested the possibility of an earlier establishment of the provisional government for the exercise of such functions as had been relinquished by the Mandatory Government.

The joint meeting adjourned at 12 midnight.

At a session of the Executive which commenced at that hour, it was agreed by a majority vote (Dr. Silver, Rabbi Gold, Mrs. Halprin and Dr. Neumann) to reject the proposal of Dean Rusk that various representatives proceed by Presidential plane to Palestine for truce negotiations there.

The Chairman suggested that in view of the fact that Mr. Shertok had been unable to attend the meeting of the Actions Committee and in view of the need of an interchange of information between the Executive in Palestine and the American section that Mr. Shertok proceed to Palestine. A proposal made by Dr. Goldmann that a delegation composed of Mr. Shertok, Dr. Neumann and Dr. Goldmann proceed to Palestine was not accepted. It was agreed that Mr. Shertok's visit should in no way be associated with the question of the truce proposal and that a decision should be taken on the morrow after the reply had been dispatched to Dean Rusk. It was further agreed that there should be no request to the United States Government for a plane to be placed at the disposal of Mr. Shertok for the trip from this country.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Dr. Eliash reported on developments in the Trusteeship Council which was considering a proposal to recommend the appointment of a neutral Municipal Commissioner for Jerusalem.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 A.M.

The joint meeting of the Palestine Advisory Committee and the Executive was resumed on Tuesday, May 4, at 10:30 A.M.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Mr. Moshe Shertok, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mrs. Samuel M. Halprin, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

PALESTINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Joseph Bankover, Mrs. Moses Epstein, Leon Gellman, Jacob Greenberg, Zvi Herman, Joseph Klarman, Dr. Siegfried Moses, J. Rivtin, Dr. Joseph Schechtman, Louis Segal, Dr. O. Wolfsberg, Baruch Zuckerman. By invitation: Rabbi I. M. Lewin and Mr. Benjamin Mintz.

TRUCE PROPOSAL

The meeting was informed of the decision taken by the Executive on the proposal emanating from Dean Rusk, of the United States Delegation, in regard to the mission by Presidential plane to Palestine. It was further reported that a visit by Mr. Shertok to Palestine for reasons unconnected with the truce proposal was under consideration by the Executive.

Discussion was resumed on the advisability or otherwise of consideration of the proposal for a three months' truce if it involved a deferment of the proclamation of a Jewish State but contained certain requisite amendments.

In the discussions the following declared themselves as opposed to any deferment: Dr. Silver, Mrs. Halprin, Dr. Neumann, Mr. Gellman, Rabbi Gold, Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Schechtman.

The following indicated that they were prepared to consider deferment of the proclamation under variously stated conditions: Mr. Shertok, Dr. Goldmann, Mr. J. Greenberg, Rabbi I. M. Lewin, Dr. Moses, Mr. Rivtin, Mr. Segal, Dr. Wolfsberg, Mr. Zuckerman. Mr. Zvi Herman's view differed from those of both groups. Mr. Rivtin proposed that the Haganah take the initiative proposing a "cease fire".

It was agreed that the views expressed should be cabled to the Executive in Palestine.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

S.H.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

May 10, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Monday, May 10, 1948, at 11 A.M. at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Hayim Greenberg.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENTS

Dr. Goldmann reported on talks with Mr. Trygve Lie and with M. Parodi, President of the Security Council.

A report was given by Mr. Gelber of a talk with Dean Rusk.

Reports received of developments in Sub-Committee #9 indicated a veering of opinion towards the proposal of Mr. Creech-Jones for a caretaker agency.

It was agreed that the proposals before the Sub-Committee should be carefully scrutinized by us with a view to determining their implications on the Resolution of November 29th and our freedom of action after May 15. It was reported that the text of the proposals were due to reach us later and it was agreed that our reaction should only be formulated after the examination of this text and also the records of the discussions, to which we should seek access.

Dr. Robinson stressed the desirability of the issuance of a communique on May 15th reporting on the exercise of certain functions by the governing authority of the Jewish State.

In view of possible action in the United Nations to forestall the declaration of a Provisional Government on May 15th, it was agreed that a cable be sent to Palestine recommending for consideration the issuance of the declaration prior to May 15. It was agreed that in the meantime we exert every effort to prevent the passage of a resolution calculated to bar the declaration or to impinge upon the functions of the Provisional Government.

On the proposal of Dr. Greenberg, it was agreed to include in our cable to the Executive in Palestine a recommendation that an appeal be issued to the Arabs who had fled from the area of the Jewish State to return to their homes, assuring them of the necessary protection.

Mr. Eban reported that he had addressed a letter to Mr. Finn Moe, indicating aspects of the position in Palestine which we hoped the proposal would not prejudice.

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER

It was reported that Mr. A. P. Clark had not accepted the invitation to serve as Municipal Commissioner. The name of Mr. Harold Evans, of Philadelphia, had been added to those under consideration.

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION

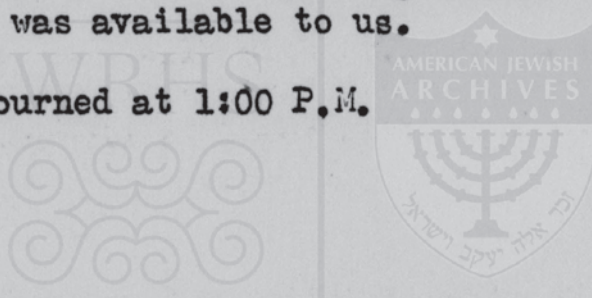
Mr. Comay reported on a talk with Mr. Medina, of the United Nations Palestine Commission, who had inquired whether we would apply for recognition of a Provisional Council of Government by the Palestine Commission.

FURTHER MEETINGS

It was agreed that a further meeting should be called as soon as the text of the proposal was available to us.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

S. H.



MINUTES OF MEETING
AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

MAY 10, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Monday, May 10, 1948, at 5 P.M. at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

UNITED NATIONS TEMPORARY CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE:

The text of the working paper presented by the Rapporteur, Mr. Finn Moe, to Sub-Committee 9 for the establishment of a United Nations Temporary Central Commission for Palestine was read to the meeting. It was reported that we had received an unofficial request from Mr. Finn Moe for our observations on these proposals, which would be formally transmitted to us later. At that time, we would receive an invitation to submit our views to the Sub-Committee.

In the consideration of the document, the view was expressed that whilst the second part merited consideration, the first part was clearly unacceptable and should be eliminated.

In the course of discussion a number of objections to the provisions of the document were elaborated and it was pointed out that these objections would have to be met before our agreement could be given. Among aspects of the document regarded as objectionable were its crystallization of the de facto territorial situation, its reference to the convocation of a further session of the Assembly for the peaceful adjustment of the situation in Palestine, the concept of neutrality by which it was sought to equate the position of Jews and Arabs, the personalistic approach exemplified by the use of the term "community", the introduction of references to truce. It was suggested that our criterion for the rejection or otherwise of any provision of the document should be whether or not it hampered the establishment of our Provisional Government and the exercise by it of its legitimate functions.

In view of the fact that we did not yet exercise de facto control of the entire area of the Jewish State, it was suggested by Dr. Neumann that we cable to the Executive in Palestine recommending all possible steps to indicate, even if only symbolically, the exercise of control by us over the entire area, e.g., by the division of the area into Districts for which Commissioners should be nominated.

Mr. Toff reported on a talk with Dr. Granados.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

S.H.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE

JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

May 17, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Monday, May 17th at 10:30 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

~~EXECUTIVE MEMBERS~~ PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel Halprin, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

REPRESENTATION OF ISRAEL AT LAKE SUCCESS AND WASHINGTON

Cables were read from Mr. Moshe Shertok, of the Provisional Government of Israel, notifying the appointment of Mr. Eliahu Epstein as representative of Israel in Washington and of Major Aubrey Eban as representative to the United Nations at Lake Success. The cable also referred to the functions of the Jewish Agency in the period immediately ahead. The Chairman congratulated Mr. Eban on his appointment.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Dr. Goldmann reported on a talk with Mr. Andrei Gromyko, of the USSR Delegation, who had advised that the Provisional Government of Israel should not seek admission to the Security Council unless it was previously assured of the necessary seven votes. In this connection the nature of such notification as had been sent by Mr. Shertok to the United Nations was discussed. It was agreed that there should be no application at this stage for admission.

Dr. Eliash referred to the discussion on the status of the Jewish Agency before the Security Council at its session on Saturday, May 15, and urged that we should not of our own accord raise this matter again as it would be used by certain members of the Council to divert attention from the consideration of the acts of aggression with which we had charged the Arab governments. It was further agreed that a cable should be sent to Mr. Shertok conveying to him the considerations involved in deciding upon the proper time for an application for admission.

Dr. Robinson reported on a paper under preparation by the United Nations Secretariat on the legal aspects of aggression against Palestine and the State of Israel respectively.

Mr. Toff reported that Dr. Granados of Guatemala had indicated his readiness to discuss with his government the question of its participation in the proceedings of the Security Council.

Dr. Goldmann reported on talks with the Secretariat of the United Nations and a telephone conversation with Mr. Fisher of Paris.

It was agreed that Dr. Goldmann should ask M. Parodi, as President of the Security Council, to issue a warning to the Arab States and to further suggest to M. Parodi or Mr. Trygve Lie that representatives of the Truce Commission -- the names of Dr. Azcarate and Colonel Lund were mentioned -- should proceed to Tel Aviv and Galilee in order to be in a position to report on developments.

It was agreed that we should await the United States Delegation's statement before participating in the discussion at the Security Council. Mr. Eban undertook to obtain from Mr. Ross, of the United States Delegation, an indication of that delegation's attitude at the forthcoming session of the Security Council.

RECOGNITION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

It was reported that a request for recognition had been addressed by Mr. Eliahu Epstein, as Acting Representative of the Provisional Government of Israel, to Mr. A. Gromyko of the USSR Delegation; and that similar letters had also been addressed to Latin American delegations. The need for obtaining recognition from a number of countries in the near future was stressed and the Chairman suggested that the assistance of the United States Government should be enlisted in this connection.

Mr. Comay reported on communications addressed to the delegations of New Zealand and Australia on the subject of recognition.

Dr. Robinson stated that he had been consulted by Mr. Shertok in relation to certain questions involved in an approach for recognition from non-member states of the United Nations.

JEWISH AGENCY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ISRAEL

The need for the closest cooperation between the American Section of the Jewish Agency and the representatives of the State of Israel in Washington and Lake Success was stressed and it was agreed that Messrs. Epstein and Eban should be invited to a special meeting to be held on one of the evenings of this week. It was reported that Mr. Oscar Gass had been asked by the Provisional Government to serve as its economic adviser in Washington.

SEPARATION OF FUNCTIONS OF THE JEWISH AGENCY AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. Hammer urged a separation of the functions of the American Section of the Jewish Agency from those of the Provisional Government of the State of Israel, in view of the fact that otherwise the Jewish Agency would forfeit the right to tax exemption on the contributions it received. He urged that the following steps be immediately taken:

- a) That funds be immediately made available to the two representatives in the United States of the Provisional Government of Israel for such expenses as they might incur.

b) That the Agency's holding corporation grant a lease on the building in Washington to the Representative of Israel and that this act be publicized.

c) That Messrs. Epstein and Eban resign from the service of the Jewish Agency so that their registration under the Foreign Agents Act be cancelled.

It was agreed that these steps be taken subject to the consideration of the details involved by the Finance Committee. A cable should be dispatched informing the Government of Israel of the recommendation with regard to the first of the three steps.

Mr. Hammer proposed that Major Eban, as the representative of Israel before the United Nations, should set up a special office outside of the Agency offices. It was felt that consideration of this proposal should be postponed.

It was suggested by Dr. Neumann that one of the acts clearly demonstrating the separation of functions would be the resignation of members of the Provisional Government from the Executive of the Jewish Agency.

It was suggested that a committee of 3 or 4 prepare comprehensive recommendations on the subject of separating the respective functions of the Jewish Agency and the American representation of Israel.

STATUTE OF JERUSALEM.

Referring to the advisability of a demand for a special session of the Trusteeship Council to pass the Statute of Jerusalem, Major Comay suggested that an inquiry be addressed by cable to the Provisional Government of Israel. It was agreed that Drs. Robinson and Eliash should examine the legal aspects of the position prior to the dispatch of the cable.

SECURITY COUNCIL

At this stage, Dr. Goldmann, who had proceeded to an interview with M. Parodi, rejoined the meeting. Reporting on the interview with M. Parodi, he said that the latter had advised that Israel should not submit its application at the present time and that the question of our status before the Security Council should not be raised by us. M. Parodi had further referred to a proposal for a cease-fire. Dr. Goldmann had suggested to M. Parodi the dispatch of observers by the Truce Commission to Tel Aviv and Haifa. Referring to M. Parodi's objection to a direct warning from the President of the United States to the Arab states, the Chairman recommended that we could hope for little in the way of effective action from the Security Council and we should therefore continue to press for action on the part of the United States.

With regard to the question of a cease-fire, reference was made to an earlier statement by Mr. Ben-Gurion on the subject. It was felt, however, that the details of a cease-fire proposal would have to be considered by the Government in Israel.

The view was reiterated that we should not raise the question of our status before the Security Council unless required to do so and that similarly we should not enter into the legal aspects of aggression directed against Palestine and Israel unless the statement prepared by the Secretariat did not deal satisfactorily with the matter. Our participation should be reserved for a later stage in the proceedings of the Security Council.

RETURN OF MR. SHERTOK TO UNITED STATES

A proposal was made that Mr. Shertok should be advised to return to the United States. The Chairman expressed the view that the matter should be left to Mr. Shertok's discretion and no recommendation should come from us.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

S. H.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE

JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

Thursday, May 20, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Thursday, May 20, 1948, at 5:45 P.M. at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Nahum Goldmann (presiding), Rabbi Wolf Gold, Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel Halprin, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Mrs. Golda Meyerson.

SITUATION IN PALESTINE

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Meyerson to the meeting. In reviewing the situation in Palestine, Mrs. Meyerson indicated that there was reason to expect a successful outcome of the struggle waged by the military forces of Israel against Arab aggression. She stressed the need for money, manpower and military material. In expressing support of Mrs. Meyerson's mission it was agreed that efforts should be made to secure more than a half share of the proceeds of the forthcoming U.J.A. campaign for the needs of Israel.

Mrs. Meyerson indicated that she would seek to obtain immediately at least \$15,000,000 in cash.

JERUSALEM

It was agreed that the role of Britain in the attack of the Arab Legion on Jerusalem should be vigorously exposed to the American public. Mrs. Meyerson pointed out that whilst we hoped to repel this attack the fighting was bound to result in considerable destruction of life and property in Jerusalem. It was agreed that a press conference should be arranged immediately in New York -- and possibly also in Washington -- on which occasion Mrs. Meyerson would make special reference to the question of Jerusalem.

MEETING OF ACTIONS COMMITTEE

A cable was read from Mr. Shertok in regard to the date proposed for the further meeting of the Actions Committee. It was agreed that we should await developments at the United Nations for a few days and then reply to the cable.

ALLOCATION TO HEBREW UNIVERSITY

A letter was tabled from Mr. Mendel Fisher, Secretary of the Joint Committee of the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth, asking approval of a recommendation that it allocate part of a sum of \$350,000 to the Hebrew University, it being understood that an "equitable share" of this amount would be contributed by the Joint Distribution Committee. Dr. Israel Wechsler, Chairman of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, who was present by invitation, described the urgency of the needs of the Hebrew University. In the course of discussion, reference was made to the harm caused by the political activities of Dr. Magnes. At the same time, anxiety was expressed about the survival of the Hebrew University and it was agreed that, whilst the American Section was not competent to vote the required sum, a recommendation should be forwarded on the subject to Mr. Kaplan in Tel Aviv. Mr. Kaplan should be informed that in the event of no reply from him within the next fortnight, we would assume that the recommendation had met with his approval. Dr. Silver asked that his dissenting vote should be recorded. It was agreed that a cable should be sent to Mr. Kaplan, and Mr. Hoofien, who was due to leave for Israel on Sunday, was asked to transmit the views of the Executive to Mr. Kaplan.

DR. WEIZMANN'S VISIT TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Reports were given of the interview of Dr. Weizmann with President Truman and of the subsequent interview given by Dr. Weizmann to the representatives of the press.

SUSPENSION OF SHIPPING SERVICES

A cable from Mr. Shertok was read referring to the reported decision of certain shipping lines not to visit the ports of Israel. Mr. Hoofien undertook to investigate the matter further with the American Export Line.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Mr. Eban reported on developments in the Security Council. The need for further action in the Belgian and Canadian capitals was stressed in this connection. A suggestion was made that Dr. Goldmann should be asked to visit Brussels and it was reported that Mr. Comay would assist a delegation of Canadian Zionists who were proceeding to meet representatives of their government. Tributes were paid to the manner in which Mr. Eban was discharging his task at Lake Success.

Mr. Toff reported on contacts with the Colombian and Argentinian delegations.

RECOGNITION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Reference was made to the announcement of recognition by the South African Government, and the position of the other Dominions on the subject was reported. Concern was expressed at the absence of recognition from any state in Western Europe, and a report was given on a talk about recognition from the Scandinavian countries. A report was also given of efforts initiated in Bogota and Buenos Aires.

THE POSITION IN JERUSALEM

It was agreed that efforts should be made to ensure that the fighting in the Old City be presented in truer perspective in the American press.

MODIFICATION OF THE EMBARGO

In response to a question from Dr. Neumann, Mr. Ruffer indicated the advantages that would be derived by Israel for a modification of the United States embargo.

ALLOCATION TO YESHIVOTH

A letter was tabled from Mr. M. Fisher, Secretary of the Joint Committee of Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth, recommending an allocation to the United Yeshivoth. Reference was also made to telegrams received from Rabbis Untermeyer, Berlin and Fishman. Rabbi Gold described the seriousness of the plight of the Yeshivoth. It was agreed that a decision in the matter rested properly with the Executive in Palestine but that our positive recommendation should be transmitted. It was further agreed that Mr. Hoofien should convey the views of the Executive on the matter to Mr. Kaplan in Tel Aviv.

MESSAGE TO CLEVELAND TEMPLE

It was agreed that on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Cleveland Temple, of which Dr. Silver was the spiritual leader, a message should be sent conveying the appreciation of the Executive for the action of the congregation in enabling Dr. Silver to devote his time and energy to the Zionist movement.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

S.H.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

May 25, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Tuesday, May 25, at 2:00 P.M. at the offices of the Jewish Agency, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding) Rabbi Wolf Gold, Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel Halprin, Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

MEETING OF THE ACTIONS COMMITTEE

Reference was again made to the cable from Mr. Shertok about the date for a meeting of the Actions Committee. Dr. Neumann reported on the discussions held on the subject at a meeting of the Political Advisory Committee at which members of the Actions Committee resident in New York had been present. After discussion, it was agreed to advise Mr. Shertok that the meeting should not be held within the next few weeks, but should take place shortly before the meeting of the General Assembly in Paris. It should be suggested to Mr. Shertok that the meeting of the Actions Committee should be held in August if, in the light of military developments in Palestine, it was found to be feasible to hold the meeting at that time. The view was expressed that the main preoccupation of the Actions Committee at this meeting would be with the altered structure and functions of the Zionist Organization and in the circumstances it was deemed advisable that the participation of Jews of the Galuth in the Zionist movement should be symbolized by the choice of a venue outside Palestine. In view of the fact that the General Assembly would meet in Paris, it was agreed that this city should be recommended for the purpose.

During the course of the discussion on the separation of the functions of the Jewish Agency and Zionist Organization from those of the Government of Israel, it was pointed out that certain urgent actions could in the meantime be taken without the convocation of a formal meeting of the Actions Committee. Reference was made to the advisability of the resignation from the Executive of the Jewish Agency of those members who were now members of the Provisional Council of Government.

It was agreed that there should be preliminary discussions here about the functions of the Zionist Organization in the light of the changed conditions and that at an appropriate time a meeting of the Zionist parties should be convened.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON

Mr. Eliahu Epstein indicated that action in regard to the modification of the embargo hinged in some measure on the outcome of the deliberations of the Security Council. He stated that representations had been made to the State Department in regard to the detention by the Lebanese Government of the passengers of the Marine Carp. He referred to the probable form of the accreditation of a legation of the State of Israel to Washington.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Mr. Eban reported on the developments of the day in the Security Council. Mr. Comay reported on a talk with Mr. J. Ross of the United States Delegation. Reports were given of contacts with representatives of the Governments of Belgium and Canada, and, in view of the fact that the votes of these two countries would be necessary for the passage of the United States Resolution, it was agreed that certain further action should be taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

May 27, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Thursday, May 27, 1948, at 10:30 A.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Rabbi Wolf Gold, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Golda Meyerson. As representative of the Provisional Government of Israel: Mr. A. S. Eban.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Mr. Eban reported on developments at the Security Council. Discussion took place on our attitude to a resolution likely to be introduced by one of the delegations which would seek the application of Chapter VII, Art. 39 in the first instance to Jerusalem only. It was agreed that we should insist upon the application of this Article to the situation in the whole of Palestine. If, however, it appeared that a resolution would be adopted in respect of Jerusalem only, we should seek to introduce certain essential provisions with regard to the supply of food, water and fuel to Jerusalem over the roads leading into it.

It was agreed that our attitude would be primarily determined by the facts of the military situation and it was reported that a cable had been sent to the Government of Israel for its instructions.

The need for action in Washington designed to influence the Belgian and Canadian delegations was stressed.

ARMS EMBARGO

Mrs. Meyerson reported on a talk with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt with regard to action on the United States embargo. Mrs. Halprin stressed the need for special action in Washington on the matter. In this connection it was further suggested that the press campaign should be intensified.

THE "CHURCHMAN"

Reference was made to the controversy that had arisen as the result of the refusal of Secretary of State Marshall to accept an award from the "Churchman". It was reported that objections had been raised to the acceptance of this award by Mr. Eban as representative of the Government of Israel. In the discussion which followed, Mr. Eban pointed out that he had had no knowledge of the surrounding controversy at the time he had

accepted the invitation. It was agreed that Mr. Eban should notify the sponsors of the dinner that he could not attend since this was a matter of domestic controversy.

A REVIEW OF THE MILITARY SITUATION

It was reported that Mr. Shertok would be asked to supply us with a survey of the military situation.

APPOINTMENTS BY GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL

Mr. Eban informed the meeting of the appointment of Mr. Arthur Lourie as Consul-General in the United States of the Government of Israel, and of Major H. S. Comay as head of the Commonwealth Department of the Foreign Service of the State of Israel.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

S.H.



MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

May 27, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Thursday, May 27, 1948, at 9 P.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Rabbi Wolf Gold, Dr. Hayim Greenberg; Representative of the Provisional Government of Israel, Mr. Aubrey S. Eban.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Mr. Eban reviewed developments in the Security Council and referred to the proposals introduced by the USSR and United Kingdom delegations. The implications of the United Kingdom Resolution were studied by the meeting and the text of a statement issued by us at Lake Success was read. It was reported that the United States Delegation had asked Mr. Eban for our reaction to the United Kingdom Resolution and it was agreed that it should be an emphatic negative. It was further agreed that our objections should be to the intent and principle of the United Kingdom document and should not involve an examination of its details. Mr. Eban would make a statement at an early stage in the session of the Security Council. In response to a request from the Hadassah organization, Mr. Eban undertook to incorporate in his statement a reply to the allegation made by Sir Alexander Cadogan in regard to the events preceding the attack on the Hadassah Hospital by the Arab forces.

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

A report was given of developments in Washington and it was agreed that the developments in the Security Council made further action in the Capital imperative.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

S.H.

MINUTES OF MEETING

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE

JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

May 31, 1948

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Monday, May 31, 1948 at 8:15 P.M., at the office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver (presiding), Rabbi Wold Gold, Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL:

Major Aubrey S. Eban.

CEASE-FIRE RESOLUTION

Major Eban reported on developments in the Security Council leading to the acceptance by it of the United Kingdom resolution with certain amendments. The text of the cease-fire resolution and also certain observations thereon had been cabled to Tel-Aviv. A cable had been received from Mr. Shertok asking for clarification of parts of the resolution, and Mr. Eban's reply thereto was read.

Reports were given which indicated that the period of the cease-fire would be the occasion of considerable political activity calculated to reduce the territory of the State of Israel. The need for action in Washington designed to secure support for the maintenance of the political and territorial integrity of Israel was stressed.

RECOGNITION

It was stressed that the new developments further accentuated the importance of securing recognition from more countries and the view was expressed that the aid of the United States should be sought for this purpose. It was reported that General Hildring would visit the President and it was agreed that his cooperation should be enlisted.

It was announced that recognition had been accorded Israel by Costa Rica.

RADIO AND PRESS REPORTS ON THE MILITARY SITUATION

Attention was again drawn to the distorted picture in the press and on the radio of the military situation in Palestine. Reference was made to cables to Mr. Shertok on the subject. It was agreed that in the circumstances a statement should be issued in the name of a military spokesman of the Israeli delegation, depicting the military situation in proper perspective.

Mr. Tuffer reviewed the situation in the Arab States. He also referred to the entry of military supplies into Palestine and further action with reference to this program was discussed.

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL AND LIBERTY LOAN

Mrs. Meyerson reported on the progress of the campaign and the achievements of her mission to date.

The Chairman suggested that a meeting should be held in the near future in order to explore the question of a Liberty Loan.

Mrs. Meyerson urged that Zionist leaders take every step to demonstrate -- through their participation in meetings and otherwise -- the importance of the United Jewish Appeal Campaign.

THE DEFENCE ARMY OF ISRAEL AND FUND RAISING IN THE UNITED STATES

A cable from Tel Aviv was read reporting progress in the absorption of the dissident groups into the Defence Army of Israel. In terms of the Defence Army Ordinance, the existence of any other army group was illegal.

Several members urged that a statement should be issued to the American public indicating that no group was authorized to collect funds for the defence of Israel unless properly empowered by the State of Israel. After discussion, it was agreed to utilize the cable which had been received, and in addition to send a cable to Mr. Ben-Gurion for an exposition of the situation as it now stood as a result of the Defence Army Ordinance. On receipt of Mr. Ben-Gurion's reply, a statement would be issued to the public in the name of the Agency and the American Zionist Emergency Council.

Attention was drawn to unauthorized street collections. It was agreed to ask the American Zionist Emergency Council to take up the matter with the city authorities.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Reference was made to the fact that the Syrian Delegate, Mr. Faris el-Khoury, would occupy the presidency of the Security Council during June, and it was doubtful whether he would recuse himself from the presidency when the question of Palestine was under discussion. It was agreed that contact should be established with the United States Delegation in the matter in order to insure that Mr. el-Khoury should not preside at such time as the problem of Palestine was under discussion.

It was agreed that it was desirable at this stage to secure admission to the Security Council as representatives of the Provisional Government of Israel rather than of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. But before making such application, we should explore with the United States and other delegations the question of obtaining the necessary support to guarantee such admission.

DETAINEES IN LEBANON

It was agreed that an effort should be made to establish contact with the men detained in Lebanon and it was suggested that the State Department should be asked to dispatch a chaplain to them immediately. The Chairman advised that action would be taken by the American Zionist Emergency Council.

STATEMENT BY CHRISTIAN UNION

Reference was made to the manifesto issued by the officials of the Christian Union in Palestine, and it was agreed that we should issue a statement exposing the true nature of these Arab-controlled organizations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 P.M.



S.H.

DIGEST OF
MINUTES OF MEETING
AMERICAN SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
January 17, 1949

A meeting of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was held on Monday, January 17, 1949, at 3:30 P.M. at the offices of the Jewish Agency, New York City.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. A.H. Silver (presiding), Dr. N. Goldmann, Mrs. S.W. Halprin, Mr. Z. Lurie, Dr. E. Neumann, Mr. B. Zuckerman.

DEPUTY MEMBERS

Zvi Herman, Mr. Schechtman and Advisor-Mr. Gellman

OTHERS PRESENT

Messrs. Aubrey S. Eban, Gottlieb Hammer, Harold Manson, Abe Tuvim

POLITICAL REPORT

Mr. Eban gave a summary of events in Paris, Israel, Washington and New York

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee submitted for approval action taken with respect to a number of administrative decisions; the engagement of new personnel, question of severance and vacation rights for employees, and the welfare of American boys now in Israel. The report of the Committee (on file) approved.

REQUEST OF POALE AGUDAS ISRAEL

A communication from Mr. Granovsky to Judge Rothenberg re the request for \$100,000 of Poale Agudas Israel to the UPA was read. It was agreed that the request be referred as a matter of course and procedure to the UPA, and that the Jewish Agency be not responsible for allocations in the first instance.

MULTIPLICITY OF CAMPAIGNS

It was decided that all organizations conducting street corner collections for aid to Israel be requested to cease such activities. The only exception to this rule is the JNF, which conducts the traditional Flag Day appeals. It was further decided that an analysis of house-to-house collections would also be made.

PLENARY SESSION OF EXECUTIVE

A cable from Mr. Locker was read urging an immediate plenary session. It was agreed by a vote of 4 to 2 to postpone the question of the plenary session until Wednesday, January 19th. In the interim a subcommittee would consider possible alternatives for the chairmanship of the UJA. This subcommittee would report back at a meeting of the Executive to be held on Wednesday, January 19th at 3:00 P.M. at which time a vote would be taken on the advisability of calling a plenary session of the Executive. The subcommittee appointed by the Chairman consisted of Mrs. Halprin, Mr. Lurie and Dr. Neumann.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

G.H.