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Mizrachi, 1947-1955.

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# WESTERN UNION

(44)

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER THE TEMPLE

EAST 105 ST AND ANSIL RD=

1947 FEB 11 PM 4 45

REGRET THAT YOU CANNOT BE WITH US ON FEBRUARY 23 PLEASE
SEND MESSAGE OF GREETING FOR OUR YEAR BOOK AT ONCE=
HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK ABRAHAM
M REISS CHAIRMAN RABBI ABRAHAM AVRECH EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR.



Mr. M. Reiss, Chairman Hapoel Hamizrachi Council of Greater New York 1133 Broadway New York 10, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Reiss:

I felt greatly honored by your invitation to address your meeting on February 25. Unfortunately because of an earlier commitment, I could not avail myself of your gracious invitation. Please convey my warmest greetings to all those who will attend the conference. I hope that your deliberations will prove very successful.

I know of the splendid work which the Hapoel Hamizrachi has been doing in Palestine. I know what significant contribution it is making towards the upbuilding of the Land of Israel. I have met many of the members of Hapoel Hamizrachi in Palestine and outside and I was tremendously impressed by their high quality of devotion to our sacred cause, their enthusiasm and their capacity for sacrifice. In these difficult times of doubt, uncertainty and confusion, when so many are seeking unavailing short-cuts to national salvation, it is good to know that there are Zionist bodies who stand four-square for classic Zionist principles and objectives.

Most cordially yours,

AHS: BK

# מועצת הפועל המזרחי בניו-יורק APOEL HAMIZRACHI COUNCIL of Greater New York

1133 BROADWAY

Suite 1423

NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

CHelsea 3-9000

February 17, 1947

ABRAHAM M. REISS Chairman

MORRIS MASLOW MAX LEWKO Vice-Chairmen

FLORENCE PARR Secretary

MORRIS M. BURSTEIN

RABBI ABRAHAM AVRECH Executive Director

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Sinclair & 105th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

The Hapoel Hamizrachi Council of Greater New York takes great pleasure in extending to you a cordial invitation to attend our forthcoming Annual Banquet to be held Sunday evening, February 23rd at the Hotel Biltmore, Madison Avenue & 43rd Street.

Enclosed herewith are two complimentary tickets which we hope you will make use of. Kindly reply at once so that we shall be able to make the necessary arrangements. We sincerely hope that you will be present with us and share in our program.

With Torah V'Avodah greetings, I remain

Rabbi Abrham Avrech Executive Director Sincerely yours,

Abraham M. Reiss, Chairman Hapoel Hamizrachi Council

of Greater New York

February 20, 1947 Mr. Abraham M. Reiss, Chairman Hapoel Hamizrachi Council of Greater New York 1133 Broadway New York 10, N.Y. My dear Friend: Thank you so much for your kind letter of February 17 and for the complimentary tickets which you sent me to attend the banquet of the Hapoel Hamizrachi on February 23. I regret that I will not be in New York on that day and I am therefore returning the tickets to you. I sent greetings to you on the occasion of your Conference for publication in your souvenir program. You may wish to use those greetings at your banquet. with all good wishes for success, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK Enc.

# מועצת הפועל המזרחי בניו-יורק APOEL HAMIZRACHI COUNCIL of Greater New York

1133 BROADWAY

Suite 1423

NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

March 4, 1947

CHelsea 3-9000

ABRAHAM M. REISS Chairman

MORRIS MASLOW MAX LEWKO Vice-Chairmen

FLORENCE PARR
Secretary

MORRIS M. BURSTEIN Treasurer

RABBI ABRAHAM AVRECH Executive Director

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver The Temple East 105th Street at Ansel Road Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

May I express to you the deep appreciation and thanks of the Hapoel Hamizrachi Council of Greater New York for your thoughtfulness and kind consideration. Your greeting especially was most suitable for our occasion and in no small measure enhanced our evening and Journal.

We regret very much that you did not have the opportunity to address our group. Perhaps in the future you will grant us that privilege.

Thanking you once again and with Torah Va'Avodah greetings, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Abraham Avrech Executive Director

AA:rm

מועצת הפועל המזרחי בניו-יורק

### HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI COUNCIL

of Greater New York

1133 BROADWAY

Suite 1423

NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

November 17, 1947

CHelsea 3-9000

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MAX LEWKO Vice-Chairman

LEONARD GOLDBERG Vice-Chairman

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HERMAN KELLMAN Treasurer

RABBI ABRAHAM AVRECH Executive Director

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President Zionist Emergency Council 342 Madison Avenue New York, N.Y.

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OCEANSIDE

TIFERETH ZION

TIRAT ZVI

WEST END

WOMEN'S COUNCIL

ZIONA

Dear Dr. Silver:

AA:BK

It is our pleasure to personally invite you to attend the installation exercises of the newly elected National President of Hapoel Hamizrachi of America, the esteemed Dr. H. Raphael Gold and his executive officers.

This affair will take place on Sunday evening November 23, 1947 at 8 P.M. at the Park Central Hotel, Seventh Avenue and 55th Street, N.Y.C.

We look forward very much to your presence that evening.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Abraham Avrech Executive Director

November 20, 1947 Rabbi Abraham Avrech, Executive Director Hapoel Hamizrachi Council 1133 Broadway New York 10, N.Y. My dear Rabbi Avrech: I deeply appreciate your kindness in inviting me to attend the installation exercises of the newly elected National President of Hapoel Hamizrachi of America, Dr. H. Raphael Gold, on November 23. I wish I were free to come. Unfortunately I must be in Cleveland on that day. Please convey to P. Gold my heartiest felicitations and all my good wishes for successful administration of the Hapoel Hamizrachi during the stirring days which lie ahead. With all good wishes, I remain Most cordially yours, AHS: BK

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DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=
THE TEMPLE CLEVE=

1943 JUN 15 PM 8 34

ADDRESS TO ANNUAL MIZRACHI CONVENTION BY THIS THURSDAY
EVENING AT VERY LATEST STOP EAGERLY LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING
WITH YOU MONDAY NEXT STOP SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR
COOPERATION STOP SINCERE WISHES AND BEST REGARDS=

LEON GELLMAN NATIONAL MIZRACHI PRESIDENT=

MIZRACHI ..

[September 21, 1949? MENORANDING CONCERNING THE INNIGRATION PROGRAM OF THE JEWISH CHILDREN IN MORTH AFRICA, NEAR EAST AND EUROPE. THE CHILDREN IN THE IMMIGRATION PROGRAM In most countries of Surope, North Africa and the Near East the greater part of Jewish children, who survived the war, are dependent upon the Joint Distribution Committee and other agencies for their rescue. They are slacet all on the march to Icrael. There are now, approximately 100,000 Jewish children in North Africa, and it in estimated a nimilar number in Syria, Iraq and in the other Mosles countries. About 40.000 Jewish children bave survived in Roumanie and perhaps another 10,000 in Hungary and Poland. The difficulties of bringing the Jewish children out of Eastern Surope appear at the moment incurrountable. Nevertheless every effort must be enlisted to remove the existing obstacles. Most of the European children and 100% of the Borth African and Near- and Middle- East children come from deeply religious homes. REASONS FOR EMIGRATION FROM MORLEM LANDS Poverty, diesee, and oppression force the parents to send away their children to Israel even when no facilities are available for themselves. The Sepherdie Jewish 'ommunities live in misery and terror. Bitter Arab ensity, batred and pogrous, make enigration to Israel the only salvation of their children. Jewish parents willing-ly send their children to Israel, even though they have no idea, when or if any, reunion between themselves will take place. 30.000 children are scheduled to reach Israel this year. METHOD OF EMIGRATION The youth are registered in the Exit countries by counselors sent sainly from "arael ( young aen called Madrichia, trained by the political parties). Each Madrich becomes the Foster parents of the child. Under his tut siege the child becomes attached to him, goes with him to the port of embarcation, thence to Ierael, where he is turned over, with his group to the Madrich's Party.

#### TRANSPORTATION TO AND MAINTEN ANCE IN ISRAEL

for these children from North Africa or other countries. In Israel the children are put into children's homes and Mibutzim under the sponsorship of the various political parties. The Jewish Agency provides 214 - on average, per month per child for maintenance.

#### THE INJUSTICE AND THE ALABEING SITUATION

The transportation and maintenance is provided without discrimination to each child regardless of party- affiliations. However, this very importiality constitutes the greatest injustice, for neither maintenance nor transportation is provided except on the condition that housing must first be available. The religious groups have no monet for housing, but the Hashomer "azair, Mapez, and mapai, do. Thus the overwhelming majority of the children, against their wishes and the wishes of their parents, are turned over to the leftist groups, where they are brought up in an anti-religious way, in Marxian ideology, and in many cases, even with a communist pattern.

The non - and enti-religious groups are permitted with the blessings of U.J.A. to conduct independent empaigns in the U.A.A. This year their goal is ten million dollars. This does not include other fund raising projects and special events which do not require specification at this time.) The religious groups are not given these means. It is obvious that this so called impartiality is in itself the greatest imparties discrimination contrived to accomplish a definite and - to nullify the requests of the parents and of the youth for a religious environment and upbringing. It is a denial of their natural and fundamental human rights.

Apart from the dire consequences to the future civthe Jewish State, consider the effect on American Jewry, if Israel, should by the fraud percetrated upon the parents of these children, bring up a generation with anti-religious doctrines or with a Marxist tendency, what would be the reaction of the American non- Jewish public opinion, if it became general knowledge that such a policy is being forced upon innocent children.

children be indootrinated with anti-religious teachings or that they

of the United Jewish Appeal. Every Jew should help the State of Israel and the Jewish people through the U.J.A. But it is also our duty to insist; that no specious regulations be permitted which rob these innocents of their basic human rights. We must not permit the exploitation of their helplessness and the forcing upon them a way of life, foreign to them, their parents, or their people.

#### A WORD OF GAUTION AND CONGLUSION

be regimented on leftist principles.

During negotiations regarding this problem various excuses and arguments are attempted. One is, that the J.D.G. and similar institutions, are already taking care of Orthodox matters. To this there is only one amswer: The REGORD. How many children have already reached Israel, and how were they distributed. The answer will tell the painful story. However this is not a question of Orthodoxy - nor even a matter of religion, per se. It is a question of human rights, of a shemeless attempt to appropriate an entire generation.

One also hears another sanctimonious argument: "This is an internal affair of the Israeli Government, in which one may not interfere." This is not so. The Government does not distate procedure, nor decides destination. It auts " without discrimination". Funds then decide the issue. And it is through funds that Party- Politics rides roughshod over the children.

still snother statement: "The U.J.A. and the leradi Government have such pressing problems. Thousands of immigrants, discharged army men, and many other emergencies." All of this is true. Therefore our efforts on behalf of the U.J.A. must be pushed to the maximum. But this should not be utilized as an excuse for the terrible injustice perpetrated on the children.

The United Jewish Appeal is the instrument and the voice of American Jewry and as such it carries a sacred trust. The U.J.A. can and must correct the injustice. The child is to be regarded as a whole rather than be torm apart on the rack of politics. To transportation and maintenance, the lions share of the expense, housing must be added. Party Politics must be eliminated in the Youth Alijah.

MEMORANDOM with respect to providing Housing and Religious Education for children who come from strictly religious homes and who have been forced to immigrate, or are waiting to immigrate, to Israel. The Problem and its Solution. There are approximately 250,000 Jewish children, most of whom have been brought up and bred in a deeply religious home or environment, now weiting to immigrate to Israel. who non-religious or face the danger of being placed in the care of/anti-religious groups because the religious groups lack the proper housing facilities to take care of them. The solution of this problem is to provide the necessary housing for these children under the control of the appropriate religious groups in Israel. The Background\* and "High Spots" of the Problem and its Solution. 1. THE CHILDREN IN THE IMMICRATION PROGRAM. The addest post-war problem in Europe and in North Africa is that of the homeless ewish far Orphans, and the children of poverty stricken, disease ridden, and oppressed \*Based upon facts and data brought to this country and collated by Dr. Jacob Griffel, distinguished lapyer from Poland and recognized communal leader, who has been deeply concerned with this problem and its solution. Dr. Griffel's detailed and comprehensive memorandum in relation to this matter, together with documentary proof of the statements and statistics contained therein, was originally submitted to Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., through the intervention of Rabbi Wohlgelernter of Chicago. In his letter of March 21, 1949, to Rabbi Wohlgelernter, Mr. Morganthau advised that he was forwarding it to the Joint Distribution Committee, and stated: "You may be sure that I am most sympathetic toward any program which concerns itself with either the physical or spiritual welfare of the Jewish children who have survived the Mitler era and I am eager to see that these young people receive every training and assistance which will enable them to enjoy the richest possible life". A brief biographical sketch of Dr. Griffel is annexed as an appendix to this memorandum.

parents who are clamoring to send their children to Israel.

In most countries of Europe, North Africa and the

Near East, the greater part of Jewish children, who survived

the war, are dependent upon the Joint Distribution Committee

and other agencies for their rescue. They are almost all on

the march to Israel. There are now, approximately 100,000

Jewish children in North Africa, and it is estimated a similar

number in Syria, Iraq, and in the other Moslem countries, combined.

About 40,000 Jewish children have survived in Soumania and

perhaps another 10,000 in Hungary and Poland. The difficulties

of bringing the Jewish children out of Eastern Europe appear

at the moment insurmountable. Revertheless, every effort must

be enlisted to remove the existing obstacles.

Most of the European children and 100% of the North
African and Near and Middle-East children come from deeply
religious homes.

#### 2. REAGONS FOR EMISEASION FROM MOELEM LANDS

Reverty, disease, and oppression force the parents to send away their children to Israel even shen no facilities are available for themselves. The Sephardic Jewish Communities live in misery and terror. Bitter Arab enmity, hatred and programs, make emigration to Israel the only salvation of their children. Jewish parents willingly send their children to Israel, even though they have no idea when or if, any reunion between themselves will take place.

# 3. NUMBER OF TERME CHILDREN NOW IN ISPAUL AND ARTICIPATED FUTURE RATE OF INMIGRATION.

It is estimated that 30,000 children unaccompanied by their parents arrived in Israel since the establishment of the new State and an additional 30,000 will arrive during the next twelve months, with approximately a similar number yearly thereafter.

M.

#### 4. METHOD OF ENIGRATION.

The children are registered by counselors (young men called Madrichim). Each Madrich becomes the foster parent to a group of children, who go with him to the port of embarkation. The Madrichim belong to various political parties, by whom they are trained, and follow the Party line. Most of the Madrichim in North Africa are from the utmost Leftist Hashomir Hazair (Mapam) - they have over 200, the Mizrachi only 3. Each Madrich becomes the foster parent of the Child. The child becomes attached to him and is turned over by him in Israel to the Madrichs' Party, where he is put into the children's homes and Kibbutzim under the Party's sponsorship.

## 5. THANSPORTATION TO AND MAINTENANCE IN ISRAEL.

The Joint Distribution Committee pays the transportation for these children from North Africa or other countries. In Israel the children are put into children's homes and Kibbutzim under the sponsorship of the various political parties. The Jewish Agency provides b 14.- an average, per month per child for maintenance.

There is no discrimination by J.D.C. in providing transporation and there is no discrimination by the Jewish agency in providing funds for maintenance. But there is one condition: that housing be available for the children. This one condition creates the problem and the charming situation hereinafter set forth.

### 6. THE ALARMING SITUATION AND THE CREATION OF THE PROBLEM.

As above stated, the transportation and maintenance is provided without discrimination to each child, regardless of party affiliations. Sowever, this very impartiality constitutes the greatest injustice, for neither maintenance nor transportation is provided except on the condition that housing must first be available. The religious groups have no money for housing, but the Bashomer Bazair, Mapan, and Mapai, do.

Thus, the overwhelming majority of the children, against their wishes and the wishes of their parents, are turned over to the leftist groups, where they are brought up in an anti-religious way, in Marxian ideology, and in many cases, even with a communist pettern. Though most of the children of Central European countries, and well nigh 100% of the North African and Near Eastern children come from deeply religious homes and religious backgrounds, only 3,500 children of the 30,000 who arrived in Israel these past 18 months are in the homes and Kibbutzim of the religious groups in Israel. The Histadruth (Mapai) conducted a separate campaign in the United States seeking 10 million dollars. The American Jewish Labor Council (Mapam) also conducted an independent campaign for funds, with a goal of 24 million dollars. The religious groups are not given these means of raising funds. The funds at the disposal of Mizrachi and the other religious parties barely suffice to cover their other pressing activities in Israel and as above indicated, they have been able to provide housing facilities for a maximum of 3,500 as against the 30,000 children that have already entered Israel. It is not logical or just that transportation and maintenance be provided through United Jewish Appeal funds but no housing facilities, which simply results in placing these children in the hands of groups that are not only nonreligious, but anti-religious. The fine policy of the Child and Youth Immigration Department of the Jewish agency/in honoring the request of parents for a religious education and environment for their children, as indicated in the questionnaire, is in actual operation nullified because of the knowledge that housing facilities for their children will not be available. Hence, in order to facilitate the emigration of their child to Israel, parents are forced to omit such request.

BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS INVOLVED. 7. PROBLEM IS CONCERN OF ALL. The problem of assuring a religious education and environment for the children herein discussed should not be the concern of only the Orthodox religious groups. It should be the concern of all who do not desire to see these children brought up in a non-religious or anti-religious environment. Every freedom-loving American would resent the use of contributed funds to encourage or enforce anti-religious, radical, and Marxist programs upon innocent children. This is a form of religious persecution not obvious on its face. CORCLUSION It is of the utmost importance to contribute to the holy cause of the United Jewish Appeal. Every Jew should help the State of Israel and the Jewish people through the U.J.A. But it is also our duty to insist that no regulations be permitted which rob these innocent children of their basic human rights. We must not permit the exploitation of their helplessness and the forcing upon them a way of life, foreign to them, their perents, or their people. We fully appreciate the other serious problems which now face the U.J.A. and the Jewish Agency and how urgent it is for each Jew to do his utmost in the present grave financial emergency. But the problem of the religious needs of these children cannot in good conscience he ignored or deferred. There is too much at stake. We cannot sacrifice our spiritual heritage. We therefore respectfully urge that the U.J.A. authorities, in conjunction with the Jewish Agency, give prompt and earnest consideration to this problem with a view of finding a just and feasible solution thereof. -5-

Respectfully submitted in behalf of Coordinating Committee for Religious needs of Children Immigrating to Israel-NOTE: This Committee has been recently formed and is now in the process of completing its organization. It is pepresentative of all religious groups and thus far, among others, consists of the following: Rabbi Mendel Schneersohn (Son-in-law of and representing the Lubavitcher Rabbi) Rabbi Leo Jung, Rabbi, The Jewish Center Rabbi Berbert S. Goldstein, Rabbi, West Side Institutional Synagogue Rabbi Samson R. Weiss, National Director, Young Israel M. A. Hodakovs, Director, Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, Inc. Irving M. Bunim, President. Rabbi Jacob Joseph School Elijah Stein, President, National Council of Young Israel Hon. Philip M. Kleinfeld Morris Penkauer Rerbert Tenzer Isaac Shelom Samuel Kramer J. A. Samuels Jacob Kestenbaum Moses Feuerstein, Acting Chairman Dr. Joseph Griffel, Secretary. Many of the leaders in and substantial contributors to the United Jewish Appeal have indicated their keen and sympathetic interest in the problem and in the work of the Committee. It is, of course, the earnest desire of the Committee to cooperate fully with the U.J.A. in its efforts to solve the problem in the most equitable and feasible manner.

APPENDIX Biographical Sketch of Dr. Jacob Griffel. Dr. Griffel prior to the war was a distinguished member of the Bar in Poland. During and since the war, he has given himself entirely to the cause of rescuing the remnants of Israel, both in Europe and in the near East. In 1943, he was sent to Istanbul by the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem. During his stay in Turkey, he was registered with the State Department of the United States through our Embassy in Ankara and was authorized to be in contact with representatives in enemy countries. During this period he had frequent contact with Ambassador Steinhardt with respect to rescue activities. At his instance and request, leading figures came to Ankara in behalf of rescue activities. These included Chief Rabbi Herzog and Dr. Eliash from Palestine, Mr. Ira Birshman, the personal delegate of the late President Roosevelt, and others. As a result of Dr. Griffel's efforts and personal magnetism, Romanian Jewry was spared deportation which was iminent at that time. While still working in Palestine for the Jewish Agency in March 1944, Dr. Griffel saved thousands of Hungarian Jews. In Hungary Dr. Griffel worked closely with representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and was one of the three members of the Finance Committee distributing relief and assistance to the stricken Jews in that country. At the conclusion of the war, Dr. Griffel returned to Jerusalem and shortly thereafter was again delegated to Europe as representative of Chief Rabbi Berzog and the Rescue Committee in Jerusalem to engage in rescue work in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Italy, and France. In Czechoslovakia, Dr. Griffel worked with Mr. Israel Jacobson, the Czechoslovakian Director for the Joint Distribution Committee, and the Hon. Rugo Weisgal of the -1American Embassy Staff, as well as with Rabbi Viktor Vorhand in Prague. In Italy, Dr. Griffel worked with Mr. Raphaelo Cantoni, prominent Italian banker who was President of the Union of Jewish Congregations in Italy. Together with Mr. Cantoni and the Joint Distribution Committee representatives Brick, Resnick, and Trove, Dr. Griffel succeeded in getting the assistance of the Italian Government to permit the use of Italian soil as a point of embarkation for Eretz-Israel. In 1948, Dr. Griffel was named co-director of the Buropean office of the Central Orthodox Committee in Paris (operating under a grant from the Joint Distribution Committee). the chief officer of which was Rabbi Dr. Lederman of Denver, Colorado. Upon his arrival in the United States in January 1949, Dr. Griffel, besides his other duties in connection with the Central Orthodox Committee prepared a rather extensive report of conditions in the various European countries - in North Africa and the near East - insofar as it affects Jewish children. His report together with documentary proof of the statements and statistics contained therein, was originally placed in the hands of the Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, through the intervention of Rabbi Bolomon P. Wohlgelernter of Congregation Anshe Shalom of Chicago, Illinois. In his letter of March 11, 1949, addressed to Rabbi Wohlgelernter, Mr. Morgenthau advised that he was forwarding the memorandum to the Joint Distribution Committee and went on to say: "You may be sure that I am most sympathetic toward any program which corerns itself with either the physical or spiritual welfare of the Jewish children who have survived the Hitler era and I am eager to see that these young people receive every training and assistance which will enable them to enjoy the richest possible life".

#### MEMORANDUM

R.

With respect to providing Housing and Religious Education for children who come from strictly religious homes and who have been forced to immigrate, or are waiting to immigrate, to Israel.





## MIZRACHI ORGANIZATION of AMERICA

1133 Broadway New York 10, N. Y. Cable Address: MIZORIENT WAtkins 9-4686-7-8

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Budget

DANIEL KIRSHNER

Co-Chairman, Finance and
Budget

Adrmail

ב"ה

September 29, 1949

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dearest and most beloved Dr. Silver:

The transition which Mizrachi is now undergoing as a result of Mr. Gellman's resignation from the Presidency of the American Mizrachi in order to take up his new duties as head of the Merkas Olami of Mizrachi in Jerusalem has kept me quite busy. A very difficult season for Hay Fever sufferers, to which group I have the displeasure of belonging, is another reason for my having failed to extend to you before Rosh Hashanah my heartfelt good wishes for the new year. Fortunately, there is still time to make amends, of which opportunity I take advantage at this time. May the New Year bring you and yours health, happiness, and continued opportunity to serve our people.

Participating as I do in many meetings I am continually under the impact of that overwhelming sense of regret in which many people share, over the fact that you are not with us in person as you had been for so many years.

We still hope and trust with unfailing faith that the day is not far off when you will return to active national leadership in Zionism, where your vigor and vision are so sorely needed.

With kindest regards and best wishes for a "Gmar Chatimah Tovah," I am

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Max Kirshblum

Executive Vice-President

Wax Kishplum

mk/rs

October 2, 1949 Rabbi Max Kirshblum Mizrachi Organization 1133 Broadway New York 10, New York My dear Rabbi Kirshblum: Thank you so much for your kind letter of September 29th and for the New Year's greetings which you send me. I reciprocate most heartily all your good wishes, and I hope that the coming year will be one of health, contentment and good works for you. I hope that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you when I next visit New York which I hope will be before long. Most cordially yours, ABBA HILLEL SILVER AHS :er

November 3, 1949 Rabbi Max Kirshblum Mizrachi Organization 1133 Broadway New York, New York My dear Rabbi Kirshblum: Mr. Jacob Grifel was in to see me yesterday in connection with the immigration program for Jewish children in North Africa, the Near East, and Europe. He would like pressure brought through the UNA for an adequate appropriation for children's homes inasmuch as the religious groups have no money for housing, resulting, he maintains, in the fact that the overwhelming majority of the children, against their wishes and the wishes of the parents, are turned over to the Leftist groups. He wanted me to interest myself in the matter. I know nothing about Young Guardians or the organization he represents. I did mention Young Israel. Is the Mizrachi part of this action? I should be very happy to hear from you. With all good wishes, I remain Most cordially yours, ABBA HILLEL SILVER AHS:er

הסתדרות המזרחי באמריסה

## MIZRACHI ORGANIZATION of AMERICA

1133 Broadway New York 10, N. Y. Cable Address: MIZORIENT WAtkins 9-4686-7-8

E" 17

LEON GELLMAN President

RABBI WOLF GOLD RABBI JACOB LEVINSON Honorary Presidents

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ISIDORE EICHLER Chairman, Mizrachi Palestine Fund

HENRY L. KRAUSHAR Chairman, Economic and Construction Project in Israel

ISAAC BERMAN Chairman, Finance and Budget

DANIEL KIRSHNER Co-Chairman, Finance and Budget

November 8, 1949

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd. Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dearest Dr. Silver:

I gratefully acknowledge yours of November 3rd.

The problem of creating greater absorptive capacity for religious children coming to Israel is indeed a very painful one. On one hand we have no facilities to accommodate the children being offered for our auspices and on the other hand we are not given sufficient funds by the Jewish Agency to put up such institutions. Mizrachi is, of course, doing its utmost to create additional facilities but we cannot possibly measure up to the responsibilities.

Mr. Grifel and a number of outstanding orthodox laymen have been to see me sometime ago and I made it clear that while we have full sympathy for the cause which they are sponsoring, we are in no position to affiliate ourselves officially with their group and appear as if we did not know the financial difficulties under which the Jewish Agency is laboring. These good and sincere people have, however, the full right to press the Jewish Agency for a new kind of approach to solve this painful problem.

As far as the Young Guardians are concerned, I am not acquainted with them. I take it for granted, however, that it includes some of the gentlemen referred to above, who had a long conversation with Mr. Kol last Friday but am not familiar with the results achieved.

The above-stated is, of course, to be treated as confidential, inasmuch as I should not like Mr. Grifel or anyone else to get the impression that I did something to kill your genuine interest in the matter. As a matter of fact, I would be most happy if I saw a way of getting the Agency to help us in building absorption facilities for the truly religious children now coming into Israel.

> Most cordially yours, may Kirshblum

Rabbi Max Kirshblum

a Growing Membership - Strengthens Israels Cause

November 8, 1949

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver:-continued-

P.S. You must have seen the item in the "New York Times" dealing with Ben-Gurion's most recent utterance which brought about new confusion in the minds of those who speak about a new era for Zionist expansion. I hope to see you in New York at the end of the month and perhaps even before that in Cleveland and will tell you something of our recent deliberations at the Jewish Agency.



Page 1.

I am in favor of taking out the word "strictly" from the Title.

Page 2, No.1; last sentence of the second-last paragraph.

I would suggest to put this sentence, starting from "neverthe-less his obstacle", in parenthesis.

#### Page 2, No.3

I would suggest, not to furnish the figure of 30,000 children, having come to Eretz-Israel, since the establishment of the Jewish State. Although the official Immigration-Program anticipates such figure of 30,000 per year, as this has been indicated in the statement of Prof. Dr. Rieger (see N.Y. Times April 25th, attached as Exhibit Ho.8 to my Detailed Memorandum) we do not know, however, whether up to now already 30,000 children have immigrated this year. As a matter of fact, this does not change materially the picture of the situation, but it is my opinion that any inaccurate data, even when they are of minor importance, should be avoided, so as not to give our opponents a chance of using it in order to make the correctness of the whole Memorandum doubtful.

In a lecture, held by Mrs. de Sola Pool (wife of Rabbi Dr. de Sola Pool) after her return from Eretz-Israel and Marocco, on September 18th in the building of the Nat'l Council of Young Israel, she declared that at the present time about 45,000 children are in Eretz-Israel under the auspices of the Aliyat-Hanoar. She dad not state, however, the number of children that came to Eretz-Israel in this year.

A similar change should be made then, in No.6 on page 4, where it is indicated that 30,000 children in the course of 18 months have come to Eretz-Israel. That is in Par.2, and also in Par.4 of No.6.

For the same reasons I am also in favor of taking out the figure of 200 Madrichim in No.4, page 3 (Mapam). It is a fact that these people have a great number of Madrichim, but we can hardly know how many there are of Mapam and how many of Mapei. It should only be stated, that the "Left" has hundreds of Madrichim there, whereas the religious parties have only a negligible number.

As a matter of fact, the few religious Madrichim could anyhow not discharge their responsibility to take care of the children, for the reason that they have no housing available in Eretz-Israel.

#### Paragraph 5, No.6. The following can be said here:

The Leftists are being enabled, with the money of the U.J.A., to take care of the children in such great numbers, even then when they would not receive from the funds of the U.J.A. (for housing). For the money, required for Transportation and Maintenance is that big, that when the Leftists would not receive these funds from the U.J.A., they would not be able, or rather the going would be very tough, to take on so many children. When these things have been taken care of by the funds of the U.J.A., then they do get a so-called only small subsidy, namely that for housing. The catastrophal distribution of the U.J.A. funds, does not only prevent the religious institutions from taking on the religious children, but it does also enable the Leftists to commit the injustice to the religious children, so much easier and more effective.

#### Paragraph 6, No.6

I would suggest to add the words "very often" after the word "parents".

Appendix Paragr. 5. Following can be noted on this.

Rescue of Hungarian Jews in big numbers, could not be done any more by means of emigration, since March 1944, but these people were assisted by transmitting of the proper documents and interventions, as indicated in the detailed Memorandum III, Paragr. 3.

To the same Zuodenneklass Paragr:

xions Finanz Committee was not in Ungary, but in Istanbul. The

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#### MEMORANDUM

concerning the efforts retaining a traditional and religious education of children, who, as a result of prevailing conditions, have been forced to leave their former homes - especially in Europe and Africa and are brought to Erez-Israel by the Rescue Work.

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In the most countries of Europe, as well as North Africa and the Near East, the greater part of the children are dependent upon public Rescue. Almost all are endeavoring to emigrate, particularly to Erez-Israel. The practical care for, as well as the transportation and later accommodation, the children is effected by the elements who transfer them to left-radical parties, in complete disregard of the fact most of the children in Africa almost all - come from an environment opposed to that kind of thinking and living.

A significant part is played by the Hashomer Hatziar (Mapam), people who in their system of education as well as in their world outlook are following the Soviet Russian pattern.

It is true that a number of protests have been raised and that certain decisions have been taken by some authorities towards a regulation of this situation. The results to date, however have been very negligible because of the discrepancy between theoretical declarations and practice, and also by trying to apply a political undertone to this situation in order to intimidate would-be interventions by considering the latter as interference in sovereign matters. In the Memorandum it will be established beyond doubt that this point of view does not apply to the actual facts but that the problem involved is one of a principle of human rights. A suppression of this principle is successfully effected in that the other parties hold a greater position of power, and they have larger funds available, These sums come to them not only from their own sources, but they dispose to a greater extent of the moneys of the different appeals, as this will be explained further in this Memorandum. The regulation of this situation is thus possible in great part through a correction in the distribution of the funds.

#### II. PROPOSALS

In order to rectify the situation, the following is proposed:

The A.J.D.C., in distributing the funds, should have to watch over the apportionment and should bear in mind the situation of the religious Jews and their Institutions.

The aim should be clearly stated that every child having a religious background will be given the opportunity to receive a religious education and will be protected from being brought up in an anti-religious surrounding.

In cases where the distribution of the funds would be, more or less, outside the range of the A.J.D.C. subventions for the religious Institutions should have to be given separately.

-2(For further details see the APPendix)

II. The religious parties who receive funds from the United Jewish Appeal should have to be obligated to approximate a considerable amount for the Youth Education, and a portion of that shall be applied towards making the acceptance of further children-emigrants possible. The report that may well be expected to this would be that the respective parties do so already. In theory that is true, but in practice it has been shown that they do not full justice to that part of their task.

The budgets of the respective parties would have to be examined in order to vertify the necessity to the expenditures and then to determine the exact percentage of expenditures towards the acceptance of new children.

At this point it might be briefly mentioned that outside of the religious parties-Mizrachi and Poale Mizrachi, Agudah and Poale Agudah - there has recently been formed a religious section within the Histadruth, bearing the name Ovad Hadati, and is being led by Professor Joshua Leibovitsh. It should be recommended to this group as well as that they establish further acceptance centers in Erez-Israel, and they should also be assured of the necessary funds.

Other religious institutions who receive funds from the United Jewish Appeal for children should also be obligated to approximate a portion of their budgets for the acceptance of new children. Arrangements will have to be made for permanent supervision in this respect.

III. It would, of course, be of great importance if one could also intervene with the Erez-Israel Authorities with regard to rectifying existing conditions. (For further details see APPENDIX) However, it must be stated specifically that the other proposals would not be made dependent upon the outcome of an agreement with the Erez-Israel Authorities, since negotiations alone would necessitate a certain length of time. This is especially so, since our proposals are not political in nature and also because they are concerned, to a great extent, with those children who are outside of Erez-Israel.

IV. For the realization of this task which represents the purpose of this Memorandum - it would probably be advisable to create a body, consisting of several persons, whose task it would be to prevent the children of our generation from being brought over to atheism and left radicalism.

They must have the serious determination to devote themselves to this task not only from a religious and social viewpoint but also from a profound feeling for justice. They must comprehend the terrible injustice that is being perpetrated when children are being robbed of the tradition of their parents. The members of such a body would have to be allowed considerable independence. They should be granted a status comparable to that of a judge. In the negotiations and directives, they should not have to be mindful of parties and party-prestige. The above mentioned task should be their suprema lex.

This body would have to be appropriated in order to enable them to fulfill their task. For, outside of the recommendations made for the budgets of the Institutions mentioned in these Proposals, large funds will be necessary to prepare properly for the impending major emigration of Jewish children in the various countries where they are situated, and to assure these children a suprapartisan accommodation, together with a Jewish education rooted in the fundamental principals of the Torah. It might be noted that - with respect to financing - it is mainly a question of housing, since maintainance is assured for all children in equal measure on the part of the Government.

With regard to the distribution of these funds, I would propose that one or more members of this body visit the countries personally and allocate the funds wherever necessary. This would also have a certain significance with regard to contact with certain circles in America and the Jews in North Africa.

The body is also to support the project of sending American teachers and instructors to Western Europe and North Africa. The fact is that a considerable number of teachers and instructors is needed. It is planned to recruit 25% in Erez-Israel and 25% in America, while the balance is to come from Europe and even Africa. In America, the college students will have to be resorted to, and they are either to have a command of Ivrith or of one of the two languages with which they can make themselves understood with the North African Jews, and these are Arabic and French. The body is to make contact with the leading rabbinical authorities, as well as the religious parties and other institutions. However, it is not be overemphasized that the success of the action will depend largely on the constant supervision of the competent officers, lest their treatment of the children-question be influenced by other consideration or political calculation. (Further details - see Appendix)

#### III. PERSONAL REMARKS CONCERNING MY WORK TO DATE

For a better understanding of the situation and of a clarification of the circumstance which leads me to present this matter in the above described manner, I see myself obliged to make a few remarks about my Rescue activities. Rabbi Wohlgelernter has pointed out to me that this is necessary.

My first mission in public relief work was given to me in the year 1943. I was delegated to Istanbul by the supra-partisan. Rescue Committee which had been formed at the time by the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem and which was chaired by Mr. Ischal Greenbaum. During my stay in Turkey I also received the license of the American State department through the United Embassy in Ankara, and this entitled me, among other things, to be in contact with enemy countries in matters of rescue. I was able to make use of this license at the time when I was appointed as the representative of the American Vaad Hatzala. At that time the leading representatives of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul and in Jerusalem accepted my point of view. I felt that it was necessary to have personalities of first order to come to Ankara and undertake - together with Ambassador Steinhardt - rescue activities on a larger scale. I was also instructed to proceed with my proposals and to explain to Jerusalem the necessity of having three such personalities present at Ankara. Chief Rabbi Herzog and Dr. Eliash came to Ankara in person, while Mr. Ben-Gurion was represented there by one of his closest associates. Mr. Ira Hirschmann, the personal delegate of President Roosevelt came to Ankara at the same time. As you were the initiator of this rescue work, I may presume that you are thoroughly familiar with the work done then. I only wish to remark briefly that - as this was readily vertified later on in Romania - the work as well as the actions which were made possible on the bases of the afore mentioned American license contributed largely to the fact the Romanian Jewery was spared deportation, the danger of which was iminent at that time.

With regard to Hungarian Jews, the rescue activities could not be effected with adequate success because of different circumstances - which should be explained separately and because of the occupation of Hungary by the Germans since March 1944. However, it was possible - thank God and thanks to various interventions, as well as through the transmission of documents to the Jews there - to rescue a part of them.

The benefits arising out of the above named American license I put entirely at the disposal of our Council-called Moarza - for the rescue of Jews without regard to their religious views. I also cooperated closely with all members of this Moatza. At that time I was also in close contact with the representatives of the Joint Istanbul, and I was a member of the Finance Committee there, consisting of three persons.

During the war and thereafter, I also worked together with Dr. A. Barth who headed the Magbit Hitgaysut Vehatzala, rescue fund for the benefits of the soldier families in Erez-Israel and for rescue work in Europe.

At the end of the war I returned from Jerusalem from where I was again delegated to Europe as the authorized agent of Chief Rabbi Herzog as well as from the Rescue Committee in Jerusalem. I worked primarily in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Romania and France,

In Czechoslovakia I worked in close contact with the local Director of the Joint, Mr. Israel Jacobsohn, as well as the several of the American Embassy staff, in particular with Mr. Hugo Weisgall who, in the year 1945, held the post of Military Attache at the American Embassy in Prague and later became Cultural Advisor of the same Embassy. At many occasions I also, worked together with Rabbi Viktor Vorhand in Prague.

In Italy I was a close associate with almost constant co-worker of Mr. Rafaelo Cantoni in Rome. Mr. Cantoni is President of the Union of Jewish Congregations of Italy, as well as the member of the Board of one of the largest Banks of the country. Together, we managed to make particularly successful arrangements with the Italian Government which was of great importance for the emigration of Jews from the East and their transit to Erez-Israel. For this purpose, Mr. Cantoni came to Prague once where we made a joint petition to the Italian Embassy. The latter assisted in the rescue of Jews from the East-especially from Poland - who fled as a result of post-war programs In Italy I was also in contact with the Directors there. of the Joint there, Messrs. Brick, Resnik, and Trobe, as well as-of-course with the representatives of the Erez-Israel Institutions who were entrusted with the rescue and emigration work. My own work for Rescue continued in the same non-partisan spirit.

In 1948 I was named co-director of the European office of the Central Orthodox Committee (C. O. C.) in Paris. The head officer of this committee is an American, Rabbi Dr. Laderman, of Denver, Colorado.

I came to the United States in order to work out a detailed clarification with the Presidents of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and to see how far the aim which the C.O.C. set for itself at its inception could be attained. All this now depends on the further development of things. (For details regarding the C.O.C. see SURVEY OF ORGANIZATIONS, part V of this Memorandum.)

## IV. GENERAL REMARKS

In the course of my activities for the Rescue Work, as outlined before, I soon had the opportunity to make some observations of basic importance.

I had occasion to convince myself - more than ever - of the great devotion of my Erez-Israel colleagues. But on the other hand, I had to note the lack of genuine Jewish tradition which was having detrimental effects. Very often, the specifically Jewish spirit was missing which would place the fulfillment of obligations in the field of rescue higher than anything else in the world. These men were prepared to risk their lives if rescue activities required it - but, they came under the terrible restraining influence when it came to so called prestige of party or organization. It is only due to very speical circumstances - which could be enumerated separately - that it was possible to reduce this situation to a minimum.

At that time I came in contact with transports of emigrants. A large part of them came by boat and from there by rail to Erez-Israel. Other transports went by rail via Bulgaria and from there to Erez-Israel. I was then able to see how children of religious parents were forced to come into left radical hands-for, the children were subject to a party-quota. There was a predetermined percentage which caused them to be divided up among the parties. Nature and origin of this quota - system will be discussed later on. (See Part VI. of this Memorandum).

This injustice towards the children gave rise to a number of protests from various sides. It is true that several

things have been undertaken, but, sofar, no practical solution has been found. Mention may be made to a protocoll agreed upon in Zurich which, however was of no practical value either. (SEE Part VI. of this Memorandum).

The whole problem as I experienced it, is basically a humanitarian one. This may be illustrated by a few incidents which, far better than any theoretical elaborations, will clarify the whole situation:

1. Together with three Americans who came to Europe to study the prevailing conditions in connection with the formation of the C.O.C. (see Part V.), I witnessed the following in Prague. A transport with 440 children from Romania stayed there for several days before continuing on their trip to Holland. Again only 20% came under the care of the religious parties, the others being in the hands of the "left". Among the children of this transport there were 70 children who had been entrusted to the transport-leader by the OSE, a neutral organization. Already in Prague, these 70 children had been divided up among the parties of the "left".

Through contact with the children, we were able to note, that from the moment they came under the patronage of those responsible for the transport, i.e. the parties to which they were allocated, so to speak, they had to stop in their religious observances. Along with their allocation to the parties, they also had to embrace the dogmas of that party automatically, and they often discussed these things without understanding them. Thus, for example, one child was overhead to have accused another child, which had been given to the leftist party in Prague: "But only yesterday you said that there was a God". The gentlemen of the committee and inparticular Mr. Meckler, who is not an extremely observant Jew himself, were terribly indignant about this. Mr. Meckler said that upon his return to America, he would do everything in order to counter this dirtiest of all party deals with things not most holy.

- 2. A child belonging to another children-transport complained in a letter that it had to place its prayerbook under a hole of a bag containing its belongings in order to be able to say the daily prayers.
- 3. Some weeks ago children from North Africa already taken to a radical camp in France still continued to pray with Minyan and asked for a Sefer Torah, They were completely unaware of the fact that they were in the hands of radical,

(meaning 'Young Guardian') since it was the task of his party to see to it that the youth guard and observe the precepts of the Torah. - After they had once gotten the youths and children and taken them to France, they immediately went to work and incalculated into the children their theories which prohibited any contacts with parents as being "fascistic"

These incidents - picked up at Random - show that a terrible crime is being committed against the principles of human freedom, especially freedom of Religion. It is a crime, futhermore, against the parents of these unfortunate children, the larger part of whom has brought immense sacrifice to assure the religious education of their children.

# V. SURVEY OF THE ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES 1. American Organizations

Joint Distribution Committee
Chairman for Europe: Dr. Josef Schwarz
Vice Chairman for Europe: Mr. Passman
Vice Chairman for Europe: Mr. Backelman

reminiscence", and also to disrespect Tradition.

Central Orthodox Committee (C.O.C.)

This Committee was formed by an agreement between the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada and the Joint Distribution Committee for religious Rehabilitation in Europe, etc.

Head Officer of the C.O.C.: Dr. Laderman Co-Director of the European Office: Jacob Griffel

II Organizations of Erez-Israel

- It was formed during the war and chaired by Mr. IZchak Greenbaum. It has since ceased to function.
- It was formed in order to negotiate and supervise the agreement signed in Zurich ( See Part IV) and consisted of two members of the Executive.
- 3- Aliyath Hancar

This is the department of the Jewish Agency which is in charge of the immigration of children in Klita (ascription in the land)

4- The religious parties in Erez-Israel

They are significant for the rescue work as they are accepting a part of the children in their institutions.

III. Local Organizations in Europe and Africa

- 1. Committeetul Democratic Evrejaska in Romania A Romanian organization under Communist leadership which excerts a strong influence upon the emigration of children from Romania.
- 2. Ozar Hatorah
  An organization initiated by Mr. Isaac Shalom which established a network of schools in Morocco.
- Dr. Pacifici, formerly a judge in Italy and later a resident of Jerusalem, devoted a larger part of his lifeand also his means to the education of Oriental Jews. In behalf of the Jews of North Africa he got in touch with Baron Rothschild and Sir Robert Valey Cohn in London and conferred in Paris with Messrs. Warburg and Dr. Schwarz. (For further details see Part VIII.)

VI. SURVEY OF THE SIGNIFICANT RULES AND REGULATIONS,

The whole Rescue work is dominated by a number of rules and regulations which exert a deep influence on its whole structure.

The most important one so-called <u>Party-Quota</u>.

The distribution of the children follows a certain quotasystem according to which in Europe the religious Organization receive 20% to 25% and the other organizations (mostly anti-religious) 75%. For North-Africa, where general agreement exists that the children are 100% religious, the actual quota is 60% for the religious organizations and 40% for the anti-religious parties.

Of course, there was never an agreement on this quota system, which is contrary to all principles of human freedom and dignity. It was a de facto regulation which gradually assumed the character of a dogma. Its causes are exclusively of a financial nature. The party-quota actually came about because certain parties have the funds available and can accept children in the homes established by them in the trancit countries, and also because they have the means for the transportation. This state of affairs compels the parents of the religious children to hand these over to anti-religious organizations in order to have them rescued out of these countries. This involves a human tragedy which is beyond description.

Agreement of Zurich
Since due to the quota system, a great number of children
of religious background fell into the hands of the "left",
the Executive of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem decided in
1947, as a result of interventions by different institutions
as well as by the chief Rabbi Herzog in Jerusalem - to
delegate full authority to two markets as the surface of the surface

Those named were Rabbi Fishman and Mr. Moshe Colodny if these gentlemen came to Europe. They decided, among other things, as per agreement signed in Zurich, that all orphaned children under and including the age of ten were to receive a religious education, while those over the age of ten inquiries were to be made into their background etc. It must be said that, not even one child was transferred to the proper Institute, as per this decision.

The reason for this complete failure-again-is solely financial in character. No means were available to delegate the proper personalities or to form the necessary committees and sub-committees. This, agreement remained on paper and the quota-system became unchallenged dogma.

Regulations for the Klita (acceptance and accomodation) in Erez-Israel The Klita, the final stop of the Rescue work is ruled by the following regulations. In Erez-Israel all parties who receive children also receive the funds for the maintanance - under the condition that they, themselves, put up the houses. And here again it is a fact that the religious Institutions have incomparably less money available with which to put up houses. Thus they have difficulties to accept even the children which are given them under the quota-system.

The organizations of the "left" were always in the position to comply with the condition - to provide necessary housing for the children - as they had amply funds available, as granted to them under various titles by both the Joint and the United Jewish Appeal and through other campaigns and funds.

Regulations concerning the trust - emigration 4 . from North Africa via France and Italy. Regulations similar to those of the Klita rule also the transit-migration from North Africa via France or Italy. One of the leaders of Aliyat Hanoar in Paris declared that he would be ready to place the children in religious Institutions and approve maintenance expense for them from Joint-funde, if these institutions would provide the houses. Since the religious parties and Institutions did not provide the necessary number of houses, one part of the children was given to the leftist parties and their Institutions. This is a very characteristic proof for the fact that the whole situation is only a question of money, since in France there is the possibility to buy a good many houses (chateaux) or simply to rent them.

# VII.ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE especially in ROMANIA

1. About my activities in Europe, especially in Romania I want to point out the following.

There are about 3000,000 Jews - among them 50,000 children (more than in all Europe). A part of Romania-Transylvania - is strictly religious and well-versed in Torah. Bukovina has a similar record. In old-Romania-called Reget - a larger part of the Jews are non observant, but none of the parents would ever agree to having their children disregard even Yom Kippur and Kaddish, or that they would receive an education hostile to Religion and Tradition. Many of the parents have given me declarations on the basis of which I was to demand the children returned from the leftist parties, after their leaving Romania. But it is a known fact that it is very difficult to win back children to another education after a certain time.

The Distribution of Funds

of the funds sent there by the Joint, all Talmud-Thora

Schools, Synogogues, Rabbis and other religious Institutions

receive 2% in all of the budget - under the heading of

"cultural activities".

With regard to children's aid it is as follows:

In theory such aid is given equally to all Institutions regardless with which party they are affiliated. But this is as we said - only in theory, because in practice it is a fact that the religious children's Institutions are not at all in a position to maintain themselves. The maximum amount of Joint aid is 2,000 Lei per month per child (actual value \$4.00). For a minimum of food, consisting of beans and corn and only three times a week bread, the need is for 3,000 Lei. Thus 1,000 Lei are missing in order to cover the minimum of these three items - which is 1,000 Lei per month per child. But the leftist parties have other sources of income. They are also de facto the power behind emigration and transport-actions, and they have larger sums at their disposal. On the other hand, the religious parties and children's Institutions can not count on any other direct source of funds. Added to this is the fact that the native population is almost wholly pauperized.

It ought to be said that at the time of my presence in Romania no political pressure was exserted on the religious children's Institutions as such. It was generally held that as long as the Church - which was rather strong-

-12was not being persecuted, the religious Jewish Institutions would also not be persecuted. This, the catastrophic condition of the religious children was mainly to be traced back to the financial disproportion that prevailed. The number of children in certain Institutions of traditional Jews has decreased during the period of 1947 to 1948, from 2785 to 1085. With regard to the children's transports the III. following may be mentioned. The two ships which, in December 1947, carried 15,000 persons to Cyprus, including 4,000 children. Of these the two religious parties received 1,000 berths and leftists received 3,000 berths. Thus 3,000 children fell

into the hands of the leftists. And there was not the slightest justification as to why these children should receive the kind of education that Schomar Hatziar, or similar groups can give them.

My negotiations concerning a children's IV. transport of 500 children.

For a long time I personally negotiated for a children's transport. I received the necessary permission and word was sent to Bucharest that an exit permit had been granted for the 500 children involved. With regard to the necessary funds for transportation I had to contact the Joint in Paris. It was not until two months later that a conference concerning this matter could take place with Dr. Schwarz. Dr. Schwarz gave permission for this transport as well as for the expenses connected with it. Immediately thereafter I flew to Bucharest. During that time further political changes had developed there, and I was told, "It is true that the transport was promised to you, but you have come too late. According to our views, the world is not "statis" (sic.) In September we still had a king, now is a republic, etc."

The matter of a separate children's transport has not been given up entirely, but it has been delayed and definitely made more difficult.

Finally I wish to give a survey of the discussions which I had with Dr. Schwarz after returning from a half a year's stay in Romania.

I have discussed the situation in Romania thoroughly with him, since he was well familiar with it from an earlier visit, and he was informed about the condition of the religious Jews and their Institutions.

Aid for the Romanian religious Jewry was to be as follows.

-13-1. Rendering separate children's transports possible, i.e. independent of Aliyat-Hanoar and their party quota. 2. Appropriating separate subventions for children's homes and Institutions of the religious Jews. Under point number 1 Dr. Schwarz understood that it would not be necessary any longer to bring children to France to Romania, in order to take them from there to Erez-Israel. Rather in view of the independence of the Jewish State, they could go directly from Constanza to Haifa - under the following conditions: That, immediately upon receipt of exit permits, the children be taken out of Romania. That the children are not to be subject to partyquota. The representative of Aliyat-Hanoar declared then and there that my point of view with regard to ais incorrect and that he, too, was informed that the children would have to leave Romania immediately upon receipt of the exit permit; also that, since Erez-Israel could now accept children only over a certain age - and those to a limited number - it is justified that the children be taken to France for the present. To point number b- the Representative of the Aliyat-Hanoar, after discussion with his superior from Tel Aviv, gave a negative reply. Thereupon Dr. Schwarz approved the separate children's transport. After that Dr. Schwarz went to Erez-Israel. Upon his return from there, he retracted his approval for the Special-Transport. The reason was in the main, that he had contacted the religious parties there, and these were not interested. Thereupon I had a very detailed conference with Dr. Schwarz. I explained to him that the conditions prevailing at the time when he had given approval for the separate transport had actually not changed. I also drew his attention to the following facts, the importance of which can not be emphasized enough: It is a fact that there are about 50,000 children in Romania. The fact is also that these children - if they go by way of the Aliyat-Hanoar - will, to 75% automatically be brought to parties of the Left. The circumstance that the religious parties will be "satisfied" with less, does not change matters any. It only shows that these parties are not the proper authorities who are competent to see to it that religious children do not fall into the hands of the Left. It is true indeed that the religious parties have accomplished

a great deal. They have also accepted a certain number of children in their Institutions. But they can not be said to be competent Authority which can take care of the children - problem in general.

Dr. Schwarz felt that all this was actually the concern of the Erez-Israel Institutions and that he could cern of the Erez-Israel Institutions and that he could hardly interfere there. I pointed out to him that this hardly interfere there. I pointed out to him that this hardly interfere there. I pointed out to him that this hardly interfere there. I pointed out to him that this hardly either the sight be a valid argument at first sight. But, objection might be a valid argument at closer range, it would become clear that it would not at closer range, it would because of such an argument be right to drop our work because of such an argument since it can not be a dogma that children can obtain their permit to enter Erez-Israel solely of the basis of the quota-system.

After this discussion - and a detailed study of the matter, which I had personnally requested - Dr. Schwarz confirmed the separate childrens transport with certain conditions, as per letter under date of August 25.

To point number 2 (see page 13): on the basis of very extensive material - vertified as far as possible - I very extensive material - vertified as far as possible - I set up budget statements. These above show the necessity for subsidies in the amount of 6,400,000 Lei per month, as subsidies in the amount of 6,400,000 Lei. This money well as single subsidy of 3,450,000 Lei. This money would be necessary in order to support and maintain the would be necessary in order to support and maintain the religious institutions and also the children's homes of traditional Judaism.

Immediately upon my return from Romania - which was in the beginning of June - I set up formal budget and turned it over to the proper Joint office. For various reasons - and also because of a trio of Mr. Becklman, Vice-Chairman of the European Joint, to Bukarest - the matter was delayed considerable. In October 1948 I received word that Dr. Schwarz had decided to send 3 25,000 to Romania. To date - on the basis of this amount - 2 Million Lei have been transmitted there. According to the official rate of exchange, \$ 25,000 would equal the amount of about 4 Million Lei. However, in all fairness, I wish to state that a further delay in transmitting \$25,000 can not be attributed to any fault of the Joint's. There was an extensive correspondence about how to put the transfer into effect, and since I, as well as other members of the Committee, had a certain misgiving about the transfer-manner chosen by the Joint, I myself requested to reduce the ge first transfer to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ Million Lei. And Dr. Schwarz felt that at first, only 1 Million Lei should be sent. This reduction,

as, authorized by Dr. Schwarz, naturally bore out the justification for my misgivings.

Up to now the Joint has not been able to approve of any other way for the transfer of the funds.

The fact is, however, that the people in Romania have received only a fraction of the amount necessary for their minimum maintenance. For, even if the entire sum of \$25,000 has been transferred, it would not have covered the very carefully calculated budget-which was set up for a period of only one month. And by this time, many months had already gone by.

Dr. Schwarz has recently promised to settle this matter, and I am waiting further word about this from Paris, and also from Bukarest.

VI. Other countries of Europe

In the other countries of Europe there are also a whole number of problems with regard to Youth-Rescue.

However, I wish to restrict myself to Romania as the country with the largest number of children. I am also in a position to deliver a report on the other countries.

## VIII. ACTIVITIES IN NORTH AFRICA

As is probably known, there now exists a great desire to emigrate in almost all the North African countries, However, it must never be said openly there that the people wish to emigrate to Erez-Israel in view of the danger of arousing the enmity of the Arabs. Thus, the people from Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tangiers come, primarily, to Marseille and those Tripoli go to Naples. In the last view month this emigration has been proceeding under such panickly conditions that it has become a serious problem to the reception centers in Marseille. Among the emigrants, there are a number of sick persons some of whom are incurable and can not be allowed to enter Erez-Israel.

as far as possible, and several expeditions with medical supplies and equipment are being sent to North-Africa. And here again the question of the children and especially the gap that exists between theory came to the fore.

Theoretically it has been acknowledged by all competent agencies that the North African Jews are religious, and so it is obvious that for their children only religious educational instutitions can be considered proper for them. This has been acknowledged by the competent Joint agencys as well as by the Aliyat-Hanoar. The latter group only requested - in particular in Italy-that the children be boarded in non-partisan, religious Institutions. DE FACTO, that is actually, 40% of the children who have come to Europe from North Africa up until now have fallen into the hands of the Left.

Reference was already made to the declaration of one of the leaders of Aliyat-Honoar in Paris (see page 10) to the effect that he would be ready to place the children in religious institutions and approve maintenance expenses for them from Joint-funds, if these institutions would provide the houses. Since the religious parties and institutions did not provide the necessary number of houses, one part of the children was given to the leftist parties and their institutions.

One group of North African children was handed over by their leaders of the transport - who are members of the Hechalutz and the Aliyat-Hanoar - to the Lefists by virtue of the following intrigue. The group of 150 youngsters was informed by the transport leaders that they were standing before a choice: either they could be placed in a Yeshiva, or they could enter the Army where they would receive decorations etc. However the youths were told at that time that even if they did enter the Army, they could still be observant Jews. Several protests were raised about this in the Erez-Israel press, but too late.

In order to prevent this kidnapping of children and youths to go any further in North Africa, several steps have been undertaken.

# Action taken by Ozar Hatorah

Ozar Hatorah, the organization initiated and organized by Mr. Jsaac Shalom, established a network of schools in Morocco. These institutes require several improvements, especially with regard to hygienic facilities, but this fact remains that Ozar Hatorah has commendable work. They have also sent teachers into small communities to which no organization had hitherto sent any delegates.

#### Action Taken by Dr. Pacifici

Dr. Pacifici, formerly a judge in Italy and later a resident of Jerusalem, who has devoted a larger part of his life - and also of his means - to the education of Oriental Jews, went to London where he got in touch with various personalities, among them Baron Rothschild and Sir Robert Valey Cohen. While in London, he received recommendations to Messrs. Warburg and Dr. Schwarz. (He conferred with both these gentlemen in Paris. A short time after that, Dr. Schwarz contacted Mr. Y izchak Werfelwho is at present the authorized agent of the Jewish Agency for the entire emigration into Erez-Israel - and suggested to the latter to speak with Dr. Pacifici. At the request of Mr. Werfel, I conferred with Dr. Pacifici for the time being.

According to Mr. Werfel's plan - as given to me -Dr. Schwarz was to set up a children's home in France for about 500 to 600 children. This home was to be of a neutralreligious nature under the patronage of the Aliyat Hanoar. The negotiations with Dr. Pacifici were not easy since the experience with Aliyat Hanoar with regard to a retention of Religious and Tradition had been unfavorable. Dr. Pacifici places particular emphasis on the Tradition of Sephardic is of the opinion that the children receive an education fitting and orientated on Erez-Israel, but, at the same time, their Tradition is to be retained. With a view to prevailing circumstances and the urgency of the matter, Dr. Pacifici let himself be persuaded to enter into an agreement accordingly. This was done in the form of letters, under date of November 30, addressed to Dr. Schwarz and to the Aliyat Hanoar. After that, Both Dr. Schwarz and Mr. Werfel were again absent for a time. Three weeks later Mr. Werfel declared that he had received approval of the Aliyat Hanoar to this agreement and that he had also finally come to terms about it with Dr. Schwarz. Later Dr. Schwarz explained that it was the Joint who would give subsidies solely to the parties and that, therefore the Pacifici-Werfel plan is not feasable. Besides, the Joint Telt that even during emigration the children should remain with their parents.

For us actually the question as to whether the religious parties or other religious Institutions concern themselves with the children is a secondary one. The important matter is that no child who comes from a religious home or environment should be transferred to those of the Left because of the Aliya.

Finally I want to stress that I can not interfere in the current question whether the children should be sent to Erez-Israel now or later when there shall have been made better preparations for them; and then whether together with their parents or separately. If and when the children do go, adequate arrangements should be made that they do not get into the wrong hands. IX. APPENDIX TO THE PROPOSALS To Proposal I The discrepancy that exists between theoretical equality and what is practiced would have to be considered in particular. To this I would refer again to the concrete examples given about Romania, etc. Also, for purposes of illustration, I would like to refer to the following at this point; Mr. Passman, Vice Chairman at the A.J.D.C. for Europe, was in Italy and worked strongly to prevent a reduction of the budget of the Yeshivas, inspite of a general reduction of the budget. In reply to an objection raised over such action by those of another belief, Mr. Passman explained that the religious Institutions had suffered cuts anyhow. It would therefore be more justified to accord the religious Institutions special attention, which might seem to be a favor, but would actually be only a fine gesture in preparations. The position which Dr. Schwarz took has been described at several points. His profound feeling of justice repeatedly led him to make decisions favorable to the interests of the religious institutions. If, nevertheless, the above named favorable conditions still prevail, they can be traced back for the most part to the hindrances and misunderstandings which he, himself, can not always cope with. To Proposal II It is to be expected that some people will object to having American Jews interfere in international or internal matter concerning Erez-Israel. Without going into the justification of such a viewpoint, I would like to note that a thorough examination of facts, together with an objective analysis of same, would prove that this proposal does not run counter to the statements and decisions made by the authoritative sources in Erez-Israel,

-18-

At the Zionist Congress in Basle in the year 1947 one point of discussion was that all children in Erez-Israel were to receive a religious education. A vote was taken on this proposal and because of a small majority of the opposition - amounting to 7% - this proposal could not be confirmed. Since the negative result of that vote was attributed to a technical accident, the matter was handed over to the Jewish Agency for revision and regulation. Since that time many things have happened which would show that the leading personalities are recognizing ever more the significance of Torah and Tradition. In this connection several facts could be listed - both from the time of negotiations between the leaders of the Jewish Agency and the United Nations and its Commissions, and later having finally attained independence and established the Jewish State.

of special importance in this connection is, furthermore, the agreement of Zuerich(see page 9), as it shows that
there was acknowledgement in principle that children of religious parents or presumptively religious parents should receive
a religious education.

#### To Proposal IV

The members of a body, as suggested in this proposal, would have to be able to grasp the problem clearly and firmly and treat it as such. The focal point of their task is to be spiritual and moral deliverance of the children and thereby of the entire generation.

The fact stands uncontested that no power in the world can demand that children be denied the tradition of their parental homes. The hinderances, or rather the seeming problems which stand in the way, are very often found to be the product of misunderstandings. To a large degree, it is also a fact that certain situations are described as - so to speak - legal and thereby sovereign, while they are actually a form of misconduct on the part of certain parties.

Besides, leading personalities - even if they belong to those in other camps - have also acknowledged that the religious Jew has by no means been found to be inferior as a Chalutz (settlement worker) and as a soldier to the non - religious Jew. Extensive and informative material is available about this particular point at the present time.

August 25, 1950 Rabbi M. Kirshblum Mizrachi Organization 1133 Broadway New York 10, New York My dear Rabbi Kirshblum: It was thoughtful of you to send me a copy of the address which you delivered at the Actions Committee meeting in Jerusalem. I read it upon my return from Europe with a great deal of pleasure. I hope that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you in the near future. There are so many things to talk over concerming the status of our movement and the situation in Israel, and especially, matters concerning the Congress. Perhaps we shall meet in New York soon. With all good wishes for a Happy New Year, I remain Most cordially yours, ABBA HILLEL SILVER AHS:er

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Dear Dr. Silver:

Rabbi Abraham B. Reines (son of the sainted founder of the Mizrachi movement) a man of great scholarship and rare devotion to Torah and ion, has completed three invaluable volumes which are destined to enrich our sacred literature even as they will supplement the records of the World Zionist Movement and its development in the past five years.

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Great personalities and significant historic events of three generations, which have heretofore been touched upon only superficially, will find remarkable description and complete expression in the works of Rabbi Reines. The above volumes will be published in Hebrew, Yiddish and English. One of these volumes incidentally, is the first complete and authentic biography of the sainted founder of the Mizrachi and comprises a history of the founding of Mizrachi as well as its development. It contains also a history of the founding by him in 1882 of the first Yeshiva where secular teachings were advanced.

Rabbi Reines has expressed to me his earnest and wholehearted desire to have your name included in the Committee of Sponsors of this very significant literary undertaking and I take delight in transmitting that request to you in the hope that you will authorize me to add your name to the above-mentioned committee.

Please accept my thanks in advance.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Max Kirshblum Executive Vice-President

West Edebern

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[Agus+1950]

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September 1, 1950 Rabbi Max Kirshblum Mizrach Organization of America 1133 Broadway New York 10, New York My dear Rabbi Kirshblum: In reply to your kind letter of August 29th, permit me to state that I shall be pleased to serve on the committee of sponsors for the volume on the works which Rabbi Abraham B. Reines plans to publish, with the understanding that this is not to involve me in any other commitments. I trust that you are well and with all good wishes for a very Happy New Year, I remain Most cordial ly yours, ABBA HILLEL SILVER AHS:er

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Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am pleased to inform you that Rabbi Mordecai Kirshblum, President of the Mizrachi Organization of America, will be the guest of honor at the Annual Dinner on Sunday evening, June 5th, at the Commodore Hotel.

For two decades, 1935-1955, years of historic significance to our people, Rabbi Kirshblum stood at the helm of leader-ship of the Mizrachi movement and religious Zionism.

Now that he is completing twenty years of distinguished service to our people and three years as President of the Mizrachi of America, it is most fitting that we dedicate the forthcoming annual dinner in his honor, as a token of our esteem and affection.

You are cordially invited to serve on the committee of patrons and sponsors representing a cross section of leader-ship of the American Jewish community and the State of Israel. We are certain that you will want to associate yourself with this committee, as an expression of your friendship to Rabbi Kirshblum.

Kindly return the enclosed card indicating your acceptance.

With Torah and Zion Greetings, Sincerely yours,

Louis Schleifer, Chairman

Rabbi Kirshblum Testimonial Committee

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His championing of the cause of unity among all religious Jewry and his dedication to the creation of an ever growing Mizrachi youth movement have brought great achievement for Torah in America and in Israel.

The celebration of twenty years of unswerving devotion to the redemption of our people gives assurance that Rabbi Kirshblum will continue to bring his many gifts of mind and spirit to the historic call of our times, the call for a Jewish People and a Jewish Land redeemed at last after so many centuries of suffering for the sanctification of the Divine Name.

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June 5, 1955

TELEGRAM

RABBI MORDECAI KIRSHBLUM
COMMODORE HOTEL
GRAND BALLROOM
42nd ST. AND LEXINGTON AVE.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

I JOIN YOUR HOST OF FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN EXTENDING TO YOU FELICITATIONS AND WARMEST GREETINGS. YOUR YEARS OF UNSELFISH AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO OUR GREAT CAUSE HAVE WON FOR YOU THE GRATITUDE AND THE ACCLAIM OF ALL OF US. MORE POWER TO YOU!

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

### Copie

# Modéle de lettre d'authorisation

Cet enfant a chez moi une nourriture casher (3) et

Je tiens à ce je préférerais il m'est indifferent

(3) Qu'il ait une nourriture casher.

Je désire que set enfant receive (3) ne receive pas

une éducation religieuse et soit intégré dans une groupe ne soit pas religieus.

A . . . . . . . (ville). . .le . . . . (date) . . . Signature:

Pour les tuteurs: Indiquer ici leur lieu de parenté avec l'enfant et leur qualité.

<sup>1)</sup> Nom, prénom, profession

<sup>2)</sup> Adresse compléte

<sup>3)</sup> Rayer les mentions inutiles

<sup>4)</sup> Nom, prénoms, date et lieu de naissance.

& Jack Grifel