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Jewish Agency, "J," "K," and "L", 1948-1949.



To the Supervisor,
Special Camp, Gilgil.

I am authorised to inform you that all the
Detainees now in the Special Camp, Gilgil, will
leave Kenya, en route for Palestine, within one
month of the expiration of the British Mandate
for Palestine, i.e. within one month of the
15th May, 1948.

Gilgil.
14th May, 1948.



L. G. P. Frost Smith
Member for East Africa,
Government of Kenya.

CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
IN BRITISH INTERNMENT IN KENYA,
Special Camp, Gilgil, Kenya,

15th June, 1948.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
New York.

Dear Sir,

We, 254 Jewish political internees, arrested by the British Government and exiled from Palestine to Kenya, would like to draw your attention to the following facts.

Although it should have been clear to everybody concerned that the British Government had no legal, moral or factual right to keep us in detention in Kenya after the expiration of the British Mandate over Palestine, we were not repatriated before May 15th, 1948.

Since that date, when the State of Israel was proclaimed, all of us, as Palestinian residents, became automatically and by our own declaration citizens of Israel, and therefore foreigners for all intents and purposes as regards our relations with the British Government.

Even the Government of Kenya seemed to understand the legal and practical impossibility of our further detention here, and, on the 14th of May, 1948, Mr. S.W.P. Foster Sutton, the Member for Law and Order of the Government of Kenya, handed a written statement to the Camp Representatives, which read: "I am authorised to inform you that all detainees now at Special Camp, Gilgil, will leave Kenya, en route for Palestine, within one month of the expiration of the British Mandate for Palestine, i.e. within one month of the 15th May, 1948." (See enclosed photostatic copy.)

However, on the 7th of June, Mr. Foster Sutton declared before the delegates of the internees that in view of the truce, which was being negotiated in Palestine, the decision to repatriate the internees before June 15th, as announced officially by him, had been changed and that the internees would not return to Palestine during the truce period, because their return - in the opinion of the British Government - would be detrimental to the negotiations in progress.

We do not intend to enter here into the history of our exile and the various illegalities connected with it. Our very detention on mere suspicion and without any trial or charge was unjustified. Our deportation from our country was illegal even according to the laws of Palestine, then a British Mandated Territory. This illegality could be brought about only owing to the fact that the Chief Justice of Palestine had no jurisdiction to issue an order to bring us back from our exile to Palestine. (Vide: Ben-Eliezer v. Inspector General of Palestine Police, 1946)

. / .

During our exile we have known many instances of broken pledges and undertakings concerning our repatriation, but the proceedings witnessed by us during the past few months surpass everything seen or heard of till now. Even if we ignore the broken promises to repatriate us, Britain by keeping foreign citizens in internment without any justification whatsoever, is committing a breach of international law. The Government of Great Britain forfeited all jurisdiction over Palestinians on the 15th of May, the day it relinquished its sovereignty over Palestine.

As regards the a/m declaration of Mr. Foster Sutton of the 7th June, it is obviously superfluous to refute the British allegation that our repatriation has any connection with the truce in Palestine. We are Israeli citizens, and there is nothing in the truce conditions which does not permit such citizens to return to their country. The truce negotiations dealt with the problem of immigrants, and not with that of citizens on temporary absence abroad.

We therefore emphatically reject this decision of the British Government taken long before the truce, and obviously without any connection with it. By that decision we have been put in a precarious position: Our return is no more connected with the British withdrawal from Palestine, but has been tied up arbitrarily with any political entanglements which may arise in Palestine. The internees are now virtually hostages in the hands of a government which is using the complications of the Palestinian problem to further its own interests and to take its own petty revenge.

This intentional misinterpretation of the truce conditions by which the fate of 254 internees, many of them in internment for periods up to 8 years, has been linked by a third party with a war in which hundreds of thousands of soldiers are taking part - under the pretext that these 254 endanger the peace in Palestine - is ridiculous and indubitably a mean trick.

We apply to you hereby to make the utmost in your power to compel Britain to honour her pledges. Should this be beyond human power, ~~is it not the duty of public opinion~~ to make her respect at least the laws of humanity and the laws of nations.

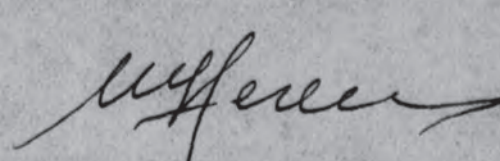
Hoping for your assistance, and thanking you in anticipation,

We remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of the internees:


Meir Sterenberg,
CAMP REPRESENTATIVE.

N.B. Please acknowledge receipt.

ENCLOSED: Photostatic copy of Mr. Foster Sutton's declaration.

No. 1962

August 26, 1948

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to bring to your attention the following facts regarding emigration to Israel of men of military age from among the refugees and displaced persons in the U. S. Zones of Germany and Austria and the views of my Government on the matter.

The representative of the Provisional Government of Israel in the United States Zone in Germany has been advised by a communication from Headquarters, Munich Military Post, APO 4-7-A, U. S. Army, that the following personnel are not to depart the area of U. S. military control:

- "A. Fighting personnel-persons identified as belonging to organized military units as well as all persons bearing arms;
- "B. Men of military age-men within the age group 18 to 40-5. Until receipt of further instructions from this Hqs., personnel as defined in Para 1, A and B above, are not to be included in emigration movements to Israel from this area of control."

Through a further communication from Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Harold, Headquarters, European Command, APO 403, U.S. Army, the Israeli representatives were advised as follows:

"If this position conflicts with any understanding to the contrary on terms of the prevailing 'truce', it is suggested that your government take this matter up with the U. S. Mediator directly and with the U. S. State Department through your representative in the United States."

The State of Israel Mission to the United States respectfully requests

the

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

the Department of State of the United States to instruct the appropriate United States authorities to amend the position above set forth by eliminating the above quoted paragraph B since no valid grounds exist for the position so stated under the present truce or otherwise.

1. The Resolution adopted by the Security Council on May 29, 1948, provides in part that the Security Council

"Calls upon all Governments and authorities concerned to undertake that they will not introduce fighting personnel into Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Trans-Jordan and Yemen during the cease-fire and

"Calls upon all Governments and authorities concerned, should men of military age be introduced into countries or territories under their control, to undertake not to mobilize or submit them to military training during the cease-fire."

The provisions of the first above quoted paragraph of the Resolution are met by paragraph A of the instructions quoted above.

The Security Council Resolution of May 29, 1948, in its reference to "men of military age" merely states that should they be introduced into countries, including Palestine, the authorities there "undertake not to mobilize or submit them to military training during the cease-fire." It was thus clearly contemplated that men of military age could and would go to Palestine. This is plain not only from the text of the Resolution but also from the statement of the representative of France who offered the language referred to and stated that its purpose "is to prevent the introduction into these various territories of fighting personnel, but not of men of military age.... It aims at preventing combatants from entering these various territories, but to allow men of military age to go into these territories, on the condition, however, that at least during the Truce they are not mobilized and that they do not receive any military

training

training." (Emphasis supplied) (S/P.V. 310, p. 81) The French proposal, which was accepted, contrasts sharply with the language of the Resolution as originally introduced, which would have precluded all men of military age from going to Palestine. Further emphasizing the intent of the Resolution as adopted is the statement of the United States representative that the original language, which precluded "men of military age" from going to Palestine, must be amended by the deletion of such provision and the acceptance of the French wording, which was incorporated into the final draft of the Resolution. (S/P.V. 310, p. 93-100)

The present rulings of the United States Army authorities in Germany are thus wholly inconsistent with the terms of the truce which followed the Resolution of May 29. This situation was changed in no respect by the Resolution of the Security Council of July 15, 1948, which called upon all Governments and authorities concerned to cooperate with the Mediator, "in conformity with the Resolution adopted by the Security Council on 29 May 1948" and, provides, "the truce shall remain in force, in accordance with the present Resolution and with that of 29th May 1948 ...".

2. The Mission of the State of Israel to the United States has learned that American authorities recently, however, referred to the Mediator the matter of the emigration of Jewish displaced persons of military age from the United States Zones of Germany and Austria. According to information received, the Mediator has proposed that lists containing names of prospective emigrants should be submitted to him for approval before their departure. This proposal is an attempt to introduce new limitations on Jewish immigration to Israel by vesting in the Mediator arbitrary

power

power to cut off or restrict the number of immigrants of military age. That power was not granted to him by the terms of the Security Council resolutions. The adoption of the proposed procedure would contravene both the letter and the spirit of the Security Council resolutions which are the only instruments governing the present truce. The Provisional Government of Israel has already agreed not to mobilize or train immigrants of military age and is fully prepared to allow the Mediator and UN observers to supervise the execution of this undertaking. That undertaking is reiterated here.

3. My Government is deeply concerned regarding the consequences that would ensue from the adoption by the United States military authorities in Germany and Austria of the procedure suggested by the Mediator. Its apprehensions are based, first, on the effect which the continued exclusion of men between the ages of 18 to 45 would have on the displaced persons themselves. Men of military age and their families now form the bulk of the displaced persons in Germany and Austria. The proposed policy would either once again separate the men from their families or more likely penalize them all by inflicting another and indefinite period of enforced idleness and confinement in the camps. Second, my Government is concerned by the effect which the Mediator's proposal will have on the truce itself. If adopted, it will sharply increase the resentment felt by the people of Israel against what appears to be a consistent policy of the Mediator to interpret or apply explicit instructions and resolutions by the Security Council in a manner considered detrimental to Israel.

4. In the light of the above considerations, it is requested that the present refusal by the United States military authorities in

Germany and Austria to allow men of military age to proceed to Israel be immediately rectified.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Special Representative

WRHS
5000
5000



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington

August 27, 1948

My dear Mr. Javits:

I have received your telegram dated August 22, 1948, in which you requested the Department of State to use its good offices to prevent a veto by the United Kingdom of an application by Israel for membership in the United Nations.

Election to membership in the United Nations requires approval of an application by the Security Council by seven affirmative votes, provided no permanent member votes against the application. A permanent member may abstain on the vote in the Security Council without defeating an application for membership. Following Security Council action, an application would require approval by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.

The Provisional Government of Israel has not yet submitted an application for membership. In case it does so, and appears at that time to qualify under Article 4, of the Charter the United States will, of course, gladly support its application. I believe you will agree that the attitude of the United Nations member states toward an application for membership by Israel will be greatly influenced by the course of the mediation now being attempted in Palestine by Count Bernadotte and the attitude of Israel toward the truce and United Nations efforts to reach a settlement.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

/s/ Charles E. Bohlen
Charles E. Bohlen
Counselor

The Honorable
Jacob K. Javits,
House of Representatives.

COPY

September 3, 1948

Sir:

I acknowledge the receipt of your note of August 26, 1948, requesting that the United States military authorities in the American zones of Germany and Austria be instructed to remove present restrictions concerning the inclusion of men of military age in emigration movements from those zones to Israel.

Following the adoption by the Security Council of the Palestine truce resolution of May 29, 1948, the United Nations Mediator discussed the provisions of the truce with representatives of the Provisional Government of Israel and of the Arab states, summarizing his views in his note of June 7th to those governments. In recognition of the responsibility of the Mediator for the supervision of the truce and the responsibility of this Government to give the greatest possible assistance to the Mediator, the Department of State subsequently raised with him the question of the establishment in the United States zones of Germany and Austria of appropriate procedures mutually agreeable to the United States Government and the Mediator which would enable the latter to exercise the immigration controls envisaged in his note of June 7th referred to above. Prior to the conclusion of the Department's exchange of communications with the Mediator on this subject the United States zonal military authorities were instructed temporarily to suspend authorization for the exit of men of military age with end visas for Israel.

As a result of the Department's communications with the Mediator further instructions have now been issued by the United States Government to the zonal military authorities. The instructions provide for the continued prohibition of the exit of emigrants for Israel identified as fighting personnel, and authorize the departure of those men of military age for whom accredited representatives of the Provisional Government of Israel submit to the zonal military authorities advance clearance for emigration obtained from the Mediator by such representatives.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Secretary of State:

Charles E. Saltzman

101/2689

Tel Aviv
September 8, 1948

TO: Executive

FROM: Organization Department

SUBJECT: Internal Resolutions of Zionist Actions Committee

Enclosed is the text of internal resolution received at the Political Committee of the Zionist Actions Committee.

(A) Internal resolutions on the subject of immigration;

(B) Resolutions on new formulation of the Basle Program

We are also forwarding to the Executive, in accordance with the Political Committee resolution, the minority's resolution brought before the above mentioned committee by the United Labor Party, on the subject of immigration.

INTERNAL RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT OF IMMIGRATION

received at the Political Committee of the Zionist Actions
Committee in August, 1948.

A. All immigration arrangements are under the sole authority of the Palestine Offices or other authoritative representation of the Zionist Organization. The parties will give clear cut direction to their members in countries which forbid separate agreements with outside factors on the subject of immigration, which can hurt(?) the immigration rights of members and parties, or the sovereignty of the Zionist Organization to organize immigration according to its rules.

The Zionist Organization will also give specific instructions to the various parties in the various countries, and will fix in fact, that any infringement on these instructions will be considered as nullification (disobedience to) of Zionist discipline.

B. All parties will order their members in the various countries to refrain in their activity and propaganda from anything which can endanger the safety of members or the legal status of the parties participating in the Zionist Congress.

INTERNAL RESOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE ZIONIST
ACTIONS COMMITTEE - TEL AVIV, AUGUST, 1948

New Formulation of the Basle Program

The Actions Committee expressed its wish that the Executive shall set up a Committee which will prepare the text of the Basle Program in the light of the changes which occurred with the establishment of the State of Israel, and will submit it for confirmation by the next Zionist Congress.

THE MINORITY'S RESOLUTION BROUGHT BEFORE THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE
OF THE ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE IN AUGUST, 1948, BY THE UNITED
WORKERS PARTY ON THE SUBJECT OF IMMIGRATION

All Parties will order their members to avoid, in their dealings,
everything which can endanger the legal status of Zionist factions
in countries which are working for Zionism, democracy and peace.

101/2693

September 9, 1948

TO: The Executive

FROM: Organization Department

SUBJECT: Internal Resolutions of the Zionist Actions Committee

Enclosed text of resolution on division of income from the United
Campaigns, on which was decided by the Zionist Actions Committee
in its last meeting (Part _____, Paragraph 3b).

It was decided not to publish this internal resolution among reso-
lutions of the Zionist Actions Committee and we are bringing it
herewith to your knowledge.

/sgd/ Organization Department

Tel Aviv
September 9, 1948

To: The Executive

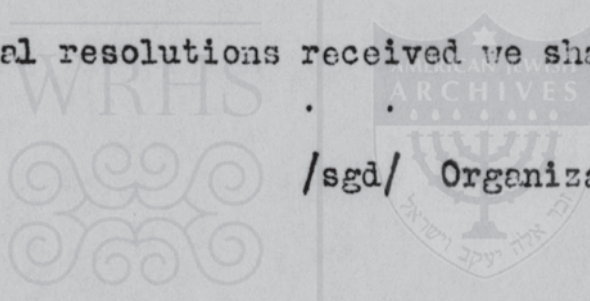
From: Organization Department

SUBJECT: Resolutions of Zionist Actions Committee

We enclose the text of resolutions received by the Zionist Actions Committee at its last meeting, 22nd August to 3rd September, 1948.

The text of internal resolutions received we shall supply you separately.

/sgd/ Organization Department



ETVIL 1948 ETVIL 1948 ETVIL 1948 ETVIL 1948

Dr Abba Hillel Silver
~~Zionist Organization of America~~
New York NY

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VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

*Return
to Dr. Silver*

Ker Louise,
Le Pont
Parame, Ille et Vilaine,
France

Sep 14, 1948

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
President, Zionist Executive.

Dear Dr. Silver:

As you may know, I spent the last year as a volunteer making what I hoped would be a film of great use to Israel, a film about the *Brayha*. This project was under the sponsorship of Americans for Haganah. I completed two films, a short one called *The Voyage of the Unafraid*, and a long one called *The Illegals*.

But my contacts with the leadership of Americans for Haganah revealed to me such poverty of judgement and mental dishonesty that I am deeply concerned over the continuance of this leadership in an organization which has taken an important place in the relationship between Israel and America.

To all practical intents, Mr. Wahl and his aides wasted the high potential value of my films. Where the CID had not succeeded in suppressing my material, they, by sheer ineptitude, did.

I realize that these are serious charges, and ask your attention to the details: Last February I completed a fifteen minute film, *The Voyage of the Unafraid*, showing the passing of an illegal ship to Palestine. By a series of daring exploits, we were able to save from the British even the part of the film that shows them boarding the ship. In February, this film was extremely timely. Being short, it was a film that could have carried our message into every theatre, to millions of non-Jews.

I was in Paris still working on the longer film. I sent *The Voyage* to Wahl, explaining that it had to be released at once. A prominent New York distributor who saw the film offered to handle it free of charge. To my amazement, Wahl wrote me some weeks later that he was holding the film from release because "the UJA thought it might interfere" with the release of the longer film, later on, as some of the scenes in the short film were repeated in *The Illegals*.

I wrote and cabled to the UJA and to Wahl, fully explaining that the long film would attract only Jewish audiences, as we had learned from *My Father's House*, that our one chance to get into the general theatres was with the short film, that in any case there was little duplication, and that I was the only one in a position to judge this since the material of the long film was still being cut in Paris.

Monor of UJA informed me indignantly that UJA knew nothing of the matter and had not advised Wahl to hold back my film. I was surprised at this maneuver of invoking the powerful image of the UJA, on Wahl's part. I wrote to him again, explaining the urgency of the matter, as a month had already been lost, and every day diminished the propaganda value of a document that was surely the most powerful single piece of film ever made in our cause. This time Wahl's organization cabled me that the film was receiving "phenomenal" distribution. I considered the matter at last settled, and went on with my work on the long film.

Weeks later I discovered that the cable was simply a lie, that *The Voyage* had never been released, and that Wahl had apparently used the cable to blind me. He could not have done a better job for the British if he had been a member of the CID. They had been unable to suppress our film - he did it for them.

There are two factors involved. One is his stubborn insistence on exercising

his poor judgement in the face of facts and experience. The second is his use of falsehood both in the letter about the UJA opposition, and in the cable, in order to silence opposition.

Aside from the serious loss sustained by the wastage of the film, I am gravely concerned that such a man should continue in a position where he can do harm.

As the short film had been suppressed - aside from insignificant 16mm showings before Jewish groups - I rushed The Illegals to completion in order to get our story before the public. It opened in the summer heat, and unfortunately proved my predictions - the goyim were again not interested in a long film made from a specifically Jewish point of view. For as I had insistently explained to Wahl, the Voyage was intended for general audiences, the Illegals principally for Jews. Nevertheless, he was childishly disappointed in the failure of the Illegals to make a million dollars, and started a personal attack upon me.

The personal matters are beside the point. There were still opportunities for using the Illegals. I asked that a print be brought to me in Paris, for we had an excellent chance of winning the documentary prize at the film festival in Venice. A showing at this festival would have given us worldwide publicity, would have brought opportunities for the exhibition of the short or long film in many countries, and if we had won a prize, Israel would have received prestige. But the incredible Mr. Wahl and his associates refused to send a print of the film to its maker!

A second result is that there is no print of the Illegals available in Paris during the UNO sessions. I took it upon myself to make a French version of the short film, the Voyage, and even at this late date released it in a Paris theatre. The results are phenomenal. Newspapers have devoted two lines to the feature film on the same program, giving practically all of their review space to our short film. And yet, the distributor of the film was threatened with a lawsuit, because Mr. Wahl still thinks it is best to suppress the Voyage in the hope that some year his organization may make some money on the long film.

Can't anything be done to put an end to this muddle-headed behavior, and to secure the maximum use of these films? Can't we have people who are at least straightforward and truthful, as leaders of our organizations?

I think you know my work long enough to know that I have no personal ax to grind. This experience has shocked me. We have enough ills to suffer, without adding to them the ills that result from ambitious opportunists in our ranks.

Sincerely yours,

Myer Levin

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September 20, 1948

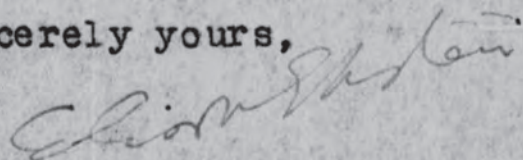
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road at E. 106 St.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver,

In extending to you our very best wishes for the New Year 5709, the first Jewish New Year under the State of Israel, we ask you to accept from us as a token of the new era the enclosed souvenir. This is a pound note of the new currency of the State of Israel, which has been especially autographed by the Premier of the State, Mr. David Ben Gurion, at our request, as a New Year gift to our colleagues. The Prime Minister's endorsement of this note will represent both the goodwill of the Jewish Government towards the heads and collaborators of the Jewish National Fund, and at the same time serve as a noteworthy symbol of the stability and sovereignty of the State of Israel in the Land of Israel.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



E. M. Epstein
Director, Overseas Dept.



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WESTERN UNION (14)

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JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

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קונסוליה כללית
CONSULATE GENERAL OF ISRAEL

MEMORANDUM

October 15, 1948

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

FROM: Nina Franklin (Secretary to Mr. Lourie)

Some weeks ago, when you were in New York, you left with me the attached letter which contains the address of Miss Cecile Leibovitch, whose mother in Israel had asked that she please be put in touch with friendly people here.

I have arranged for this to be done and am returning herewith the letter which I thought you might wish to have.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

לוי 7/6
Nina Franklin

nf
encl.

EDMUND I. KAUFMANN

702 H STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 1, D. C.

October 18, 1948

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

Mr. Kaufmann just left for
New York and requested that I send you the
enclosed memorandum.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. Hutton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned over a faint, circular postmark or stamp that is partially visible in the background.

Secretary to Mr. Kaufmann

EH.

enc.

October 16, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Edmund I. Kaufmann

SUBJECT: Support for Israel.

1. This statement is submitted, Mr. President, with full appreciation of the fact that you have done more for the establishment of a Jewish Homeland in Palestine than any other President of the United States. These are not mere polite words. They come to you with utter sincerity from one who has been a life-long Democrat, who has been active in the Party financially and otherwise for more decades than he cares to recall, and who has witnessed your efforts on behalf of Israel with pride and gratitude.

2. Of the differences which may have existed within the Administration regarding our policy in the Middle East I know, on the whole, relatively little. But I do know that if the good which you have accomplished for Israel is to be preserved more must be done. With a small investment of capital a good business may fail; with a somewhat larger investment that same business will prosper. That is the situation in Israel today. And the investment I speak of is no less in terms of political and moral support than in terms of financial support.

3. From the viewpoint of those in this country who have followed the activities of the Administration in regard to Israel over the past months the record, on the basis of actions taken and withheld, has been extremely hurtful:

a. De jure recognition has been withheld although it would have added immeasurably to the prestige and stability of the new State.

b. Admission to the United Nations has been supported so weakly and so evidently

with reluctance that the Israelis have feared to press their application.

c. Financial aid has been denied although Israel's credit is good and her needs very great.

d. An arms embargo has been maintained although Israel has been under attack.

e. Czechoslovakia's meager aid to Israel has been sharply protested by the State Department although such action was neither required nor a contribution to peace.

f. Visas from this country to Israel have been denied even when American citizens of Jewish faith wished to visit Israel purely for cultural or commercial reasons.

g. Formal protests have sometimes been filed, but in fact there has been tacit acquiescence by the State Department in the seizure, from American vessels or owners, of food and other non-military items destined for or originating from Israel.

h. At the request of the State Department our occupation authorities in Germany have shut off the flow of DPs of military age from the camps despite the fact that such action was neither required by the truce agreement nor ameliorated by opening the gates here.

i. United States support has been extended to a move designed to revise completely the boundaries established by the United Nations' Resolution of November 29, although an obligation had been assumed to support those boundaries.

j. No protest was ever made by the United States to the incredible proposal to turn Jerusalem over to the Arabs despite the fact that more than one-half the population of Jerusalem is Jewish and the city is regarded as holy by three great faiths.

This is the record of the past few months, Mr. President, and I hope you will believe me when I say that it is not a question of asking for more but simply asking that what you have done should be preserved. The record unfortunately reveals that although the United States, as a result of your personal action, successfully intervened on behalf of Israel and greatly assisted in establishing the state, the Administration during the past few months bears responsibility for what cannot fairly be regarded as other than a hostile policy toward Israel.

4. If the interests of the United States and Israel were inconsistent, or if this hostility resulted from our difficulties with Russia, then as an American citizen I would have no basis for petitioning you. But the present policy of the Administration toward Israel is prompted far less as a response to Russia than as an effort to conciliate Great Britain, and in particular the prejudices of a single man, Bevin. The so-called Bernadotte Plan proposes to sever the Negev from Israel solely because of the insistence of the British. Even our own State Department originally felt that this would be unwise and yielded only after stubborn British insistence on the point before Bernadotte at Rhodes. When Bevin attacks those of Jewish faith living in the City of New York, I am concerned far less as a Jew than as an American and, more particularly, as a Democrat -- for I know that our Party will lose votes as a result of it. The reason is that the State Department is predisposed against a settlement along the general lines layed down by the United Nations and, for reasons I cannot fathom, is predisposed in favor of Bevin's personal policy.

5. If Bevin's policy would make for peace then, strongly as I feel, I might nevertheless be hesitant about speaking out. But the Bevin-Bernadotte policy, particularly as regards the Negev, is a policy that will bring and has already brought only bloodshed and terror to Palestine:

- a. It is rejected by the Arabs.
- b. It is rejected by the Jews.
- c. It cannot be enforced by the United Nations because it is without moral foundations and the United Nations has no armed force to impose it.

Last night fighting was resumed in Palestine. That fighting is the direct and immediate consequence of the Bevin-Bernadotte policies.

6. There is no need to stress here the promises regarding support for Israel clearly set forth in the Democratic Platform. Secretary Marshall's statement in Paris giving unqualified support to the British conceived Bernadotte Plan is clearly in derogation of those promises. Such action not only has political and other consequences in this country but it has consequences abroad. What hope for a reasonable and peaceful settlement can the Israelis look for from the United Nations if, on the single issue where there seems to be no irreconcilable conflict between the United States and Russia, the United States has failed, or refused to support the United Nations? The open warfare apparently just renewed between the Israelis and the Egyptians in Negev provides, I believe, an unhappy but historic opportunity. By speedy action on your part, individually and through the United Nations, I am morally certain that large scale bloodshed can be avoided and all of the issues between Israel and the Arab states peacefully and fairly resolved.

7. My recommendations do not go beyond those set forth in the Democratic Platform. The promises which we made, as Democrats, appear to have been largely supported by the Republicans. The Republicans, therefore, can have no quarrel if you proceed at once with the implementation of your program. There are doubtless some who will challenge any action by you as "political" in character. Doubtless certain political advantages for the Democratic Party would result. But no right-minded person could also deny that an action approved and promised by both major parties, in support of the United Nations and in support of peace, looking toward a lasting and equitable settlement in the Middle East, is clearly in the best interests of the United States. The framework of the policy of aid to Israel can be epitomized in the following words:

a. De jure recognition.

b. A practical solution for Jerusalem probably by dividing the city or, if the necessary United Nations' military forces are clearly available, internationalization.

c. Financial aid through the Export-Import Bank.

d. Unqualified support for admission to the United Nations.

e. Boundaries which take due account both of the United Nations Resolution and the existing situation arising out of the Arab attack on Israel.

f. Modification of the arms embargo.



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OCTOBER 27, 1948

ARTHUR LOURIE
JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
16 EAST 66 STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK



PLEASE CALL MEETING EXECUTIVE NEXT MONDAY MORNING TEN THIRTY

SILVER

October 29, 1948

Mr. Arthur Lourie
Jewish Agency for Palestine
16 East 66th Street
New York 21, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Lourie: ,

You may wish to answer the enclosed communication which
I received.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er
Enc.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MINISTRY OF
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
AT KEHILATH JESHURUN

November 22nd, 1948

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS:

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Max J. Etra

Chairman
Hon. Samuel Levy

Honorary Vice-Chairmen
Dr. Samuel Belkin
Hon. Samuel Hofstadter
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Vice-Chairmen
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Sol Lustbader
Samuel A. Marcus
Frederick Margareten
Harry Metzger
Aaron H. Onish
Henry A. Rafsky
Samuel Rosen
Jacob Rudd
Isidore Schlang
Elliott W. Siegel
Aaron J. Simon
Louis J. Singer
Albert Sokolski
Abraham R. Winer
Louis W. Yohann

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman
American Section, Jewish Agency for Palestine
The Temple
East 105th Street & Ansell Road
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

This year the Rabbi of our congregation, Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, is completing twenty-five years of ministry with us. This important occasion will be celebrated fittingly at a Religious Convocation which will be held in our synagogue on Sunday afternoon January 9th next. You will, of course, shortly receive a formal invitation to the Convocation, and I need not tell you that it will be an honor for us to have you as our guest.

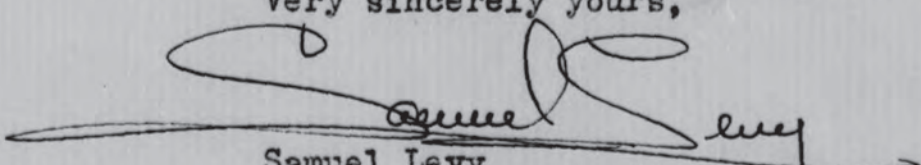
In connection with the Convocation we are publishing a Record of the Proceedings to be retained as an historic memento of that occasion. We are very anxious to include in that Record a statement by you. This may take the form of a letter addressed to me, as Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, or to the Rabbi himself.

We know that you are familiar with the rich achievements of Rabbi Lookstein's ministry both in our synagogue as well as in the community at large, and a statement by you, therefore, would indeed be appropriate.

For your guidance we are enclosing a biographical sketch of the Rabbi. It is at once astounding and gratifying for us to realize how much has been accomplished by so young a man.

I hope that you will not delay your answer unduly because we are extremely anxious to go to press very shortly with the Record of the Proceedings. Thank you very much for your attention and for your cooperation.

Very sincerely yours,


Samuel Levy
Chairman, Committee on Arrangements

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
RABBI JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN

Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein is in the truest sense an American trained rabbi. He is a splendid example of the blending of Jewish learning with secular knowledge, of the integration of Judaism and Americanism.

At the early age of nineteen, Rabbi Lookstein was already occupying as a student rabbi the pulpit of the Kings Highway Jewish Center in Brooklyn. At twenty he was invited to Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun to become the assistant to the late dean of the American Orthodox rabbinate, Rabbi Moses S. Margolis. At the latter's death in 1937 he became the full rabbi of the congregation. At forty-five, therefore, he has already completed twenty-five years of ministry in one synagogue.

Rabbi Lookstein is descended from a family which for thirteen generations had at least one of its members in the rabbinate. On his maternal side he is descended from the famous Hasidic dynasty of Lubavitch.

His early education was received at the Rabbi Jacob Joseph School and his secondary education at the Talmudical Academy, the high school of Yeshiva University. At graduation from both these institutions he was class valedictorian. His talents as a speaker were recognized in his earliest youth. His first public address was delivered in Hebrew at the age of eight on the occasion of the Yahrzeit (anniversary of death) of Chief Rabbi Jacob Joseph.

His rabbinic training he received at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary which is now part of Yeshiva University. At the seminary he was known as a diligent and gifted student. He was ordained as rabbi in 1926 and was the class valedictorian at the ordination exercises.

Rabbi Lookstein's secular education was received at the College of the City of New York, from which he holds the degree of B.A., and from Columbia University, from which he received his M.A. in 1929. He continued graduate work in the latter institution towards his doctorate, majoring in the Social Sciences. His doctoral dissertation is entitled, "Primogeniture in Jewish Law and Society."

His published works include "Judaism in Theory and Practice," "Sources of Courage--A Collection of War Time Sermons," "What is Orthodox Judaism?" and numerous articles in educational and scientific journals.

He is Professor of Homiletics and Practical Rabbinics at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and Professor of Jewish Sociology at Yeshiva University. He is often described as "a rabbi's rabbi" because of the esteem in which he is held by his colleagues in the rabbinate. He is a past president of the Rabbinical Council of America and of the New York Board of Rabbis comprising the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis of New York City.

In 1929 Rabbi Lookstein helped organize the Hebrew Teachers Training School for Girls and for ten years acted as principal of the institution. He performed his duties as head of the school and as instructor in Bible and in Talmud as a labor of love refusing any compensation for his work.

His magnum opus in the field of Jewish education was the establishment of the Ramaz School under the auspices of his congregation. The institution, a Jewish Day School, offers a comprehensive Jewish and general education from

kindergarten through high school. At present there are four hundred students in that school and it has won the acclaim of general as well as Jewish educators throughout the country. Dedicated to the integration of Judaism and Americanism, the institution represents Rabbi Lookstein's own philosophy as an American Jew.

Rabbi Lookstein is a prominent Zionist leader. He is affiliated with the Mizrachi Organization which is the religious party in the Zionist movement. He served as vice-president and secretary of that organization and at the present time he is the chairman of the Administrative Council. He has been its representative at world conferences of the party and as a delegate to Zionist congresses.

He served as chairman of the Palestine Commission of the American Jewish Conference succeeding Dr. Abba Hillel Silver in that post. In that capacity he represented the American Jewish Conference at the United Nations Conference in San Francisco where he served as one of the consultants to our State Department on matters pertaining to Palestine and the welfare of world Jewry. He traveled the country from coast to coast in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal.

Prevented from entering the active chaplaincy during World War II because of bad eyesight, he threw himself wholeheartedly into war work on the civilian front. He was a vice-chairman of the Division of Religious Activities of the National Jewish Welfare Board and assisted in the procurement and supervision of Jewish chaplains in the armed services. At the present time he is chairman of the Executive Committee of that Division. He made numerous tours through army camps and other military installations in this country. In 1945 he was sent on a mission to Europe by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to inspect the work of chaplains and to visit military personnel in the European and Mediterranean Theaters of Operation. He spent seven week on that mission during the course of which he visited the Displaced Persons Camps. He was received by the foremost military leaders including General Eisenhower, then Chief of Staff, General McNarney, Commander of the American Forces in Germany, and General Mark Clark, Commander in Austria.

The plight of the Jewish Displaced Persons, which he had seen with his own eyes, made him an active worker in the Joint Distribution Committee. On behalf of that organization he toured South America and Mexico raising funds for overseas needs. He is now Chairman of the Latin American Committee of the Joint Distribution Committee and a member of the Administration Committee of that organization. Extensive travels through Latin America have made him an authority on the religious and educational problems of the Jewish community in that part of the world.

Rabbi Lookstein is considered a leading pulpit orator. He is as facile in Hebrew and Yiddish as he is in English and on one occasion in a Paris synagogue he even delivered a sermon in French.

R E S O L U T I O N S
of the Meeting of the Organization and Youth & Halutz Depts.
December 4, 1948

PRESENT: Mr. Leon Gellman, Zvi Lurie, Baruch Zuckerman and Gottlieb Hammer.

I. To Organization Department

- a) pertains all matters of the shekel, Palestine office, proposals of country-wide Zionist organizations in the U.S.
- b) Majority Proposal: Since there are no shekel lists for 1948 and they cannot be compiled now, the power of the 1949 shekel will be valid for elections to the Congress, should such elections be held. Mr. Gellman's opinion: Since he is opposed to elections to the Congress and is in favor of a continuation of the agreement, he is opposed to a new shekel project.

Resolution: The Jewish Agency Executive shall demand the immediate convention of the Shekel Committee in order that it submit its proposals to the Jewish Agency Executive.

- c) It was agreed that the Organization Department will be separated from the Youth and Halutz Department: the Organization Department - a department connected directly and exclusively with the American Branch of the Jewish Agency Executive; the Youth and Halutz Department - in the American Branch of the Jewish Agency Executive, but a sub-department of the parallel department of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem.
- d) Mr. Lurie suggested the setting up of a small adjunctive staff to the Organization Department to coordinate the shekel problems, Palestine office, Zionist organization, etc.

The debate on this matter was postponed.

- e) Mr. Gellman suggested an all-American Zionist convention before the Congress.

It was decided to bring this suggestion before the Jewish Agency Executive.

II. Youth and Halutz Department

- a) It was decided to make a survey of the conditions in the youth groups and to strengthen Zionist and Halutz education among the youth groups. A committee shall be set up for this purpose and will work according to directions prepared for it. A budget shall be allocated for this purpose by the Jewish Agency Executive.
- b) For this purpose, a meeting of the representatives of all Zionist groups shall be called.
The relations with non-Zionist youth organizations (Hillel, etc.) is yet to be discussed.

- c) Mr. Hammer was asked by the committee to prepare a report on the budgets of the Halutz, the conditions of the farms, the level of the Hachshara, etc.
- d) It was decided to make a survey of the demands for vocational training.
- e) It was suggested that the committee maintain contacts with the people who were sent to Israel through Land and Labor.
- f) It was agreed to suggest to the Executive the attachment to the Youth and Halutz Department of representatives of the ZOA, Hadassah and the Revisionists in an advisory capacity.
- g) It was decided to suggest to the Jewish Agency Executive that it accept for work in the Youth and Halutz Department Mr. G. Asculai who was sent here by the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem to work with the youth in the U.S.



KEREN HAYESOD

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SARAH BEHRMAN

December 15, 1948

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I think you may be interested in seeing a copy of the cable which I received today from the Keren Hayesod in Jerusalem.

It goes without saying that the cable will not be distributed or made public in any way, but Dr. Neumann thought that you might be interested.

With kind greetings, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Charles Ress

Charles Ress
President

CR:h
Incl

C
O
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Y

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NLT RESS KERYESOD
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BOARD DIRECTORS KERENHAYESOD EXTREMELY GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT CONTROVERSY
AFFECTING UPA HAS BEEN AMICABLY SETTLED STOP OUR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST WISHES TO ALL CONCERNED AND PARTICULARLY TO THOSE WHOSE PATIENCE
AND FORESIGHT BROUGHT ABOUT THIS RECONCILIATION STOP HOPE UPA WILL EMERGE
DOUBLY STRENGTHENED AND UNIFIED FROM THIS CRISIS AND WILL CONTINUE CON-
TRIBUTE LARGEST SHARE OF MEANS REQUIRED FOR THE TREMENDOUS TASKS NOW FACING
KERENHAYESOD IN ORGANIZING ABSORBING AND IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT OF LARGEST
IMMIGRATION EVER EXPERIENCED IN HISTORY OF ZIONIST MOVEMENT STOP WISH TO
EXPRESS OUR HOPE UJA WILL AGAIN BE GRANTED INSPIRING LEADERSHIP OF HENRY
MORGANTHAU JUNIOR WHO PERSONIFIES FOR YISHUV AMERICAN JEWRY'S READINESS
FULLY PARTICIPATE ITS FIGHT AND WORK

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Jerusalem

ירושלים יב מנ"א תשוב

17 אבגוסט 48

לכבוד הרב מאד נכבד
חד ממדברי דאומחא
ד"ר אבא ה. סילבר,
ירושלים

ר.מ.נ.

בזמן שהותו האחרונה בארץ, המצאתי לכבודו הרם תזכיר
לפיתוחה של ירושלים, ונתכבדתי בחשובתו, אבל מפני נחוצת חזירתו
לאמריקה נשתתק הדבר.

אני שעשיתי בשביל פיתוחה של העיר והמצאת פרנסות למאות
משפחות בה, בפרט לבני ישיבות ואלמנטים אי-פרודוקטיביים מבחינה
כלכלית, שלימדתי אותם מלאכות והם התפרנסו בכבוד ורוח, מבקשו
בזה לקבלני לניו יורק.

הנני משוכנע שבע"ה יכולני לעצור בעד עזובת העיר ובעד
תהליך של צפתיזציה וניחון ההולך לעינינו. יכולני לתת פרנסות
במשך 4 שבועות בלבד למאות - ואולי לאלף - משפחות.

האמת נותן להאמר שאינני הולך בתלם, ואף פעם לא אעזור
לשמאליזציה של ירושלים עיר המסורת מאז, ומפני זה - למרות הדינמיקה-
הפרודוקטיבית שלי - אינני זוכה לתשומת לב כראוי לאיש שגאל רוב
קרקעות ירושלמיות מידי זרים ועשה להעיר מה שלא עשו אחרים בי ח.ד.
אינני אוטופיסטן רק איש מעשי ובקשתי שכבודו הרם עם
מר ע. נוימן תקבלני ותשמעו ממני מה שאפשר לעשות למען ירושלים,
פיתוחה, שיגשוגה, ולעשותה עוד לכח-מושך לחלק מהעליה ארצה.
בברכת הצלחה רבה במעשיו ובמעשי מר נוימן לטובת הארץ
והעמנו, הנני מוקירכם ומכבדכם כערככם הרב,

בכבוד רב,
משה רוזנבליט

Miss

X CECILE LEIBOVITCH
9 BROADWAY TERRACE

NEW-YORK
c/o MRS. LINDEHHEIMER

Julliard's SCHOOL
Greetings from her
mother - and wishes
to be introduced
to your friendly
people



INCOMING CABLE

TELAVIV, Jan. 20, 1949
rec. Jan. 21, 1949

NLT JEVAGENCY HAMMER NEWYORK

PLEASE CONVEY ALL MEMBERS EXECUTIVE ASTONISHED THAT CONTENTS MY CABLE
17/1 IMMEDIATELY REPORTED JTA WHICH SAME DAY PRESSCABLED ALLEGING
NEGATIVE ATTITUDE LEADING AMERICAN ZIONIST CIRCLES AND THAT UPA WILL
AGAIN REJECT EXECUTIVES DECISION ALSO INSINUATING MORGENTHAU WILL BE
UNABLE ACCEPT VIEW ZIONIST PUBLIC OPPOSITION STOP EXECUTIVES DECISION
STANDS.

BERL LOCKER

COPY

INCOMING CABLE

TELAVIV, JAN. 20, 1949
Rec. JAN. 21, 1949

NLT JEVAGENCY HAMMER NEWYORK

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS LEAVING FOR NEWYORK TWENTYSEVENTH FOR PLENARY

SESSION STOP PLEASE MAKE NO COMMENTS BEFORE OUR ARRIVAL. REGARDS

BERL LOCKER

COPY

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

February 11, 1949

The American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine takes pleasure in inviting you to join in celebrating the opening of the Constituent Assembly of Israel, on Monday, February 14th, at 4:00 P.M. in the offices of the American Section, 16 East 66th Street, New York City.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Chairman

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WESTERN UNION (03)

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1220

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DR ABBA HILLEL, SILVER THE TEMPLE=

1949 MAR 10 PM 2 04

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I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE RAISED SOME QUESTION CONCERNING THE USE OF YOUR NAME IN THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF THE JEWISH AGENCY INC INCORPORATED UNDER THE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK THE EXECUTIVE AS A WHOLE, BY A FORMAL AND UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION, HAS DECIDED TO FORM A CORPORATE ENTITY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WHICH, IF IT BECAME NECESSARY TO DO SO, COULD ENGAGE IN FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES AND COULD JOIN THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL. THE WHOLE EXECUTIVE WITHOUT ANY DISSENTING VOTE APPROVED OF THE NAMING OF ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AS WELL AS MEMBERS WITHOUT VOTE AND ALTERNATES, AS DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION TO SERVE UNTIL THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING. INASMUCH AS YOUR RESIGNATIONS HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTED YOUR NAME WAS ALSO INCLUDED. OF COURSE, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE, RESIGNED AND UNRESIGNED, WHO DO NOT WISH TO SERVE NEED NOT DO SO, AND MAY DECLINE THE DIRECTORSHIP IN THE CORPORATION AT ANY RATE THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO INTENTION TO EMBARRASS YOU OR TO USE YOUR NAME IMPROPERLY BEST REGARDS=

BERL LOCKER=

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JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

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Place _____

THIS MATTER WHICH VITAL FOR OUR ~~SA~~
HISTORIC TASK OF BRINGING IN ^{HOUSING} ~~AND~~ ABSORBING
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF REMNANTS OF
OUR PEOPLE IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME
STOP ANY DISCUSSION THIS MATTER YOUR CONFERENCE
LIKELY EXACERBATE FEELING'S AND MAKE
SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT MORE DIFFICULT
STOP URGE YOU LEAVE MATTER IN

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JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

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To ZIONIST EMERGENCY CONFERENCE 19__
DR EMANUEL NEUMAN CHAIRMAN
 Street and No. _____

Place BELVEDERE ROOM JEWISH LIVES HOTEL ASTOR
PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
CONFERENCE STOP I UNDERSTAND CONFERENCE
ENTERED DISCUSSION UJA CONFLICT STOP
ISRAEL MEMBERS WORLD ZIONIST EXECUTIVE
HAVE TRAVELLED THOUSANDS OF MILES
AND FOREGONE PARTICIPATION OPENING
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN ORDER
DISCUSS AND SETTLE IN FULL SESSION

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JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To 3 19

Street and No. _____

Place _____

HANDS OF HIGHEST RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
ZIONIST MOVEMENT AND DESIST FROM ANY
DISCUSSION OR RESOLUTION CONCERNING IT
WITH ZIONS GREETINGS
BEAL LOCKER
CHAIRMAN JERUSALEM EXECUTIVE

Sender's address
for reference

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