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Jewish Agency, 1959-1960.

THE UNITED PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION OF JOHANNESBURG

(AFFILIATED WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM)

MINISTERS :

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RABBI WALTER BLUMENTHAL, B.A., M.A.H.L.
RABBI ROBERT L. ZIMMERMAN, M.A.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR :

B. STALSON, B.A., B. ECON., T.Y.D., F.E.A.A.,
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS.

OFFICES :

TEMPLE ISRAEL,
C/R. PAUL NEL & CLAIM STS.,
OFF CLARENDON CIRCLE,
JOHANNESBURG.

4th August, 1959.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
The Temple,
1855 Ansel Road,
CLEVELAND 6,
OHIO.....U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

You will be interested to learn that our Congregation has established a library in memory of the late Prof. A.Z. Idelsohn, a report of the opening of which is enclosed. His brother, Mr. Jerry Idelsohn, is our Director of Music and Librarian.

Although we are situated far from the great cultural centres of the world, nevertheless, we are anxious to build up a comprehensive and representative collection of Judaica and Jewish musicology.

You no doubt remember the late Prof. A.Z. Idelsohn, and I feel certain that you would like to assist in perpetuating the memory of this great Jewish scholar. We would deem it a great honour if you would send us a complimentary copy of books which you have authored. We feel that it would be a great asset to our library, and in this way you would also be honouring this noteworthy Jewish scholar.

With best wishes for the forthcoming High Holidays,

I am,

Most sincerely yours,

Robert L. Zimmerman
RABBI ROBERT L. ZIMMERMAN.

October 23, 1959

Rabbi Robert L. Zimmerman
Temple Israel
C/R Paul Nel & Claim Sts.
Off Clarendon Circle
Johannesburg, South Africa

My dear Rabbi Zimmerman:

As requested in your letter of August 4th,
I have sent you under separate cover the
following books for your Library:

Vision and Victory
Messianic Speculation in Israel
Religion in a Changing World
The World Crisis and Jewish Survival
Where Judaism Differed

With warmest regards and all good wishes for the
New Year, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

COUNCIL REPORTS

COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS AND WELFARE FUNDS, INC.
729 SEVENTH AVENUE NEW YORK 19 N Y

April 6, 1960

REORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN JEWISH PHILANTHROPIC AID TO ISRAEL

Arrangements are now being completed to revise the procedures for disbursement of the major American Jewish philanthropic funds for Israel -- namely the funds of the United Jewish Appeal. The information available to the CJFWF as of this date is as follows:

American Jewish Agency for Israel -- Key element in the reorganization is the new personnel and structure of the American Jewish Agency for Israel, which will have a Board of 21 persons having full authority and responsibility for that portion of UJA funds going to Israel.

The new body will use the corporate structure of the Jewish Agency, Inc. which has heretofore functioned as the American branch of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency for Israel. The new American Jewish Agency will have no such organic relationship to the World Zionist Organization. It will be reorganized for the sole purpose of taking responsibility for UJA funds used in Israel, with such funds restricted to use for immigration, resettlement, education and associated needs. ✓

Of its 21-member Board, 14 are to be designated by the United Israel Appeal and 7 by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

(The American branch of the Jewish Agency as it has existed heretofore, having relinquished its former name and corporate structure to the new body, will be incorporated under a new name, to conduct other activities of the World Zionist Organization outside the scope of UJA funds.)

The American Jewish Agency, Inc. will enter into a contract with the (international) Jewish Agency for Israel, under which the latter will carry out in Israel such programs for immigration and resettlement of immigrants as the American body will approve and budget. The contract is to cover the remaining duration of the current UJA agreement between the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Israel Appeal, which has over three years to run, through the 1963 campaign. The budget will be determined annually.

The 14 persons designated by the United Israel Appeal were named in the negotiations between certain leaders of the UJA and the Jewish Agency for Israel, in the process which led to the reorganization. The officers and Board members are:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Dewey D. Stone, Brockton | Chairman |
| Mrs. Rose Halprin, New York * | Vice-Chairman |
| Joseph Meyerhoff, Baltimore | Vice-Chairman |
| Max M. Fisher, Detroit | Treasurer |
| Abraham Goodman, New York | Treasurer |
| Louis Segal, New York * | Secretary |
| Morris Berinstein, New York | Executive Committee |
| Philip M. Klutznick, Chicago | Executive Committee |
| Emanuel Neumann, New York * | Executive Committee |

Rabbi Isidore Breslau, Washington
 Samuel H. Daroff, Philadelphia
 Melvin Dubinsky, St. Louis
 Rabbi Israel Goldstein, New York *
 Dr. Nahum Goldmann, New York and Israel *
 Dr. Dov Joseph, Israel *
 Rabbi M. Kirshblum, New York *
 Albert A. Levin, Cleveland
 Joseph M. Mazer, New York
 Philip Stollman, Detroit
 Ralph Wechsler, Newark
 Jack D. Weiler, New York



* Designated by the Jewish Agency. The others designated by United Israel Appeal.

The new Board will have its own representatives in Israel:

1. A professional staff to be responsible for assuring that the programs contracted for are carried out in accordance with such agreements and directives.

2. An American auditor or auditors to assure full fiscal compliance with the provisions of the contract and to perform other standard auditing functions.

American Educational, Cultural and Public Relations Activities --
 The educational, cultural and related activities in the United States which heretofore had been financed by the Jewish Agency, are to be transferred to the American Zionist Council. They are to be financed independently as of April 1, 1961. The manner of such independent financing has not yet been determined, except that they will not be a beneficiary of UJA funds.

Constructive Enterprises of Party Organizations -- The Israeli party organizations which have been receiving UJA funds for their welfare programs have been put on notice that they cannot expect a continuation of that financing after April 1, 1961. These grants have been made in lieu of separate campaigns in this country and for 1959 were:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Mizrachi Palestine Fund | \$750,000 |
| World Confederation of General Zionists | \$750,000 |
| Agudat Israel | \$160,000 |
| Poale Agudat Israel | \$181,875 |
| United Zionist Revisionists | \$250,000 |

How these groups will obtain support in 1961 is yet to be determined.

World Zionist Organization Activities -- No UJA funds are to be used for organizational activities of the World Zionist Organization in the United States or elsewhere -- UJA support is to be limited to immigration, absorption and directly related activities in Israel.

All of the above arrangements were worked out in the negotiations between certain leaders of the United Jewish Appeal, United Israel Appeal, and the Jewish Agency for Israel and represent their decisions and responsibility. Contrary to some published reports, The CJFWF (or community Welfare Funds) did not designate any members of the new Board nor were they invited to do so.

The CJFWF has been informed from time to time of the negotiations, and the CJFWF Subcommittee on Jewish Welfare Fund-Israel Relations and the CJFWF Board were informed on the basic substantive changes under consideration. The status of the projected reorganization as of that time was reported to a meeting of the Committee on March 19, and to the CJFWF Board of Directors at its meeting on March 20. Since those meetings, further revisions in the proposed structure have been made.

In the March 19 and March 20 meetings, note was taken that the following changes would be in conformity with recommendations made during the past several years by the CJFWF National-Local Relations Committee:

- (a) A structure and procedure to assure ultimate American responsibility and control.
- (b) Other activities of the World Zionist Organization should be separated from direct expenditures for immigrants in Israel.
- (c) Philanthropic activities must be completely separated from political activities.
- (d) Expenditures for cultural, educational, and other similar activities of the Jewish Agency for Israel to serve the Jews in the United States should be transferred to direct American auspices and financing.

The CJFWF Board expressed the desire that the reorganization should be successful in serving these purposes, and that everything should be done by all concerned to assure it. Many views were expressed as to how this could best be achieved and have been transmitted to the leadership of the new American Jewish Agency board. Among these are:

1. Active year-around responsibility by the new board and executive committee.
2. Highest competence of the American staff in Israel in keeping with the responsibility.
3. Highest competence of the American auditors in Israel, for the special task of on-the-spot audits.
4. Highest competence of executive staff directly serving the new board in the United States.
5. Full and detailed regular reporting on expenditures and program developments through existing mechanisms: the budget reporting service of the CJFWF and joint community budget review conferences.

The Board instructed our Subcommittee on Jewish Welfare Fund-Israel Relations to continue in its objective to formulate recommendations for the most effective structure and procedures for disbursement of American Jewish philanthropic funds in Israel. The purpose is to help extend further the most effective use, and therefore the greatest benefit, from the funds which our community Welfare Funds raise for programs of immigration and resettlement in Israel.

APPENDIX

In view of the changes taking place in the organization of American Jewish aid to Israel, the following excerpts from the Report of the 1958 CJFWF Israel Mission continue to be of relevance:

With the vast backlog of needs, we raised the question of planning and budgeting the Agency's program over a number of years. Specific objectives could be set for each year toward the ultimate and full goals. In doing so we were aware, of course, of the unpredictability in the rate of immigration and this could greatly change any plans made. But the number of immigrants already in the country are known and could be planned for. (p. 10)

We discussed with Agency officials the possibility of stabilizing or reducing the debt problem, especially as it affects our communities. We reported the concern of a number of our welfare funds regarding repayment of old loans before making new ones. (p. 11)

We conveyed to Agency officials our communities' concern that allocations of the United Israel Appeal (in behalf of the Jewish Agency) for the so-called Constructive Enterprises of party organizations should be used only for philanthropic purposes. We were assured that these funds go entirely to immigrant absorption, social welfare, housing and other programs consistent with the operations of the Agency itself.

The grants to party organizations represent fund raising agreements in lieu of separate appeals which otherwise would be made by these groups in the United States and elsewhere. They supplement funds received from other sources, such as membership. (pp. 12, 13)

With every dollar provided the Jewish Agency urgently needed in Israel itself, we asked that the Agency's expenditures outside Israel, and especially in the United States, be re-examined to see whether they can be financed from other sources. This involves primarily educational and cultural programs. Our suggestions were made with full recognition that the amount involved is a small fraction of the Agency's total expenditures, and that the Agency has sources of funds other than UJA. (p. 13)

* * * * *

The Zionist Congress has authorized its chairman to explore possibilities of extending participation beyond Zionist groups in the management and guidance of the Jewish Agency. Preliminary soundings have been made, and alternative plans have been under consideration. We discussed this generally with Agency officials in Israel. In doing so we stressed the need to match responsibility of involvement with comparable authority, as a prime requisite for any feasible plan. (p. 14)

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United Israel Appeal
515 Park Avenue
New York 22, New York

M E M O R A N D U M

April 26, 1960

To: Members of the Board of Directors
From: Dewey D. Stone, National Chairman



Attached hereto is a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Israel Appeal held on April 7, 1960 in New York City.

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL
HELD ON APRIL , 7th 1960 4:00 P.M.
AT 515 PARK AVENUE, N.Y.C.

Presiding: Dewey D. Stone, National Chairman

Present Were: Miss Juliet N. Benjamin, Morris Berinstein, Sarah Bershad, Benjamin G. Browdy, Pinchas Cruso, Benjamin A. Dof, Mendel N. Fisher, Paul Goldman, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Abraham Goodman, Mrs. Samuel Halprin, Gottlieb Hammer, Mrs. Samuel H. Hartley, Rabbi Mordecai Kirshblum, Abraham L. Liebovitz, David Moskowitz, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Max Ogust, Avraham Schenker, Robert Silverman, Mrs. Alexander Simson, Mrs. David Stein, Harry Weinberg, Charles Wolf.

Others: Maurice Boukstein, Samuel Blitz, Morris Giloni

Mr. Stone opened the meeting and noted that according to the By-laws of the United Israel Appeal a quorum of the Board members was present. He offered his apologies for the fact that he had not been able to call a Board meeting at an earlier date and explained that important negotiations upon which this Board would have to act had been completed only a few days ago. He stressed that he had called the meeting as soon as he had been in a position to give a clear picture of the situation.

In reviewing recent deliberations, Mr. Stone reported that it had been suggested that the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., an American Corporation, which so far had been registered as a foreign agent for the Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, be de-registered and henceforth function as a purely American Corporation with a new Board of Directors. In the future, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. would consist of representatives of two bodies, the UIA and the American Section of the Jewish Agency, Jerusalem. These two groups would elect a Board of Directors, consisting of 14 persons designated by the UIA and 7 persons designated by the American Section of the Jewish Agency, Jerusalem. Thus reorganized, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. would then be the body responsible for all allocations of United Jewish Appeal funds used for the programs of the Jewish Agency in Israel.

Mr. Stone explained that these changes are being contemplated in anticipation of a new code of interpretation for tax exempt American organizations raising money for overseas purposes. It was felt that this new code, which is being prepared by the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, might require certain changes in the method of handling UJA funds used for the Jewish Agency's programs in Israel and it was thought advisable to anticipate this new code by making the proposed changes.

Mr. Stone stressed that the changes were not contemplated as a result of the recent attacks on the use of UJA funds but were being made to assure that the whole UIA-Jewish Agency apparatus would conform one-hundred per cent with anticipated new Washington requirements.

Mr. Stone expressed his appreciation of the spirit of friendly cooperation in which all the lengthy complicated and difficult discussions had been conducted and stated that the proposed changes represented the best collective judgment of the many leaders of all the interested organizations. He pointed out that the UJA (UIA-JDC) agreement will remain in force until 1963 and that during this period it would be possible to test the efficacy of the new arrangement. He indicated that in this connection there were two actions to be taken by the Board of the UIA: To approve the UIA becoming a member in the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. and to vote on a proposed slate of candidates which will represent the UIA on the Board of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc.

Dr. Goldmann expressed his satisfaction with the new plan as outlined by Mr. Stone. He pointed out that for a long time the Jewish Agency had been anxious to share its responsibilities with non-Zionist groups. He noted that the slate of proposed directors for the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. was truly representative of American Jewish fund raising leadership and expressed his conviction that the new arrangement would be of benefit to American Jewish fund raising as well as to Israel. He stressed the spirit of cooperation which had prevailed throughout the protracted and difficult negotiations.

Mr. Liebovitz expressed his fear that the UIA would be submerged in the course of this new arrangement.

Mr. Stone assured him, however, that this would not be the case and that the UIA would continue within the same limited framework under which it has been operating within the past few years.

Mr. Paul Goldman suggested that the Board approve the proposed changes. He asked why an account of these changes had appeared in the daily press prior to the meeting of the Board.

Mr. Stone explained that because of the irresponsible way in which one Anglo-Jewish paper had handled the story, the negotiators had been under great pressure to release a basic outline of the proposed plan. However, this story was in no way meant to pre-empt the prerogatives of the UIA Board which alone can determine whether or not it wished to adopt this new plan.

A motion was made and seconded, proposing that the UIA become a member of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., an American Corporation registered in the State of New York.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Stone then presented the following list of 14 persons to serve as representatives of the UIA on the Board of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. until December 31, 1963:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Morris W. Berinstein | New York City |
| Rabbi Isidore Breslau | Washington, D.C. |
| Samuel H. Daroff | Philadelphia, Pa. |
| Melvin Dubinsky | St. Louis, Mo. |
| Max M. Fisher | Detroit, Mich. |

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. Israel Goldstein | New York City |
| Dr. Nahum Goldmann | " " " |
| Abraham Goodman | " " " |
| Dr. Dov Joseph | Jerusalem, Israel |
| Mrs. Rose L. Halprin | New York City |
| Rabbi Mordecai Kirshblum | Brooklyn, New York |
| Philip M. Klutznick | Chicago, Ill. |
| Albert A. Levin | Cleveland, Ohio |
| Joseph M. Mazer | New York City |
| Joseph Meyerhoff | Baltimore, Md. |
| Dr. Emanuel Neumann | New York City |
| Louis Segal | " " " |
| Philip Stollman | Detroit, Mich. |
| Dewey D. Stone | Brockton, Mass. |
| Ralph Wechsler | Newark, N.J. |
| Jack D. Weiler | New York City |

In the event of inability or unwillingness to serve, any one of these members would be replaced by another person designated unanimously by the Board of Directors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. from within the groups which make up the UIA.

The nominations were approved unanimously.

Mr. Stone explained that between meetings of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., an Executive Committee, to be selected by the Board from among its members, would carry on the work of the organization. He anticipated that the new body would have to deal with allocations amounting to some 50 million dollars a year, and stressed that all those nominated to serve as directors were prepared to give to this responsibility all of the time and energy necessary to fully discharge the challenge and opportunity of this new arrangement. He expressed the hope that all members of the UIA Board and all of the Zionist organizations would give the Board its full support and cooperation. He promised to keep the UIA Board fully advised on the activities of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc.

Mr. Berinstein expressed his appreciation of the action taken by the Board and wished the Directors elect of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., success in their endeavors.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

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