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Jewish National Fund, 1936-1937.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF AMERICA

קרן קימת לישראל
Keren Kayemeth Le Israel, Inc.
111 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

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October 13th, 1936

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Enclosed herewith is a reply to the joint letter that you and Mr. Berne sent to us sometime ago.

We have since taken up the matter with the Cleveland Committee, and it is our understanding that they do not anticipate undertaking a city-wide tree campaign.

You know, as a close friend of the Jewish National Fund, that our regular activities must continue as heretofore. In the adoption of a program for the country at large, naturally some of the Welfare Funds are affected, and that explains, undoubtedly, the situation in Cleveland.

The Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland has been very fair with the United Palestine Appeal, of which we are a beneficiary, and naturally we do not wish to antagonize any of the men interested in the Federation.

We are writing again to the Cleveland Committee and hope that there will be no difficulty in straightening out the matter to the satisfaction of all of us.

With cordial regards.

Yours faithfully

Mendel N. Fisher
MENDEL N. FISHER

The aim of the Jewish National Fund is to redeem the soil of Palestine as the inalienable property of the Jewish People

MNF/ES

October 13th, 1936

Mr. Joseph M. Berne, President
The Jewish Welfare Federation
1900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Berne:

As a beneficiary of the Jewish Welfare Federation we are most eager to cooperate with you in every way possible. I hardly need to say that we wish to respect the rules and regulations laid down by the Federation.

In the matter of the Jewish National Fund, a co-partner with the United Palestine Appeal, you are undoubtedly familiar with the fact that the Jewish National Fund, in addition to being a participating agency in the United Palestine Appeal, also carries on its regular traditional collections as heretofore. In communities where our organization receives allocations from Welfare Funds we have made it clear that in addition to the amount we receive through the Welfare Fund, our regular work, such as box collections, Flower Day, Flag Day, etc., must be carried on as heretofore.

A misunderstanding must have developed in Cleveland with regard to the special solicitation about which you wrote us recently. You must have in mind our special tree effort. In the announcement made of our tree action to replace the slaughtered trees in Palestine, we did not intend this as a city-wide campaign, and therefore, did not anticipate the difficulty that has been raised in your community. This was intended as a regular action in which the Jewish National Fund Councils throughout the land would participate.

Upon the receipt of your communication we communicated with our committee in Cleveland, and have since been informed that it is their plan not to conduct a city-wide tree action, but to complete a project undertaken a long time ago, to establish a grove

Mr. Joseph M. Berne, President
The Jewish Welfare Federation
1900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio

October 13th, 1936

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in Palestine. Such an effort will not be in the nature of a campaign.

We are vitally concerned that the instrumentality you have established in your community for the raising of funds for local, national and overseas needs, should receive the cooperation of all agencies included in your Welfare Fund, of which we are one.

If it should develop that we should desire to have a special solicitation we will, of course, consult you and your distinguished chairman of the Welfare Fund, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

I trust that this communication will clarify the situation.

Sincerely yours,

MMF/ES



ARCI MENDEL M. FISHER

הקונסיל של קרן הקימת לישראל דקליבלנד, אה"י

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

926 EAST 105TH STREET

CLEVELAND, O.

November 1, 1936

Samuel Ismach, President
Mrs. C. Weidenthal, Vice-President
Mrs. L. Siegel, Vice-President
Samuel Katz, Vice-President
Harry Epstein, Treasurer
Miss Ethel Rubinstein, Secretary
Ben Bloom, Financial Secretary

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

Achduth Habonim
Achyoph Jerusalem Mizrachi
Avukah
B'nith Mizrachi
Cleveland Zionist District
Cleveland Lodge B'nai Brith
Cleveland Zionist Society
Central Junior Hadassah
English Speaking Poale Zion, No. 2
Heights Temple Sisterhood
Hadassah Chapter of Cleveland
Heights B'nai Brith Ladie's Auxiliary
Heights B'nai Brith, No. 1152
Hapoel Hamizrachi
Heights Junior Hadassah
Hashomer Hazoir
Jewish Center Sisterhood
Jewish National Fund Women's Committee
Jewish National Workers Alliance, No. 45
Jewish National Workers Alliance, No. 191
Keren Hayesod Women's League
Judea
League for Labor Palestine
L'ma'an Zion Club
Mizrachi Council
Masada
National Workers Alliance Ladies Auxiliary
Pioneer Women's Organization, No. 1
Pioneer Women's Organization, No. 2
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion
Pioneer Women's Chapter, No. 3
Young Judea
Young Israel
Zionist Study Group

Dear Friend:

May I have the pleasure of notifying you that at a meeting following the Palestine Tree Memorial Conference at the Jewish Center, which was represented by Zionist and non-Zionist organizations, you were unanimously elected as a member of the Palestine Cleveland Forest Committee.

The object of this committee is to carry out the project of planting in Palestine a forest consisting of 5000 trees, which will be designated as a Cleveland Forest, and which will serve as a tribute to the twentieth anniversary of the Cleveland Jewish National Fund Council.

The first meeting of the committee of 100 will be held this coming Wednesday, November 4th, at 8:00 P.M., at the Jewish National Fund headquarters, 926 E. 105 St. At this meeting reports will be given on what has been accomplished to date on this project and further arrangements will be made.

On that evening we will also celebrate the 19th anniversary of Balfour Day. RABBI ISRAEL PORATH, well-known lecturer, will speak on "THE STATUS OF THE JEW TODAY UNDER THE BALFOUR DECLARATION".

Another interesting feature of this meeting will be an exhibit of Palestinian art production.

Hoping for your prompt attendance at this meeting, I am

With Zion greetings

Samuel Ismach
Samuel Ismach, Chairman ER

SI:ER

Joseph Weiss
Jewish National Fund



Private and Confidential

To the Members of the
Board of Directors of the J.N.F.

The attached correspondence constitutes the record of a recent incident which revealed a looseness in the management of the Jewish National Fund that calls for remedial action. I am making this record available in full so that you may have all the facts upon which to base your judgment.

To those to whom my name may be unknown, I desire to state that prior to my departure for Palestine over four years ago, I had been for many years an active participant in Zionist affairs, serving as associate treasurer of the J.N.F., as member of the finance committee of the Zionist Organization of America and as treasurer of the Keren Hayesod in Flatbush.

Joseph Weiss

190 E. 17th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y.
January 22, 1937

Mr. Louis P. Rucker
15 Broad Street
New York City

My dear Mr. Rucker:

Knowing of your active participation in the Jewish National Fund, particularly your connection with its Finance Committee, either as a member or as Chairman, I write to you concerning a matter which I will appreciate if you will investigate and let me know your findings.

Some six months ago, while on my way to Europe on the Queen Mary, I was instrumental in having a Jewish National Fund function on the boat and served as treasurer. For two days I approached various people and finally I succeeded in collecting approximately \$160. After the meeting, I turned the money over to Mr. Mendel Fisher.

As you probably are aware, I went from Europe to Palestine and I did not get back to this country until a month or so ago. Since my return, I have been embarrassed on a few occasions by people approaching me and wanting to know why they never received a receipt for the Jewish National Fund money they gave me. By the way, the money was supposed to be contributed for trees, and every one was promised a Tree Certificate.

You can readily understand the unpleasantness this matter has caused me, especially in view of the fact that I served as the treasurer of the committee.

I consider this a very serious matter, and I therefore want you to give it your personal attention.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Weiss

LOUIS P. ROCKER
15 Broad St.
New York

January 27, 1937

Mr. Joseph Weiss
190 E. 17 th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Weiss:

In answer to your letter dated January 22nd, 1937, I hasten to inform you that I have thoroughly investigated every phase of the matter discussed therein by you and find that everything is absolutely in perfect order. Having satisfied myself as to the facts, I will hereby consider the matter closed.

With kind personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Louis P. Rocker

LPR: SS.

190 E. 17th Street
Brooklyn, New York
January 29, 1937

Mr. Louis P. Rucker
15 Broad Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Rucker:

I am in receipt of your letter dated January 27th which is a reply to my letter to you of the 22nd, in which I called to your notice what seemed to me and still appears to be a very serious situation in the handling of Keren Kayemeth monies.

Your brief note, I regret to say, is not a satisfactory explanation of the situation and I cannot share your view that "the matter is closed". You really cannot expect me to accept the categorical statement that "everything is absolutely in perfect order", when to this day those who made cash contributions for trees some six months ago have not yet obtained their receipts. You admitted in a telephone conversation with me that there was no record in the books of the Jewish National Fund of the cash collected on the Queen Mary having been turned in by Mr. Fisher. If there is an explanation for this highly irregular procedure, I am entitled to know it and the others who contributed to the collection and failed to get receipts or certificates should know it.

It is far from my mind to engage in any activity which may lead to public discredit of the J.N.F., but I am equally determined not to gloss over any facts, however unpleasant, which may call for drastic action. I, too, should like to be convinced that everything is in "perfect order" and if you are in possession of such facts as will cause me to accept this conclusion, you ought to make them available.

With Zion's greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Weiss

P.S. I am sending copies of our exchange of correspondence to the other members of the J.N.F. Finance Committee.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
OF AMERICA
111 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK

January 28, 1937

Mr. Joseph Weiss
190 E. 17th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I have before me the original draft of the letter which I dictated to you on September 10th acknowledging the receipt of \$147.50 collected on the Queen Mary for the Jewish National Fund. Mr. Fisher conveyed this information as well as the accounts to us upon his return from abroad. Our letter of acknowledgment, however, though dictated, was not sent to you because we learned that you were not going to be here.

Now that you are back to New York, may I take this belated opportunity to tell you how grateful we are to you for having cooperated so splendidly with Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Goldberg and the others in securing this amount for the Jewish National Fund.

According to our records, you personally contributed \$5.00 to the Tree Fund. You will receive from our office a tree certificate under separate cover, in the same manner as the others of your group who have made tree contributions and whose addresses we have.

Assuring you again of our appreciation of your steadfast interest in the work of Geulah Ha'aretz, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Israel Goldstein
President

190 E. 17th Street
Brooklyn, New York
February 3, 1937

Dr. Israel Goldstein, President
Jewish National Fund
270 W. 89th Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

I acknowledge your letter of January 28th which was received yesterday.

While appreciating your expressions of gratitude, I want to assure you that I do not expect any particular thanks for anything I am able to do in behalf of the Jewish National Fund.

Your letter, as you are not unaware, was written several days after I had made an inquiry of the reasons why the money collected on the Queen Mary and entrusted to Mr. Fisher had not been promptly turned in to the Treasury of the Jewish National Fund, and why the respective donors had not received acknowledgments and Tree Certificates as they had been promised. They were not all out of the country since September 10th, and I am sure that the headquarters of the Jewish National Fund does not as a matter of general practice ascertain in advance whether anyone making a contribution is in town before sending him a receipt, or is in the habit of waiting five months until somebody demands an accounting of the monies given before it puts its books in order.

It is quite obvious that there is something radically wrong with the internal management of the Jewish National Fund which permits a situation like this to exist. If you knew on September 10th that an amount of money was collected for the Jewish National Fund, it seems to me that you should not have waited until January 28th to direct your office to send out acknowledgments. The admission of this fact actually proves that someone in the office of the Jewish National Fund has been criminally negligent in the handling of public monies.

I have made this information available to the members of the Finance Committee of the Jewish National Fund, and I look for prompt action to remedy the situation.

With Zion's greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Weiss

190 E. 17th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y.
January 31, 1937

Rabbi I. M. Kowalsky
Chairman, J.N.F. Finance Committee
10 W. 28th Street
New York City

Dear Rabbi Kowalsky:

I enclose herewith copies of correspondence
with Mr. Louis Rucker relative to a matter involving the
finances of the J.N.F.

I am making this correspondence available to
you and the other members of the J.N.F. Finance Committee
for such action as is required in the circumstances.

With Zion's greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Weiss

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
OF AMERICA

111 Fifth Avenue New York

February 2, 1937

Mr. Joseph Weiss
190 E. 17th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Weiss:

Your letter addressed to the members
of the Finance Committee received attention at
our meeting this afternoon.

May I ask you to be present next
Tuesday afternoon, February 9th, 1937, at 5 P.M.
in the Board Room of the Jewish National Fund,
when the matter will be given further consideration.

Very truly yours,
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

(signed) Rabbi I. M. Kowalsky
Chairman, Finance Committee

IMK:MS

190 E. 17th St.
Brooklyn, New York
February 3, 1937

Rabbi I. M. Kowalsky
Chairman, Finance Committee, J.N.F.
10 W. 28th Street
New York

Dear Rabbi Kowalsky:

I have your letter of the 2d inst. asking me to appear at the next meeting of your committee next Tuesday, when you say, further consideration will be given to the matter I previously brought to your notice.

I fail to see what you can discover at another meeting in addition to what you already know. The facts are clear and uncontested:

1. That a J.N.F. collection was taken up on the "Queen Mary" last August.
2. That the money thus collected was entrusted to Mr. Fisher.
3. That Mr. Fisher failed to turn in to the bookkeeper or the cashier the cash collected.
4. That no receipts or Tree Certificates were sent to the contributors for the reason that the books of the J.N.F. had no record of the collection.
5. That only after I had made an inquiry on Jan. 22, relative to this collection, that an attempt was made by Mr. Fisher to account for the money entrusted to him and on that basis to issue acknowledgments to the contributors.

All this you already know. Have the members of the Finance Committee so little regard for the integrity of the Jewish National Fund that after knowing all these facts they can calmly sit by and wait for the "next meeting"? I for one will not submit to any dilatory tactics or be a party to a "whitewash". If you insist that I appear personally before the committee, I shall do so, but I ask that the meeting be convened on Friday.

With Zion's Greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Weiss

Dr. L. GLUSHAK
1 West 85th STREET
New York City

Phone Susquehanna 7-1144

February 9, 1937

Mr. J. Weiss
Slepack & Co.
Empire State Building
34th Street
New York City

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing the receipt for \$10.00 which I received from the Jewish National Fund after a strenuous request for an accounting of a donation which I made at a special meeting on the Queen Mary on the trip to Geneva.

Mr. Goldberg, who presided at this meeting, made an appeal for a donation for trees. I donated \$4.50 for three trees, one for each of my children.

As a frequent contributor to the National Fund, the idea struck me that some neglect on the part of the office must have occurred, in that no receipt for the above donation was remitted, therefore wrote two letters during the months of November and December; the second in December, as I had received no reply to the first one. I am sorry I do not possess copies of these letters. In reply to the second letter I was sent the enclosed receipt. At the time it appeared to me rather embarrassing, since I could not remember donating \$10.00. I figured at that time that there must have been a mix-up in the accounts, and as long as no certificate had been sent to me I forgot about the entire matter, waiting for the certificates.

This is the first time that I have encountered such irregularity in the National Fund moneys. As an old Zionist I severely condemn any slovenliness in office management of the Jewish National Fund. You can rest assured that this will not get any publicity, but at the same time I beg of you to look carefully into the matter and deal with it most severely, as it is too holy a cause to allow any tampering with.

With my best wishes for the continued success of the organization, I am,

Sincerely,

L. GLUSHAK

MEMORANDUM BY JOSEPH WEISS CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT
OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE J. N. F.
FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 12, 1937

On Tuesday evening, February 9th, I attended a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Jewish National Fund, at which were present Rabbi I. M. Kowalsky, Louis P. Rucker, Louis Rimsky, Samuel Markewich and Rabbi Israel Goldstein.

I submitted to the committee my charges that the collection made for the Jewish National Fund on the "Queen Mary" last August, which was turned over to Mendel Fisher, Executive Director, had not been properly accounted for, and I substantiated the following charges:

1. Fisher alleges that he wrote a memorandum upon his return, setting forth the facts of the collection. The fact is, however, that even if a memorandum were written, it was his private secret, not having been handed to the only person concerned with it, namely, the bookkeeper. If a copy of the memorandum was put somewhere in the file without the original having been handed to the bookkeeper, it would appear that Fisher attempted to cover up a grievous omission.
2. Additional proof of my assertion that there was mishandling of funds is evident by the fact that another contributor to the collection, Dr. Leopold Glushak, had twice written to the National Fund Office, in October and November, demanding a receipt, and it was in reply to his second letter that the Treasurer, Mr. Rimsky, was caused to send him a receipt acknowledging \$10.00, whereas Dr. Glushak had given a much smaller amount. Why weren't receipts sent to the other contributors at the same time, even though it was then four months too late?
3. While Dr. Glushak obtained a receipt for more than he actually contributed, it is a fact that others got receipts now (after my intervention) for less than they gave. My own case is an example.
4. It appears that in the recent names, after I had begun my inquiry, Mr. Fisher has made an attempt at restitution and he has done so by submitting an unitimized and unsupported expense account absorbing the major portion of the money which he had not turned in. I contend that this expense, if authorized and legitimate, should have been submitted immediately upon his return to the U.S. together with the list of contributors. He did neither one nor the other

and it is obviously an evil practice to submit an expense account six months after it was incurred on the basis of vague recollections, and to permit such an expense account to be accepted in lieu of money.

5. All these acts would have been serious offenses in the case of a minor official but in the case of the highest official - the head of the staff - they constitute a betrayal of trust, and in order to restore confidence in the administration of the finances, such methods and conditions cannot and should not be tolerated. A radical step is called for.

The committee, while admitting all my allegations which were substantiated by Miss Rosner, the bookkeeper, and by Miss Seuer, Mr. Fisher's secretary, who were called into the meeting for questioning, nevertheless attempted to condone Mr. Fisher's acts, ascribing them to "negligence". Mr. Markewich went so far as to say that he would not even term it "negligence", so long as a memorandum was in existence in the office (even though the original was not filed with the proper authority) which would justify Mr. Fisher's acts.

It became clear to me that the President of the Jewish National Fund and most of the members of the Finance Committee were determined to hush the matter up and to disregard the so-called "negligence" of the highest executive officer of the J. N. F.

Responding to a remark by me that such a situation could not have developed in the days when Mr. Rubin was secretary of the Jewish National Fund, Dr. Goldstein stated that there were charges of dishonesty during Mr. Rubin's incumbence of office, and Mr. Rocker added that Mr. Rubin was "dishonest", using also the term, "crook", in relation to Mr. Rubin.

I deeply resented these reflections on Mr. Rubin's integrity, stating that it was unfair to attack a man who is now in Palestine and has not a chance to defend himself. I further asserted that my confidence in Mr. Rubin was so great that I was going to demand that Mr. Rubin's accusers prove their charges.

When asked what recommendation I would make to dispose of the matter, I stated that it should be adjudicated by a committee in whom everybody had confidence. I suggested the names of Dr. Wise and Mr. Lipsky to serve on the committee. Rabbi Goldstein and Mr. Rocker immediately objected to the name of Mr. Lipsky.

Dr. Goldstein then suggested that this matter be referred to a committee composed of the heads of the Zionist parties. I stated that I reserve the right to make further suggestions with regard to the personnel of the committee.

At the beginning of the meeting, I asked that a record be kept of the proceedings and that I be furnished with a copy of the minutes. This request was denied.

On Thursday afternoon, February 11th, I went to the office of the Jewish National Fund in order to check up why the receipt issued to Dr. Glushak on September 9th was only sent out December 7th, and I learned from the bookkeeper that Dr. Glushak's receipt together with receipts for other checks which were then turned over by Mr. Fisher, were made out on September 9th but were not mailed because at the request of Mr. Fisher she turned over those receipts to him. I then asked Mr. Fisher to show me the correspondence with Dr. Glushak and the file revealed that Dr. Glushak had written indignant letters, one dated October 30, 1936 and the other, November 27, 1936 demanding a receipt, and that ten days after the second letter Mr. Fisher caused a receipt to be mailed to Dr. Glushak.

At the same time, Mr. Fisher admitted that none of the receipts which the bookkeeper turned over to him on September 9th had been mailed by him at that time, and that only after I had begun my investigation of the disposition of the money funds, he had sent out the balance of the receipts to those who gave checks as well as to the others who gave cash. These receipts were mailed at the beginning of February, 1937

In my discussion with Mr. Fisher, he admitted to me all the charges which I have made regarding the handling of the funds and said to me, "I am in your hands", and urged me to make a quick "decision". I suggested that possibly he wanted to see Dr. Wise and he replied that he will do so only if I accompanied him. I then stated that I would go with him to Dr. Wise, provided only if he were prepared to tell the entire truth and he replied that he would make "a clear confession of the whole thing".

The same day Dr. Wise was supposed to have been at a meeting at the U.P.A. headquarters, but he did not come and we were unable to see him. I do not know whether Mr. Fisher has since seen Dr. Wise privately.

190 E. 17th Street
Brooklyn, New York
February 26, 1937

Dr. Leopold Glushak
1 W. 85th Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Glushak:

I want to apologize to you for not writing to you sooner to acknowledge your letter and the receipt which you forwarded to me.

To acquaint you with the developments in the J.N.F. matter, I enclose herewith copy of a memorandum containing a statement of the proceedings of a meeting of the Finance Committee of the J.N.F. at which I appeared. Subsequently, there was a meeting of the Administrative Committee, at which I was not present but which acted substantially in the same manner as the Finance Committee, namely, attempted to cover up the entire matter by calling it "gross negligence" and refusing to do anything drastic to remedy an obviously rotten situation.

I feel that the interests of the Jewish National Fund will best be served by a continued effort to remove from responsible positions in the National Fund the people who permit irregularities and loose management. For the sake of the integrity of the Jewish National Fund, I am determined to continue this effort in which I hope other friends of the J.N.F. will join me.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Weiss

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
OF AMERICA

111 Fifth Avenue

New York

March 15, 1937

Mr. Joseph Weiss
190 East 17th Street
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Weiss:

At a meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Jewish National Fund your letter of March 1st was presented.

I was authorized to communicate with you to the effect that the matter you refer to received the careful consideration of the Administrative Committee, that the Administrative Committee has invited a Committee of Review consisting of the heads of the Zionist parties to review its findings and decisions, that the Committee of Review has met and has approved the findings of the Administrative Committee to the effect that the person in question has been guilty of negligence and should be reprimanded, but that no question can lie against his integrity and honor and that the Finance Committee of the Jewish National Fund has recommended several improvements in the control of the office which are also recommended by the Committee of Review, and which are being put into effect.

With this disposition of the matter, the Administrative Committee as well as the Committee of Review consider the matter as closed.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Israel Goldstein
President

ig:s

MARCH 3, 1937

A COMMITTEE OF REVIEW CONSISTING OF MR. LEON GELLMAN, DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN, MR. DAVID WERTEIM AND DR. STEPHEN S. WISE, MET AS A COMMITTEE OF REVIEW, INVITED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND TO REVIEW THE RESULTS ADOPTED BY IT WITH RESPECT TO A MATTER WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO IT FOR DECISION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Committee of Review is definitely and unanimously of the conviction that no question can lie as against the integrity and honor of Mr. Fisher. The Committee finds itself in entire agreement with the Administrative Committee in regretting that Mr. Fisher has been guilty of such negligence as has given occasion for unjustified suspicion with respect to the character of his act.

This committee joins very reluctantly in the criticism of Mr. Fisher that has been voiced by the Administrative Committee of the J.N.F.

After carefully considering all the problems suggested by the entire matter, this Committee of Review urges the J.N.F. Administrative and Finance Committees to consider the necessity of instructing all those in its employ and all those who in any way represent or are associated with the operations of the J.N.F. that all funds collected by anyone for the J.N.F. must be reported without any delay and without any deductions to the bookkeeper or controller of funds; and that all bills for expenses, large or small, must be presented simultaneously with the remittance of funds collected for the J.N.F.

The Administrative Committee of the J.N.F. is requested to keep before all the members of its staff in and out of New York the knowledge of the law that any variation of this rule shall be followed by instant dismissal.

This Committee of Review ventures to suggest to the Administrative Committee of the J.N.F. that it shall make arrangements within its own work for complete controllership of its funds, incoming and outgoing, this being the more necessary because no small part of the income of the J.N.F. accrues in cash.

190 E. 17th Street
Brooklyn, New York
March 19, 1937

Dr. Israel Goldstein
270 W. 89th Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

I have your letter of March 15th, informing me of the action taken by the Administrative Committee of the Jewish National Fund as well as by the Committee of Review in the matter of the specific complaint I made with regard to the handling of J.N.F. monies by the Executive Director of the J.N.F., Mr. Fisher.

It would have been the correct procedure for you to make available to me copies of the official record of the decision of the Administrative Committee and of the Committee of Review, but it is in keeping with your evasive attitude all through the proceedings to withhold the record from me. However, I have had access to a copy of the statement by the Committee of Review, and I want to make the following observations, which are not to be found in your letter to me:

1. That the statement confirms the truth of all the charges I made;
2. That while the Committee found Mr. Fisher to have been guilty of "negligence" meriting a "reprimand", it considers these "negligent" acts of Mr. Fisher sufficiently serious to forbid them hereafter and to make any employee who may in the future commit similar acts, subject to instant dismissal.

Further comment on the report of the Committee is unnecessary, except to add that you, as an interested party, had no legal or moral right to sit in as a member of the Committee of Review. Your interest from the very beginning was to cover up the matter and to make it appear that I was merely a trouble-maker, making a "bilbul" upon an innocent man and seeking to discredit the administration of the J.N.F.

There is no need for me to defend my acts. I was acting in the best interests of the J.N.F. and the subsequent developments, as well as the decisions of the various committees which examined my charges amply established this fact. (This, despite your attempt to exert undue influence upon the Administrative Committee and your unwarranted participation in the deliberations of the Committee of Review.) But the record is not very creditable to you. You have discredited yourself by your own acts. Instead of welcoming honest criticism, you resorted to obstruction and evasion. The irregularities were uncovered in spite of you and after

assurances that everything was in good order. And there is evidence of other irregularities in the J.N.F. which will be presented in due time.

You say now that the matter is closed. You mean that you would like it to be closed. I can assure you, however, that it will not be closed, so long as there will not be honesty and fair dealing in the administration of the J.N.F. Despite the widely publicized reports of your great achievements for the J.N.F. (which shrink considerably upon close scrutiny), I consider you disqualified now to institute the "improvements" which you did your utmost to resist.

Very truly yours,

Joseph Weiss



Jewish National Fund Women's Committee

Cleveland, Ohio

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

Senior Hadassah
Junior Hadassah
Keren Hayesod Women's Club
Senior Pioneers
Junior Pioneers
Women's Group National
Workers Alliance
Mizrachi Women's Organization
Zionist Study Group
L'Maan Zion Club



COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS:

Cleveland B'nai B'rith
Heights B'nai B'rith
Heights Temple Sisterhood
Jewish Center Sisterhood
Jewish Day Nursery

February 9, 1937.

Rabbi A.H. Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The enclosed report indicates the results of the Arbor Day project in the schools of Greater Cleveland.

Mrs. Weidenthal, Chairman of the Jewish National Fund Women's Committee, joins me in expressing our appreciation to you for your influence in bringing about the splendid response of the Temple Religious School this year.

Your cooperation has been most gratifying to us and we look forward to working with you again.

Very sincerely,

Fannie L. Medini

Fannie L. Medini (Mrs.M.)
Arbor Day Chairman.

9003 Kempton avenue.

ARBOR DAY - 1937

REPORT OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND WOMEN'S COMMITTEE - CLEVELAND, OHIO

NAME	NO. OF TREES	AMOUNT
Ansel Road Temple	104	\$156.00
Bellefaire	8	12.56
Bialik School	19	28.50
<u>CLEVELAND HEBREW SCHOOLS</u>		
Center Branch - - - - - 21 -		\$32.74
Columbia " - - - - - 34 -		51.00
Lakeview " - - - - - 72 -		109.05
Mt. Pleasant - - - - - 11 -		17.05
Kinsman " - - - - - 8 -		12.00
Rikoff " - - - - - 11 -		16.60
	159	238.50
<u>COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE</u>		
E. 105th Branch - - - - - 10 -		15.00
Mt. Pleasant " - - - - - 7 -		10.56
	17	25.56
<u>COUNCIL RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS</u>		
Columbia Branch - - - - - 28 -		43.10
East 55th " - - - - - 2 -		3.00
Lakeview " - - - - - 32 -		48.00
Mt. Pleasant " - - - - - 26 -		38.83
St. Clair " - - - - - 3 -		5.06
	91	137.99
Community Temple	16	25.00
Euclid Avenue Temple	123	184.50
Heights Orthodox Congregation	7	10.50
Jewish Center	50	75.62
Kinsman Jewish Center	7	11.26
Nevai Zedek Congregation	5	8.68
Oheb Zedek Congregation	17	26.21
Shomrai Hadath Congregation	18	27.80
Temple on the Heights	69	104.68
Yeshivath Adath B'nai Israel	14	21.00
Young Poale Zion Club	2	3.00
	728	\$1097.36



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JEWISH NATIONAL FUND CAMPAIGN ON LARGE SCALE TO BE LAUNCHED SOUTH
AFRICA SHORTLY STOP USSISHKIN CABLED URGING THAT I INVITE YOU
VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE LATEST AFTER PESACH
REMAINING THERE MINIMUM ONE MONTH STOP JOIN HEARTILY IN INVITATION
YOUR ACCEPTANCE WOULD BE GREAT SERVICE TO KEREN KAYMETH
PLEASE WIRE REPLY=

ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN.

Telephone Your Telegrams to **Postal Telegraph**

February 26, 1937

Dr. Israel Goldstein, President,
The Jewish National Fund,
111 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Goldstein:

Let me thank you for your telegram with reference to Ussishkin's invitation to me to visit South Africa in behalf of the Jewish National Fund. Mr. Ussishkin made a similar request of me two or three years ago. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to comply with this request to help the Fund. I should also like to visit and become acquainted with the South African Jewish community. However, you realize of course that this is quite impossible. I cannot leave my post for so long a period of time. I am tied down not merely by congregational duties which continue through May, but also by the Welfare Fund Campaign in this community of which I am chairman and which we shall launch in May as well as by numerous other campaigns throughout the country whose initial meetings I shall have to attend.

You realize, yourself, how difficult it is to get away. I have tried twice to induce you to come to Cleveland for one evening to address an important Zionist meeting and both times you found it impossible to get away. Please express my profound regrets to Mr. Ussishkin and the hope that at some future time I may be of service.

Incidentally, I wish to say that I have received very little cooperation from the national headquarters of the J.N.F. and unless the attitude changes, your headquarters should count on very little cooperation from me. Some time ago when Ittamar ben Avi visited Cleveland in behalf of the Jewish National Fund, the Cleveland Zionist Society, of which I am president, requested that he also address its meeting which was held during the period of his visit. That request was denied on the ground that Mr. Ben Avi lectures only in the interest of the reforestation project of the Jewish National Fund. What an amazing and stupid explanation that was - as if addressing a meeting of five to six hundred Zionists, even when not called together for the specific reforestation project, would not have resulted in real good

February 26.

to the Jewish National Fund.

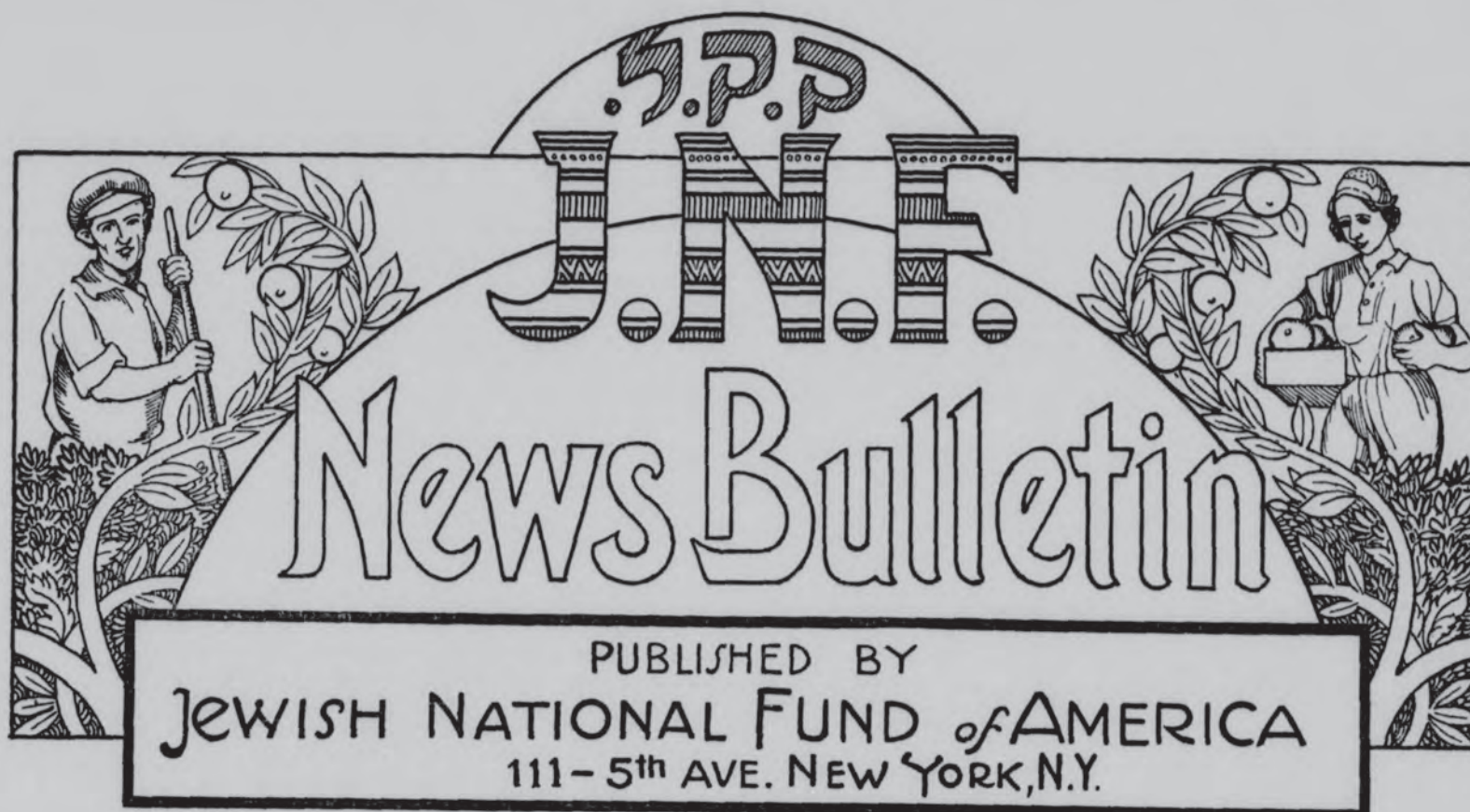
More recently, I requested national headquarters to let us have the Palestinian picture which it has to display, to show at our Purim celebration (which, by the way, was held last evening and was tremendously successful). When I was in New York, I personally telephoned Mr. Rodensky about the matter and I assumed that we would have the picture especially since we offered to make a substantial contribution to the J.N.F. for the use of it. But we did not get the picture. It was left to some local politicians in Cleveland to decide the matter. Instead of that, I procured the new Palestinian picture "Pioneers", and the \$100 which would have gone to the Jewish National Fund went to a private organization. The Board of the Cleveland Zionist Society, in resentment, withdrew its representation on the Cleveland Jewish National Fund Council.

I write you all this only that you might advise your office staff not to expect any cooperation from me until there is evidenced a readiness on their part loyally to cooperate with me.

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

P.S. One of the leading members of the Cleveland Zionist Society and a foremost worker in Jewish National Fund work in Cleveland recently spoke to Mr. Rodensky about the contribution of the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund to the Jewish National Fund. Mr. Rodensky evidently gave a most distorted account of how much the Jewish National Fund actually receives from the United Campaign in Cleveland. Others in the local National Fund Council are spreading a rumor, for reasons which are known only to themselves, that the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund is giving practically nothing to the National Fund. You know, of course, that \$60,000 was raised in the 1936 U.P.A. campaign and that \$45,000 has already been forwarded to New York. It seems to me that you ought to notify your representatives here in Cleveland in unmistakable terms that out of the \$60,000, the Jewish National Fund will have received, by the end of the fiscal year, \$30,000. As you know, I am chairman of the Jewish Welfare Fund and I must protect the integrity of the Fund.



VOL. II

February - 1937

No. 4

CALL FOR J.N.F. 35TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE
FINDS WIDE ECHO

Pittsburgh and Los Angeles First Communities
To Launch Action on Huleh Project
- - -

The development of the Huleh Zone, Northern Palestine, as an area for compact Jewish settlement on the land, as a project marking the 35th Anniversary of the Keren Kayemeth and first proclaimed by the Jewish National Fund of America, has become the major task of the Palestine Land Fund in the near future.

Advices received from Jerusalem state that due to the completion of arrangements with the EMICA and ICA regarding the drainage of the Huleh Concession Area, a broad program for the development of the Huleh Zone has been adopted.

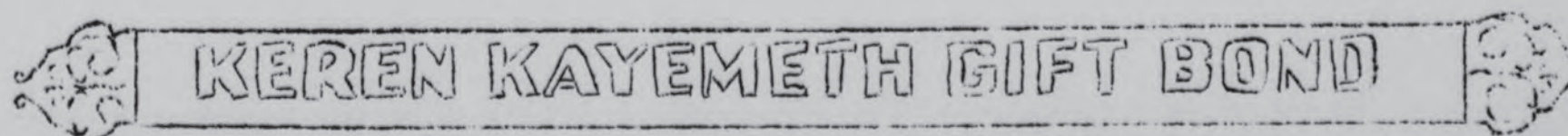
"THE FUND-RAISING EFFORTS OF THE KEREN KAYEMETH FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS WILL BE LARGELY CONCENTRATED ON THE RECLAMATION AND REDEMPTION OF THE HULEH", the advices state.

The call sounded by the National Administration of the Keren Kayemeth in this country in the early part of January to dedicate 1937 as a period of the observance of the J.N.F.'s 35th Anniversary and the furtherance of the Huleh Project, has found a wide echo in many sections of American Jewry. Interest in the observance of the Anniversary through special functions and supplementary fund-raising efforts is widespread. It is indicated in press comment and in plans now under way in various communities for the launching of special 35th Anniversary actions.

PITTSBURGH, PA. AND LOS ANGELES, CAL. ARE AMONG THE VANGUARD FORCES IN THE ANNIVERSARY HULEH PROJECT. PITTSBURGH ZIONISTS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LOCAL J.N.F. COUNCIL OF WHICH DR. M. B. LICHTENSTEIN IS CHAIRMAN, HELD A PRELIMINARY BANQUET AT WHICH MR. ITTAMAR BEN AVI WAS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AND AT WHICH THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000. WAS CONTRIBUTED UNDER THE HULEH GIFT BOND PLAN.

A CITY-WIDE CONFERENCE, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF 160 DELEGATES REPRESENTING MANY ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS IN LOS ANGELES, REVIEWED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE KEREN KAYEMETH DURING THE PAST 34 YEARS AND DECIDED TO ARRANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE A CITY-WIDE FUNCTION, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH SHALL BE APPLIED TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF HULEH GIFT BONDS.

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SUGGESTED AS PURIM GIFTS TO ERETZ ISRAEL ..

Land ... Drainage ... Water ... and Afforestation ... as appropriate Purim gifts to Eretz Israel are the suggestions conveyed to American Zionists and to numerous American Jews unaffiliated with Zionist groups or organizations in the annual Purim appeal broadcast by the Jewish National Fund Bureau in America.

A generous response to this appeal was confidently expected as the returns began pouring in well in advance of Purim which occurs on Wednesday evening, February 24th.

Departing from the routine of the Purim appeal in previous years, J.N.F. Councils, at the initiative of headquarters, have in many communities instituted the method of presenting to selected groups Keren Kayemeth souvenirs (such as a Keren Kayemeth book-mark, and the reproduction of a full-size Megillah appropriately inscribed) and Palestine-made half-pound boxes of candy as Purim gifts from Eretz Israel in exchange for which the recipients are expected to contribute their Purim gifts towards the cause of Land Redemption.

In his Purim appeal enclosed with the Keren Kayemeth Purim gifts, as well as with the traditional Jewish National Fund Purim receipt booklet, Dr. Israel Goldstein, President of the Fund, stated:

"A flood of hatred and persecution, like in the days of Haman and Esther, is rising against many sections of our people. To stem the tide, the Jewish will must be bent on preserving and extending the positive values in Jewish life. As never before, the energies of the Jewish people are engaged in the constructive task of upbuilding the Jewish National Home in Palestine. In this upbuilding work, LAND ... DRAINAGE ... WATER ... and AFFORESTATION ... are indispensable essentials. These four objectives are being attained through the realization of the Jewish National Fund's program of Palestine Land Redemption.

"In the spirit of the approaching Purim festival, which is marked by the traditional exchange of gifts (Shalach Monos), the Jewish National Fund appeals to you: **HELP THE CAUSE OF PALESTINE LAND REDEMPTION WITH YOUR PURIM GIFT.**"



NEW BOX PLAN DECIDED FOR U.S.

National Registry of Box-Holders Instituted; Palestine Trips to Box-Holders to be Awarded on Basis of \$5. Yield

A new plan for the distribution, maintenance of a permanent record and clearance of the Blue-White Boxes in Jewish communities throughout the country, has been determined upon and will be put into operation in connection with the forthcoming semi-annual box clearance season during Passover week.

Announcement of the decision was made by Dr. Israel Goldstein, President of the Jewish National Fund of America, following a thorough study of the box problem and a resolution on the subject adopted by the National Administrative Committee of the Keren Kayemeth.

Box Survey Planned

Interesting facts and figures were brought to light as a result of the study. It disclosed that in the period between January 1st, 1926 to January 1st, 1937, there have been distributed by Jewish National Fund Councils, Committees and individual volunteers approximately 250,000 boxes in all parts of the United States. New York City is the only community where an up-to-date record of the boxes distributed and functioning is available to the National Office.

WHILE THE TOTAL MADE AVAILABLE BY AMERICAN JEWS FOR PALESTINE LAND REDEMPTION THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE BLUE-WHITE BOX HAS AMOUNTED, BETWEEN 1927 and 1937 TO \$427,600.75, IT WAS CALCULATED THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE AVERAGE YIELD PER BOX IN THE UNITED STATES HAS AMOUNTED TO APPROXIMATELY 25¢ PER ANNUM.

With a view to increasing the average box yield and to stimulating interest in the American Jewish home in the upbuilding of Eretz Israel in general and the Keren Kayemeth task in particular, the Administration decided, as a first step:

TO CARRY OUT A SPECIAL SURVEY OF THE BOX SITUATION IN ALL PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES WITH A VIEW TO ASCERTAINING THE EXACT NUMBER OF BLUE-WHITE BOXES FUNCTIONING IN HOMES OR IN OFFICES AND RECOVERING THOSE BOXES WHICH HAVE BEEN "LOST" IN PRIVATE HOMES OR IN BULK IN COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS.

Features of New Plan

The Administration further decided:

- (1) TO INSTITUTE AND MAINTAIN AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AN UP-TO-DATE RECORD OF ALL J.N.F. BOX HOLDERS.
- (2) TO INSTITUTE AND TO ANNOUNCE A SYSTEM OF AWARDED FREE ROUND TRIPS TO PALESTINE TO BOX HOLDERS. SUCH AWARDS ARE TO BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF ONE TRIP FOR EACH 1,000 BOX HOLDERS WHOSE BOXES YIELDED DURING THE YEAR PRECEDING THE CLEARANCE, AT LEAST \$5.00.
- (3) TO INTRODUCE A SYSTEM OF CHARGING 15¢ (Cost Price) FOR A BOX. SUCH CHARGES ARE TO BE MADE AGAINST THE J.N.F. COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES UPON SHIPMENT. PROSPECTIVE BOX HOLDERS ARE TO BE REQUESTED, AT THE TIME OF INSTALLATION, FOR THE PAYMENT OR A CONTRIBUTION OF 15¢ FOR THE BOX AS AN INDICATION OF THEIR READINESS TO "FEED" AND TO KEEP THE BOX WITH DUE CARE.

Detailed Plan in Preparation

The plan, in all its details, is now being completed and will be forwarded to all J.N.F. councils and committees with a request for implementing it in connection with the forthcoming semi-annual box clearance during Pessover week.

Yearly Yield Listed

The following table shows the box yield per year during the period 1927 - 1936:

	<u>October to October</u>
1927	\$ 46,001.02
1928	55,522.96
1929	56,438.35
1930	58,596.12
1931	50,261.04
1932	31,766.48
1933	26,763.05
1934	20,084.76
1935	34,961.70
1936	47,205.27
Total for the ten-year period	<u>\$427,600.75</u>

B'NAI B'RITH REMITS \$15,000 ON ACCOUNT OF \$100,000 GRANT FOR LAND TRACT

Hon. Alfred M. Cohen, President of the B'nai B'rith, has remitted to Jewish National Fund headquarters a check in the amount of \$15,000 as the initial payment on account of the \$100,000. grant made by that fraternal organization to the Keren Kayemeth for the redemption of a 4,000 dunam land tract in the Beisan Region, Palestine, for the establishment thereon of the B'nai B'rith colony which is to bear the name "B'nai B'rith Nachlath Alfred M. Cohen".

The agreement between the B'nai B'rith and the Jewish National Fund, dated November 18th, 1936, stipulates that the \$100,000. grant is to be remitted in seven annual instalments. The last instalment is to be remitted on November 15th, 1942, the eve of B'nai B'rith's One Hundredth Anniversary Jubilee.

I.O.B.A. SEEKS \$25,000. FUND FOR PALESTINE LAND REDEMPTION

To Contribute Amount to J.N.F. for 1,000 Dunam Land Tract.

Members of the Independent Order Brith Abraham, which has its headquarters

requested to "give or raise" a minimum of \$1.00 toward the \$25,000. fund which is to be presented to the Keren Kayemeth for the purchase of a 1,000 dunam tract of land in Palestine.

The decision to raise this sum through voluntary contributions among the membership was incorporated in a resolution adopted by the 1936 Convention of the Order with a view to linking the name of the I.O.B.A. with the upbuilding of Palestine through naming the tract to be acquired "Nachlath I.O.B.A."

Max Silverstein, Grand Master, and Max L. Hollander, Grand Secretary, of the fraternal organization, in a communication dated February 12th, presented to the I.O.B.A. lodges a plan of action under which this amount is to be raised between now and May 15th, 1937. Palestine functions, the proceeds of which shall be devoted towards the colony fund, are to be held in each lodge. Special booklets containing 10¢ receipts for distribution among the members and placement of J.N.F. boxes in the meeting rooms of each lodge are among the methods recommended to the lodges for raising the \$25,000. fund. A Chairman for the I.O.B.A. colony fund is to be appointed for each lodge to take charge of the fund-raising effort.

"The I.O.B.A., as the largest Jewish Fraternal Organization, must make a contribution to the Jewish National Home in Palestine. The establishment of the I.O.B.A. Nachlah is imperative. I call on all brothers and sisters to co-operate to the end that at the Golden Jubilee Convention, we shall have the funds to carry out the mandate of our 1936 Convention", states the appeal of the Grand Master.

- - - - -

U.S. COMMUNITIES CONTRIBUTE \$67,000. TO
J.N.F. CAMPAIGN FOR NEW TREE PLANTING

More land and more trees ... new trees to take the place of those wantonly destroyed during the recent disturbances in Palestine ... are potent sentiments among American Jews finding expression in a continuing response to the appeal for trees, launched by the Jewish National Fund of America in mid-summer.

This fact was again attested to as the total for tree contributions since July 1st, when the campaign was launched at the Z.O.A. Annual Convention at Providence, R. I., was reported by Mr. M. Rudensky to the last meeting of the Jewish National Fund Administrative Committee.

THE REPORT COVERING THE PERIOD BETWEEN JULY 1, 1936 TO FEBRUARY 1, 1937, SHOWS THE TOTAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS MADE FOR THE PLANTING OF NEW TREES TO AMOUNT TO \$67,000. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AMOUNTING TO \$20,000 WILL SOON BE REMITTED.

Communities Participating in Tree Planting

Remittances for tree planting have been received from the following communities:

Birmingham, Ala. - \$192.; Los Angeles, Cal. - \$3,728.89; San Francisco, Cal. - \$241.50; Danbury, Conn. - \$189.50; Hartford, Conn. - \$252.50; Meriden, Conn. - \$127.50; New Britain, Conn. - \$432.50; New Haven, Conn. - \$407.40; New London, Conn. - \$156.; Washington, D.C. - \$861.; Jacksonville, Fla. - \$145.50; Chicago, Ill. - \$7,057.08; Gary, Ind. - \$101.50; Hammond, Ind. - \$110.25; Indianapolis, Ind. - \$248.50; Des Moines, Ia. - \$240.; Sioux City, Ia. - \$150.; Baltimore, Md. - \$1,770.14; Boston, Mass. - \$3,201.10; Brockton, Mass. - \$382.50; Chelsea, Mass. - \$995.35; Holyoke, Mass. - \$159.; Malden, Mass. - \$141.; New Bedford, Mass. - \$262.50; Winthrop, Mass. - \$225.; Worcester, Mass. - \$109.50; Detroit, Mich. - \$1,833.50; Escanaba, Mich. - \$141.; Minneapolis, Minn. - \$326.50; St. Paul, Minn. - \$169.57; Kansas City, Mo. - \$198.86; St. Louis, Mo. - \$779.; Nashua, N.H. - \$131.85; Atlantic City, N.J. - \$149.; Camden, N.J. - \$138.; Jersey City, N.J. - \$170.60; Newark, N.J. - \$500.40; Paterson, N.J. - \$409.; Perth Amboy, N.J. - \$138.50; South Orange, N.J. - \$262.; West New York, N.J. - \$178.50; Buffalo, N.Y. - \$154.15; Monticello, N.Y. - \$175.46; Mt. Vernon, N.Y. - \$580.75; New Rochelle, N.Y. - \$142.; Peekskill, N.Y. - \$288.; Rochester, N.Y. - \$169.45; Syracuse, N.Y. - \$133.50; Yonkers, N.Y. - \$299.; Wilmington, N.C. - \$114.; Winston-Salem, N.C. - \$102.; Cincinnati, Ohio - \$216.50; Cleveland, O. - \$3,176.19; Warren, O. - \$150.; Youngstown, O. - \$1,500.; Portland, Oregon - \$1,503.; Philadelphia, Pa. - \$2,065.50; Pittsburgh, Pa. - \$1,811.50; Providence, R. I. - \$1,104.; Charleston, S.C. - \$295.50; Dallas, Texas - \$449.; Ft. Worth, Texas - \$212.; Houston, Tex. - \$559.11; San Antonio, Tex. - \$267.08; Tyler, Tex. - \$133.; Waco, Tex. - \$136.; Norfolk, Va. - \$263.; Portsmouth, Va. - \$199.70; Spokane, Wash. - \$154.; Charleston, W. Va. - \$125.; Weirton, W. Va. - \$118.50;

\$18,000. From New York City

New York City leads all other communities with its total contribution of \$18,000., Rabbi Schwefel, Director of the New York J.N.F. office, reported.

Ben-Avi Acclaimed in Many Communities

A substantial contribution towards the progress of the tree campaign has come from the interest and enthusiasm generated as a result of the tours to many communities undertaken in behalf of the Jewish National Fund by Ittamar Ben Avi, the noted Palestinian author and son of Eliezer Ben Yehudah.

During the past two months, Mr. Ben Avi visited the Pacific Coast and a number of communities in the middle-west. Numerous audiences listened to his inspiring addresses in Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, Denver, Lincoln, and Omaha, Nebraska, Sioux City, Ia., Milwaukee, Wisc., South Bend, Ind., St. Paul, Minn., Indianapolis, Ind. and Spokane, Wash.

A TIMELY BOOK: "THE LAND ISSUE IN PALESTINE"

With the land problem uppermost in the minds of Zionists and students of the Zionist problem, many will welcome the publication by Dr. A. Granovsky, land director of the Jewish National Fund headquarters in Jerusalem, of a new contribution to the subject. It is entitled: "The Land Issue in Palestine" and is published in Jerusalem.

Written prior to the beginning of the inquiry by the British Royal Commission and in anticipation of the questions which came to the fore in connection with the current situation, the volume summarizes the Palestine land problem in an interesting and instructive manner.

The Jewish National Fund Bureau is in receipt of a limited number of copies of this valuable book. It is available for sale at the price of 30¢ per copy.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTS ARBOR DAY PROJECT TO SCHOOLS

A novel method for interesting pupils and students in Hebrew Schools and members of youth organizations in the Jewish National Fund afforestation program has been devised by the Youth Department of the J.N.F. Bureau on the occasion of Chamisho Osor B'Shevat, Jewish Arbor Day.

The poster, bearing the caption "Make Them Grow" and containing an outline of trees which blossom forth into green verdure when filled with J.N.F. stamps of a green color, was prepared and distributed in about 1,000 schools and youth groups contacted by the Youth Department.

The project has been well received by the educators as well as the students and it is likely to bring considerable results in tree contributions from the schools and youth organizations.

"The trees are in full bloom and the children are very enthusiastic", runs a comment -- typical of the many -- by one of the school principals.

ON EVENTS AND DOINGS AMONG J.N.F.
COUNCILS AND VOLUNTEER WORKERS

Noteworthy is the action of the Zionist District of Indianapolis, Indiana, which raised the amount of \$1,500. for the planting of a grove of 1,000 trees in tribute to Cantor Myro Glass, an indefatigable leader of and worker for Goulath Ha'aretz. As an additional token of appreciation, the District decided to inscribe his name in the Golden Book of the Keren Kayemeth.

The J.N.F. Council of Chicago recently held its election of officers and the following were elected: Mr. Philip D. Hoffman - Chairman; Mr. H. Steinberg - Chairman of the Executive Committee; Mr. Bernard Kotzin - Co-Chairman and Mr. Yehudah Pilch - Executive Secretary.

We received word from the Jewish National Fund Women's Committee of Cleveland, Ohio, that during Arbor Day, they succeeded in raising, in the Hebrew Schools, the amount of \$1,097.36 for the planting of trees.

The same committee remitted to us the sum of \$1,600., representing their semi-annual box clearance.

- - - - -

The J.N.F. Council of Cleveland is planting a grove of 3,000 trees on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. The sum of \$3,000. has already been remitted by Samuel Ismach, Chairman of the Council, and the balance will be forthcoming on March 3rd, when their 20th anniversary celebration will take place.

- - - - -

The Hashomer Society of Baltimore, which has undertaken to plant 2,000 trees in Palestine, has already raised 1,000 trees and expect to realize their goal in the near future. One-thousand of these trees will be planted in the Shiplacoff Forest.

- - - - -

The Department of Small Communities of the J.N.F. Bureau reports that as a result of an effort to intensify the Box activities in the minor communities, 92 new boxes were placed in 14 communities in response to individual requests during the month of January.

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<u>Bequests:</u> Estate of Augusta Ascher Murphey, Los Angeles,	
(Balance)	\$812.72
Estate of Isaak Orloff, St. Paul, Minn.	250.00
Estate of Moses Stein, Hartford, Conn.	199.25
Estate of Hillel Chaiken, Philadelphia, Pa.	90.00

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BOX HONOR ROLL

The following people contributed \$10. or more to Palestine Land Redemption through the Blue-White Box during the last clearance:

Mrs. D. Polasky, Cincinnati, Ohio	\$ 20.00
Mr. Joseph Weiner, Pottsville, Pa.	20.00
A. S. Kubitsky, Roxbury, Mass.	18.40
Mrs. S. Solomon, Charleston, S.C.	18.00
Mrs. L. Tabakin, Norfolk, Va.	15.42
A. Kramer, Waterville, Conn.	14.69
Colonial Restaurant, Boston, Mass.	13.43
B. Solomon, Charleston, S.C.	13.25
David Margolin, Bronx, N. Y.	12.51
I. M. Goldberg, & Bros., Charleston, S.C.	11.81
Mrs. M. N. Seide, Cleveland, Ohio	11.37
Marcus Prince, Pottstown, Pa.	11.27
Mrs. William. Cohen, Worcester, Mass.	11.00
Mrs. Etta Beck, Hattiesburg, Miss.	10.80
Mrs. P. Waldoff, Hattiesburg, Miss.	10.50
Mrs. Eli Brachman, Marietta, Ohio	10.00
David Saklad, Brookline, Mass.	10.00
Mrs. I. Simon, Cincinnati, Ohio	10.00

Jewish National Fund of America

111 FIFTH AVENUE

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NEW YORK

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March 2, 1937

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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

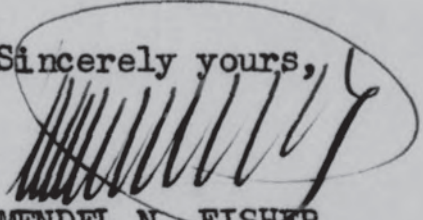
Dear Rabbi Silver:

We have just received a letter from Mr. David Frankel, President of the Zionist Organization of Trenton, requesting that we extend an invitation to you on behalf of the Trenton community, to speak at their Pro-Palestine Banquet that they are planning for Sunday, April 11th, for the benefit of the Jewish National Fund.

They are confident that if it will be possible for you to accept the invitation, the success of their function will be assured and will result in a substantial amount for the benefit of the Jewish National Fund.

We would deeply appreciate it if you will be good enough to accept this invitation.

Sincerely yours,


MENDEL N. FISHER
Executive Director

MNF:MS

Regards.

March 4, 1937

Mr. Mendel Fisher, Executive Director,
Jewish National Fund of America,
111 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Fisher:

I received your kind communication of
March 2. I should like to refer you to a letter
which I recently wrote to Dr. Israel Goldstein
which explains why I cannot accept this or any
other invitation coming from your office.

With best wishes, permit me to
remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
PRESIDENT

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
POALE ZION-ZEIRE ZION
MIZRACHI ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HADASSAH
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MIZRACHI WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
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GORDONIAH
HASHOMER HATZAIR
HE CHALUTZ
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MASADA
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YOUNG JUDAEA
YOUNG POALE ZION

Jewish National Fund OF AMERICA

(KEREN KAYEMETH LE ISRAEL, INC.)

111 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

March 5, 1937.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

This is to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of February 26th.

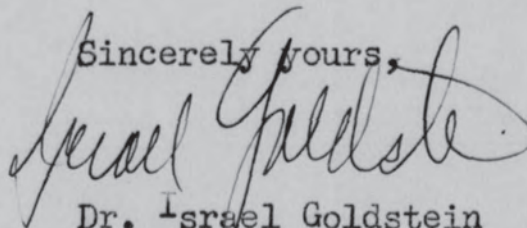
It is a matter of regret to me, as I
know it will be to Mr. Ussishkin, to learn that you can-
not accept his invitation to visit South Africa. At the
same time, I quite understand your position. I am still
hopeful that at some future time you may find yourself
more free to accept such an invitation.

The portion of your letter registering
your complaints against JNF's lack of cooperation is a
source of deep distress to me. It is hardly necessary for
me to tell you how highly I value your goodwill toward the
JNF.

Your letter prompts me to go into the
details of this situation immediately.

You will hear from me as soon as I
have had an opportunity of informing myself regarding the
entire situation.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Israel Goldstein
President

ig:s

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
PRESIDENT

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS
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POALE ZION - ZEIRE ZION
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Jewish National Fund

OF AMERICA

(KEREN KAYEMETH LE ISRAEL, INC.)

111 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

March 18, 1937.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Doctor Silver:

I have had an opportunity to go into the situation which you have brought to my attention and to discuss it with Mr. Rudensky and others in our office.

I suppose it can be stated as a general proposition that any national organization with local units should permit its local councils a certain amount of autonomy in determining local policy and procedure. Our office had been informed by the Chairman of the JNF Council in Cleveland that he was negotiating with the Zionist Society in connection with the film and our office had every reason to believe that the matter would be satisfactorily disposed of. It is, of course, regrettable that this did not happen. It would have been regrettable in any normal situation. The JNF cannot afford to antagonize any of its workers and friends. It is all the more regrettable in this particular instance, because of the special regard which I feel for you and for the value of your friendship and cooperation.

I have informed our office executives that in my opinion the matter should have been handled more carefully and I have reason to believe that you will find greater cooperation on the part of our office in the future.

With reference to the UPA allocation and the JNF share in it, we were surprised to learn from you that some of the local JNF leaders are not aware of the fact that the JNF shares substantially in the UPA allocations. While the JNF does not receive \$30,000 from the \$60,000 allocated, because as you know, there are expenses deducted as well as allocations to the Zionist parties which we hope will be substantially reduced in connection with the 1937 campaign, the net balance, however, is still close to \$30,000 and must not be ignored or underestimated by our JNF officials.

We are communicating this information to the Chairman of the Cleveland Council.

Cordially yours,

Dr. Israel Goldstein, President

ig:s

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AND SCHOOL EXTENSION » NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE
SISTERHOODS » NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS

TELEPHONE: PARKWAY 7345 « MERCHANTS BUILDING » CINCINNATI

April 5, 1937.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th & Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

We are in receipt of the enclosed
letter from Miss Montagu which she asks us
to forward to your correct address.

I took the matter up with Mr. Goldman
and he asked me to convey to you the hope that
you will find it possible to accept Miss
Montagu's invitation.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

George Zepin
Secretary

GZ:SG
encl.