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United Jewish Appeal, United Palestine Appeal, "D", 1941.

January 3, 1941

Rabbi Daniel L. Davis
1019 Woods Avenue
Lancaster, Pa.

My dear Friends:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter. I am asking Mr. Henry Montor, our director in New York, to send you a fuller statement covering the negotiations which led up to the decision to dissolve the United Jewish Appeal. I am sure that you will find, upon a reading of the material, that the leadership of the United Palestine Appeal has done all that it possibly could do for the sake of maintaining a United Jewish Appeal without sacrificing the vital interests of Palestine.

There need be no conflict in local communities, nor any separate campaigns. Welfare Funds will continue their united campaigns. Each community will receive application from the United Palestine Appeal and from the Joint Distribution Committee and each community will decide through its Board what allocations it wishes to make.

With all good wishes for a happy new year,
I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Detroit Zionist Bulletin

No. 6

February - 1941

Vol. III.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Membership Campaign of our Zionist District has made notable progress. Already over 200 new members have been enlisted. Under the able leadership of Judge Ellmann, many workers have been mobilized and hundreds of prospect slips assigned. As usual Harry Cohen and Aaron Silberblatt have blazed the way with 50 new members. This team alone promises 200 additional members. David Lubetsky has accounted for 20 members; Harry Bradlin, Louis Kramer and Harry Sott are doing a fine job. Mr. Irving Kaufmann, a nephew of Edmund I. Kaufmann, President of the Zionist Organization of America, has shown some of the old timers how it can be done. Over thirty members is his contribution.

On Wednesday night, June 29, a membership rally was held at Shaarey Zedek. Dr. Israel Goldstein, National President of the Jewish National Fund, spoke to the workers in the membership campaign and urged them to greater effort. Dr. Goldstein, always a fluent and convincing speaker, stressed the necessity for a larger membership at this time, when the needs of Palestine demand priority in Jewish life. The sympathy of Jews for Palestine is not enough. They must become members now; anti-Zionism is a force to be reckoned with not by mere words but with deeds. Therefore a large membership has been deemed by our national leaders as the first great requisite in the struggle which lies ahead.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL CONFERENCE

On Sunday January 26, the United Palestine Appeal held a great conference in Washington. Hundreds of delegates attended from all over the country. The conference enthusiastically applauded the resolution for increased aid to the Yishuv. Dr. A. H. Silver rose to great heights in a plea for cooperation from all Jews. Other speakers were Paul V. McNutt, Congressman John W. McCormack, Dr. Bernard Joseph, from Palestine, and Henry Monsky, National President of the Bnai Brith. Excerpts from the speeches delivered by these men can be found in the current issue of the New Palestine.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

In the coming year there will be no United Jewish Appeal. No decision of like importance has been made by organized Zionism in America since the inception of the United Palestine Appeal itself. The implications and the overtones are many. In these crucial days supporters of Palestine will be called upon to indicate in terms of money and effort that they value Palestine as the Great Outpost of Jewish life. We will be asked to view Palestine not only as a place of refuge for our stricken brethren but as an instrument of Rebirth for them as well as for ourselves. We have been termed an emotional people. Yet our decisions in this case must be dictated by logic and by the ultimate values accruing to the Jewish people. We shall be asked to consider the contributions already made and the potentialities of modern Palestine in relation to bare philanthropies. Shall we pursue the path of statesmanship or will we be led by those who follow the outworn patterns of Jewish Escapism.

The National Administrative Committee of the Zionist Organization of America on January 5, endorsed the action of the United Palestine Appeal to make a separate campaign for \$12,000,000. America today is the chief support of the Yishuv in Palestine. Thousands of Jews are still coming into Palestine and regardless of present war conditions, these immigrants are welcomed with open arms. These newcomers must be absorbed into a new country without the vast resources of an older and more stable economy. Lest the sum of money be considered unduly high the following comparison is not amiss: The National Refugee Service will undertake a campaign this year for close to \$4,500,000 to handle the refugee problem in this country. Without attempting to minimize the importance of refugee work in America, this task is comparatively simple when compared with the huge undertakings in Palestine. In Palestine much larger numbers are cared for and are being absorbed into a country which is at war and which is at the same time building up successfully a new economy and a new life.

This year the United Jewish Appeal paid to the U.P.A. the sum of \$2,900,000. From our own fund in Detroit it is estimated that \$83,000 will have been sent to Palestine. It will readily be seen that these figures are far short of the goal set by the United Palestine Appeal for the coming year. We shall therefore need the earnest help of all our friends in the days to come. It is hoped and prayed for on all sides that some way may be found to continue the United Jewish Campaign in Detroit. Increased aid to Palestine is essential, yet Zionists are the last ones to minimize the needs of other Jewish causes. If for ideological or other reasons we shall insist that Palestine be given priority, we must also share in the solution of other vital Jewish problems. The real answer is in greatly increased benefactions from those who are well able to shoulder the burden. It may be said without fear of contradiction that a very, very small percentage of well-to-do Jews have done their duty in the present crisis.

W A R

The Battle of Britain still holds the center of the stage. If England will hold out, is the anxious thought of everyone. American help must not be too late. While the scene of action has shifted to the Mediterranean, the great struggle over the English Channel is still the key to the whole future of civilization. And yet, the continued defeats of Italy have greatly altered the situation. A powerful Italy would certainly swing every Mediterranean country into the Axis orbit. Now the Balkan countries have no fear of Italy, and for the time being, a stiffened attitude has resulted.

Over 6000 Jewish boys from Palestine are fighting in the British army and are giving a good account of themselves. These Jewish soldiers have been welcomed heartily into the armies in Libya and in Greece. This source of man power and the resources and skill of the Yishuv have been placed at the disposal of the English military authorities. The people of Palestine welcome the opportunity to share in this Battle for Civilization. It is well to bear in mind that Palestine, situated as it is, between Egypt and Syria, is a strong outpost, and is doing a great deal more than its share in the present war.

E U G E N E K O H N

Special attention is directed to an article by Eugene Kohn in the January 24th issue of the New Palestine. Rabbi Kohn is one of the finest thinkers in American Jewish life and his article on Zionism should be read carefully by those who would understand something of the deeper problems of Jewish life.

P A L E S T I N E

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF W.I.Z.O AND HISTADRUTH. The people of Palestine are currently celebrating the 20th anniversary of two great Zionist institutions. Here in America, the home of Hadassah, it is not generally known that there is a sister organization among the Jewish women of Europe. The Womens International Zionist Organization, generally referred to as W.I.Z.O. has been in existence for twenty years and now has a membership of 115,000. Fifty-five thousand of these members belong to the British Empire. Canadian Hadassah is included in this group. Twenty-five thousand girls have received agricultural training in W.I.Z.O's various centers during the past two decades. The domestic science school of W.I.Z.O. in Tel Aviv has become famous. Cooking and dressmaking classes are conducted in various towns and villages. One of W.I.Z.O's most important activities is the organization of kitchens in the Kvutzoth. In fact, the W.I.Z.O. conducts regular good housekeeping campaigns throughout Palestine. The yearly budget of W.I.Z.O. now reaches \$500,000.

It would be impossible in a few words to describe the work of the Histadruth and the significance of the great labor movement in Palestine. This great Organization of Labor is a significant example of Jewish creativeness, and its importance to all of Jewish life cannot be overestimated. As general Zionists we must reserve the privilege of criticising some of the policies and activities of the dominant party in Palestine. Yet every Zionist is in sympathy with the movement to rebuild our ancient Homeland on a basis of social justice, without sweatshops, and in a manner reminiscent of the aims of our great prophets

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The general position in Palestine is not deteriorating, in fact, it has improved recently. It is reported by the Jewish Agency that the surplus of the

Palestine Government at the end of September 1940, amounted to £4,059,530. In September alone there was a Government surplus of £388,000. There was a net profit on postal services of £201,144 in 1939.

The Palestine Government has announced that it will grant loans of ten to fifteen thousand pounds to the growing fishing industry. These loans are to be granted to both Jewish and Arab fisherman. An expert on fishing has been sent from Europe in order to help the growth of this important industry.

The budget for the city of Tel Aviv has been set at £531,000. This budget is only a little more than the total income of the city government.

Since 1936, 90,000 Jews have found a haven in the Jewish National Home. Approximately 10,000 of these have reached the country in 1940. Since 1934, 6000 boys and girls have been brought into Eretz Israel by the Youth Aliyah. Of these 2500 are now self-supporting.

At the present time over 25,000 people are living in the Kvutsoth and Kibbutzim. During the coming year the Jewish Agency will spend almost £90,000 on the construction of new buildings to house refugees. At the present time thousands of these people are living in tents. A great fashion show was recently opened in Tel Aviv. Representatives from leading firms were present from Egypt, Syria and Irak. Palestine is rapidly becoming the style center of the whole Near East.

CULTURAL LIFE IN PALESTINE

The people of Palestine like the Jews of America continue their normal way of living. In Jerusalem a new moving picture house is being constructed at a cost of £20,000. The Palestine Symphony Orchestra recently gave a first performance of Ernest Bloch's "Avodath Hakodesh." This is the musical composition which the Conference of American Rabbis commissioned the composer to write. The city of Tel Aviv awarded the annual Bialik Prize to the writers of Hebrew poetry and literature. This year the prize was presented to Saul Tschernichowsky, the foremost living Hebrew poet. He is one of the governors of the Hebrew University. Mr. Tschernichowsky has translated some of the world's greatest literature into Hebrew including some of our own American classics, such as, Longfellow's Evangeline and Hiawatha.

Due to the beneficence of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Palestine now boasts of a fine Archaeological Museum. Recently a new wing was opened to house some of the recently discovered Palestinian iron objects, some actual specimens of copper ore from King Solomon's copper mine, a stone crib from Solomon's stables in Megiddo, and the famous so-called Lachish Letters.

ARAB - JEWISH COOPERATION

The movement toward Arab-Jewish cooperation continues. Recently a third conference was held between Arabs and Jews in connection with the citrus industry. The planters have elected a delegation to represent them before the Government. At the meetings of these delegates the greatest cordiality exists. Speeches are delivered both in Hebrew and Arabic, depending upon the nationality of the speakers. In each case the addresses are immediately translated into the other language. Following the example set by the Jewish growers, the Arabs are now beginning to establish cooperative societies. Resolutions were passed by the Arab growers calling for the establishment in Arabian villages of cooperative societies modeled on those in the Jewish colonies.

KEREN HAYESOD IN ENGLAND

Despite the ordeal through which the English people are passing, the Zionists of England have launched a Keren Hayesod campaign. Messages of encouragement on the opening of the campaign have come from leading Palestine Jews. The launching of a Keren Hayesod campaign under present conditions has been heralded as an act of faith and confidence in the Jewish National Home and in the ultimate victory of democracy.

LOCAL NEWS

On Tuesday evening February 18, there will be a meeting of the Zionist Organization at Congregation Shaarey Zedek. A discussion on the need of revitalizing Zionist work in this community is the planned program for the evening. A paper will be read by Philmore Leemon, one of the younger members of the Organization, which will be provocative and will surely encourage wide discussion. Mr. Philip Slomovitz and Mrs. Max Frank will comment on the paper. On Tuesday evening March 18,

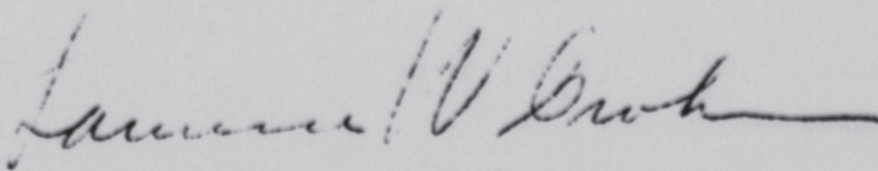
Rabbi Israel Efros will address a meeting of the Zionist Organization. His subject will deal with the 800th anniversary of the death of Yehudah Halevi. Further details will be announced in a later Bulletin.

C O N C L U S I O N

Each day the tragedy of Jewish life deepens. Since the issuance of the last Bulletin Rumanian Jewry has suffered new brutalities and indignities. There remain two great free Jewish communities, America and Palestine. The fight against Hitler is as much a struggle for the future welfare of American Jewry as it is for the Yishuv. Great responsibilities rest upon us here. We must give generously of our substance and we must think right on the Jewish problem lest we all be destroyed. In Poland, the Nazi overlords have decreed an arm-band to be worn by all Jews. They would thus put a badge of shame upon our people. But they failed miserably -- our people in Poland have been put to the test and not found wanting.

But in another sense a new Badge of Shame may be awaiting us. If our fellow-Jews here in America do not respond adequately in this crisis, despite repeated warnings and pleadings -- then a real Badge of Shame, affixed unto ourselves, by ourselves, will be our lot. Palestine has shown the way out. Will our people respond with pennies, will they continue to put their trust in disproven and outmoded ideas, will they follow a bankrupt leadership based upon Jewish negation?-- Or will they begin the trek toward physical and spiritual rehabilitation? If not, then Hitler will most surely have succeeded in stigmatizing our race.

European Jewry is going through its ordeal with chins up. In the Yishuv Jews only ask to do their share in this war. Here in America Jews are asked only for money. Let any Jew who says, "what's the use" understand how he degrades himself and his people. America must be the arsenal for democracy pleads President Roosevelt. Will American Jewry likewise be an arsenal of Jewish Hope and Assistance?



S E C U R E A N E W M E M B E R !

Temple Beth Israel

BERNARD M. DORFMAN, RABBI

408 DOMINION BUILDING
LIMA, OHIO

March 10, 1941

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I want to acknowledge with thanks your very kind letter of March 2d, with regard to the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and their referendum on the proposal to establish a national advisory budgeting service to tell the communities in America about their contributions to any and all causes.

I want to assure you that I read your letter to the officers of the Allied Jewish Appeal of Lima, Ohio; and it did not take much persuasion for us to vote down the proposals.

Please be assured of our affectionate regards, and the hearty greetings and expressions of cooperation and support from your many friends in Lima, Ohio.

With every kind wish and regards, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Bernard M. Dorfman

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ALLIED JEWISH CAMPAIGN
Lima District
Lima, Ohio

April 2, 1941

United Palestine Appeal
41 East 42nd St.
New York City

Gentlemen:

Rabbi Dorfman has handed me the enclosed telegram for response. Kindly be advised that Lima has approved the proposal of the Council, and their publication including Lima in that list is correct.

I cannot understand where you got the idea that Lima had rejected the National Budgetary Proposal. At a meeting held the latter part of last month, called especially for this purpose, the Budgetary Proposal was unanimously approved by our Board of Directors. I trust this is the information you desire.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

Albert L. Negin, Att'y

April 7, 1941

Rabbi Bernard M. Dorfman
Temple Beth Israel
408 Dominion Bldg.
Lima, Ohio

My dear Bernard:

I have received the enclosed letter from Mr. Albert L. Negin of your city. I recall that in your letter to me of March 10 you stated: "I want to assure you that I read your letter to the officers of the Allied Jewish Appeal of Lima Ohio; and it did not take much persuasion for us to vote down the proposals".

Just what happened? With best wishes,
I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.