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United Jewish Appeal, United Palestine Appeal, Emergency
Committee for Zionist Affairs, 1940-1941.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS
111 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

August 15, 1940

TO: Members of the Emergency Committee
FROM: Samuel Caplan

Attached please find the following items:

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Emergency Committee, held August 6th at the Hotel Astor
2. Report No. 134 from Dr. Kahany, Geneva
3. Letter from Mr. R. Lichtheim re situation in the Baltic States
4. Translation of a letter from Mr. N. Hermann giving the situation in France
5. Report No. 136 from Dr. Kahany, Geneva

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1940
AT 2:00 P.M. AT THE ASTOR HOTEL, BROADWAY AND 44TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

PRESENT:

A. J. Freiman (by invitation) presiding; Gedaliah Bublick, Nahum Goldmann, Solomon Goldman, Israel Goldstein, Louis Lipsky, Robert Szold, David Wertheim, Stephen S. Wise, Miriam Cohen (for Hadassah)

Kurt Blumenfeld, Isadore Breslau, E. I. Kaufmann, Morris Margulies, Emanuel Neumann, Meyer Steinglass (in place of H. Menter) by invitation.

At the invitation of Dr. Wise, Mr. Freiman who was a guest at the meeting, presided.

RESOLUTION ON DEATH OF MR. JABOTINSKY:

On motion made by Dr. Wise, the Committee, by a rising vote, expressed its sorrow at the death of Mr. Jabotinsky, whom Dr. Wise referred to as a great Zionist who, at certain important moments in the history of the Zionist movement, rendered it high and enduring service.

It was further agreed, on motion made by Dr. Wise, THAT a resolution be prepared by a small committee to be published in the Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish press, and a copy sent to Mrs. Jabotinsky.

The committee appointed to draft the resolution are Dr. Wise, Mr. Lipsky and Mr. Wertheim.

TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE WORK:

Dr. Goldmann made the following three proposals: (1) That the Emergency Committee be authorized to rent two or three rooms in the Liggett Building, adjacent to the offices of the United Palestine Appeal, at a monthly rental of about \$200; (2) that Mr. Arthur Lourie's appointment as Secretary of the Palestine Emergency Committee be confirmed (Dr. Goldmann stated that Mr. Lourie will be ready to assume the Secretaryship by the middle of September); and (3) that the services of a typist be engaged.

IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED:

THAT a committee be named, with power to act, to look into the question of renting suitable offices and to consider the financial aspects of the technical organization of the work.

Messrs. Lipsky, Goldstein, Szold and Goldmann were named on the committee.

Mr. Lourie's appointment as Secretary of the Emergency Committee was confirmed.

VISAS:

Dr. Goldmann spoke of the efforts being made to obtain visas for prominent European Zionists in the danger zones. He reported that the State Department had consented to make recommendations on behalf of these people to the Consulates in their respective countries, upon receipt of lists. However, the State Department requires the following guarantees: (1) That the refugees shall be pro-American; (2) that they will not become a burden on the State; and (3) that their emergence from the United States will be facilitated during the period of the war if at all possible, and certainly after the war.

Dr. Goldmann pointed out that it is not merely a Zionist question, it is a general Jewish question. He proposed that the United Jewish Appeal be requested to appropriate \$150,000 for this purpose.

Mr. Lipsky believed that the Emergency Committee ought to assume the responsibility for this, that the United Jewish Appeal will not make any appropriation, for the J.D.C. would undoubtedly object to it. The whole question, he said, is in the jurisdiction of the J.D.C., the National Refugee Service, and the United Palestine Appeal. He thought that if the United Palestine Appeal would consent to appropriate half of the amount required, the J.D.C. might agree to do likewise.

Dr. Goldstein pointed out that this matter has to be decided within a few days and suggested that the approach be made, first, to the United Jewish Appeal, and then to the J.D.C., - the ultimate step being that the Emergency Committee will hold itself responsible because this matter comes directly within its jurisdiction. He saw no purpose, in approaching the U.P.A. again; he did see a purpose in going to the Gewerkschaften because that, as such, is not represented in the Emergency Committee. He believed the Gewerkschaften should assume a responsibility in this matter.

ON MOTION MADE BY MR. LIPSKY AND SECONDED:

THAT the Emergency Committee take the initiative in finding the necessary financial support for Zionist leaders in the danger zones who are to be brought to the United States, seeing to it that in every instance the proper financial guarantee is secured in advance;
THAT there be an insurance fund not exceeding \$10,000 which should be used for this purpose.

Mr. Szold opposed the motion, pointing out that if the Emergency Fund should now underwrite too much, there would be no funds left with which to meet other emergencies. He therefore proposed that we cable to the Jewish Agency for approval.

Mr. Lipsky pointed out that cabling for approval applies to the Funds of the United Palestine Appeal, but it does not apply to the funds of the Emergency Committee. The Emergency Committee, he said, has a right to make an appropriation if it is felt that it would serve the purpose.

THE ABOVE MOTION WAS FINALLY CARRIED.

Messrs. Kaufmann, Szold, Lipsky, Wertheim and Goldmann were named a committee to negotiate with the United Jewish Appeal.

In response to a question from Mr. Kaufmann, Dr. Goldmann stated that he has received requests for visas for over sixty persons.

AID TO ZIONISTS IN PRISON CAMPS:

Dr. Goldmann reported that the Geneva office had arranged with the Red Cross to send a monthly food parcel to the twenty or thirty starving Zionists in European prison camps, and had suggested that the Emergency Committee assume responsibility for the expenditure of \$50 to \$100 a month for this purpose.

Dr. Goldmann recommended that the Emergency Committee be authorized at present to place at the disposal of the Geneva office the sum of \$500 for Red Cross food parcels.

IT WAS DULY MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED:
THAT \$75 a month be sent to the Geneva Office for payment to the Red Cross for a monthly food parcel to be sent to Zionists in European prison camps.

HACHSHARA TRAINING IN CANADA:

Dr. Goldmann reported on information received from London, to the effect that among the German Jews who had been sent from London to Canada there are many who had been in Hachshara training in England. These people are now interned in Canada, and the Hechalutz have requested that their training be continued in Canada. Dr. Goldmann pointed out that this is a question which must be taken up with the Canadian Government.

Mr. Freiman stated that he would approach the Canadian Government on the matter.

FEDERATED COUNCIL FOR PALESTINE INSTITUTIONS:

Mr. Lipsky called attention to a newly formed "Federated Council for Palestine Institutions", which presumes to represent all religious, educational and welfare organizations in Palestine that are not supported by Zionist funds. This new Palestine fund-raising organization is planning to initiate a special High Holiday drive in New York, with the cooperation of the Jewish Morning Journal. It also intends to appeal to Welfare Funds and Federations directly for allotments from their campaigns. Included among the officers of the Federated Council for Palestine Institutions are the following Mizrachi leaders: Gedaliah Bublick and Hirsch Manischewitz, who are Vice-Chairmen of the Council, and B. Shnur who is an Associate Treasurer.

Mr. Bublick explained that the Federated Council is composed of the old Yishub institutions, which formerly supported themselves by sending out Meshulachim. In the last several years, however, they found it difficult to make collections in the cities where Welfare Funds exist, and, consequently, their receipts were nil. These institutions therefore decided to organize themselves into one central body, with a responsible leadership.

Mr. Lipsky contended that the Emergency Committee and the U.P.A. have the right to ask the Mizrachi representatives to withdraw from the Federated Council, and the Mizrachi to disavow any connection with it, on the ground that

the Palestine needs are being provided for by the United Palestine Appeal, from which the Mizrachi receives \$125,000 a year.

Rabbi Goldman urged that it be pointed out to the Federated Council that if they should attempt to approach the Welfare Funds throughout the country they would hurt the U.P.A. considerably, because the Council would simply be regarded by the Welfare Funds as another Palestine project.

Dr. Wise registered his solemn protest against any such plan as proposed by the Federated Council.

Mr. Bublick reiterated that the Council was organized with a view to eliminating the practice of sending out Meshulochim. Furthermore, he pointed out that the Mizrachi had never contributed toward the support of the old Yishub institutions which have no relation to political Zionism and which do not accept the Hebrew language. These institutions, however, have a right, as Palestinians, to seek charity from American Jewry, Mr. Bublick maintained.

DR. WISE MOVED AND IT WAS SECONDED AND CARRIED:
THAT a committee be appointed for a very careful study of the problem, in the hope that the persons who are interested in this undertaking may be dissuaded from it.

THE LOAN:

Mr. Emanuel Neumann reported that the loan was not progressing favorably. To date, close to \$500,000 have been subscribed, a little more than half of which are individual subscriptions, and the balance, organization subscriptions, including \$10,000 from Junior Hadassah and \$50,000 from Senior Hadassah. Senior Hadassah has decided to make available an additional \$50,000 for certain emergency needs in Palestine. Of the total amount subscribed, a little over \$300,000 has been received in cash, and money is continuing to come in, mainly from individuals, who are paying up pretty well. The organizational subscriptions take a longer time to collect, and a fair amount of shrinkage in receipts must be allowed for. The technical details in connection with the loan have been worked out, notes have been issued, etc. Mr. Neumann spoke of the difficulties in securing subscriptions during the summer months, and said that Mr. Montor thought that the loan activity ought to be terminated by August 31st.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Szold explained Mr. Kaplan's purpose in launching the loan, which, Mr. Szold believed, showed vision and foresight.

HE THEN MOVED, IT WAS SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

THAT the activity for the loan be continued on the basis originally planned, with a view to obtaining the maximum amount before October 1st.

Mr. Szold also suggested that those engaged in securing subscriptions to the loan in the different cities, be instructed that under no circumstances

should they approach the Community Chests, and furthermore, they should endeavor to avoid small subscriptions.

LETTER FROM RABBI SILVER:

For the information of those present, Dr. Goldmann read the following letter dated July 31, from Mr. Robert T. Pell, writing on behalf of the Acting Secretary of State, in acknowledgment of a letter which Dr. Silver addressed to the President on June 17, 1940, suggesting that part of the funds appropriated by the Congress for assistance to refugees, might be used by refugees in, or going to Palestine:

Washington
July 31, 1940

Dear Mr. Silver:

The President has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of your recent letter in which you bring to his attention the cause of the Jewish refugees who must be assisted in Europe while awaiting transport to Palestine and to reach Palestine.

You suggest that you and your associates would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss in Washington with the appropriate authorities the possibilities of relief for this class of refugees from the fund which has been appropriated by the Congress.

Distribution of the foodstuffs and other articles for relief purchased in this country from this fund is exclusively the responsibility of the American Red Cross. You may wish to bring your special problem to the attention of the Chairman, the Honorable Norman H. Davis.

It is regretted that due to the pressure of official business there has been a delay in replying to your letter.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT T. PELL"

AUTHORIZATION FOR DR. GOLDMANN'S TRAVELLING EXPENSES:

IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED:
THAT the sum of \$500 be voted for the travelling expenses, etc. of Dr. Goldmann over a six months period.

REVISIONIST YOUTH:

The Chairman broached the question of the opportuneness of bringing the Revisionist youth into the Zionist movement.

The consensus of opinion was strongly opposed to such a step at this time.

Dr. Wise proposed a vote of thanks to the very efficient and amiable Chairman, Mr. A. J. Freiman.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.



MINUTES OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE

OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1940 - 41 E. 42nd St.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held at the office of the Keren Hayesod on Thursday afternoon, October 10th, at 5 P.M.

PRESENT: Mrs. David De Sola Pool, Messrs. Gellman, Lipsky, Szold, Wertheim Wise; Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Arthur Lourie; and Henry Montor (by invitation)

MEMBERSHIP OF OFFICE COMMITTEE: It was reported that in accordance with the decision of the full Committee, Dr. Wise had nominated an Office Committee as follows: Messrs. Gellman, Solomon Goldman, Kaufmann, Lipsky, Silver, Szold, Wertheim and Mrs. Pool.

After discussion it was agreed that suggestions with regard to additions to the membership of the Committee should be brought before the full Committee.

RED CROSS: Mr. Montor reported on his further interviews with Messrs. Ernest Swift and Norman H. Davis of the Red Cross, and Messrs. Murray Childs and Alling of the Near East Division of the State Department in Washington, D.C. A memorandum on the conversations was entered on the record of the Emergency Committee. The subcommittee appointed to deal with this matter, consisting of Messrs. Lewin-Epstein, Breslau and Montor, had met to discuss it.

It was decided, in view of the conversation of the State Department that nothing further be done at present, pending further word from the State Department. Rabbi Breslau had, however, undertaken to put the whole matter before Justice Brandeis, who is a friend of Mr. A. A. Berle of the State Department. Cables had been sent by the Red Cross subcommittee to Mr. Kaplan reporting on the results of the conferences.

Mrs. Pool informed the Committee that Hadassah, although invited to attend the conferences in Washington, had decided after consideration that it might be better for them at this stage not to be included in the discussions as it was possible that later on the matter might be opened de novo and there might be some advantage in Hadassah entering the negotiations at this time.

JEWS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT: Dr. Wise expressed the view that it was desirable that action be taken with a view to the appointment of a Jew in the State Department with whom it would be possible to discuss Palestine and Near Eastern matters.

It was decided that this matter be discussed at the next full meeting.

BUDGET :

A provisional budget was submitted to the Committee but no decision was taken with regard thereto. It was agreed that prior to the next meeting of the Office Committee, Mr. Szold, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, and Mr. Lourie should work out a full budget. It was pointed out that in the agreement between the members of the UPA provision had been made for \$100,000 to be allotted to the Emergency Committee. The Executive in Jerusalem, having been informed of this allocation, approved the payment of the first \$50,000 for the purposes of the Emergency Committee for a six month period.

It was agreed that a cable be sent to the Executive asking for authorization for the payment of the remaining \$50,000 by the UPA to the Emergency Committee.

CHAIRMAN OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE :

Following a discussion it was agreed that the question of the chairmanship of the Committee should be referred to the next meeting which was fixed for Wednesday, October 16th, at 3 P.M.

1,000 CHALUTZIM IN POLAND :

Dr. Goldmann reported that a group of 1,000 Chalutzim who had been carefully selected for immigration into Palestine had fled from Poland to Lithuania at the time of the occupation of Poland; certificates were now available to enable them to leave for Palestine, but they lacked the means for the journey.

The Zionist Organization did not normally contribute to payment of traveling expenses, but this was an exceptional case and for various reasons it was highly desirable that these people should be assisted in reaching Palestine. The Executive had undertaken the cost of transportation from Constantinople to Palestine. The cost of traveling from Lithuania to Constantinople would amount to approximately \$100 per person and this sum would have to be found for the bulk of the group. Four hundred of the Chalutzim had somehow made arrangements for their own passage money, but there was still need to raise the money for the cost of passage of the remaining six hundred. The amount involved therefore was \$60,000.

A subcommittee consisting of Messrs. Kaufmann, Silver and Nahum Goldmann had interviewed the committee of the JDC but the result of the conference was that nothing whatever could be counted on from the JDC which had explained that its financial position was extremely difficult. The Hicem budget, on the other hand, was \$20,000 monthly for the whole world and it was useless to attempt to get the necessary funds from them.

A cable had been sent to Mr. Kaplan in Jerusalem urging that the Executive should provide all the necessary funds. To this request a reply had been received to the effect that the budget of the Executive had already been cut down by 25% and it was impossible to do anything further. Subsequently Mr. Ben Gurion had cabled to Jerusalem strongly urging the allocation of the necessary funds despite all difficulties. No reply had been received to this cable at the time of the meeting.

Mrs. Pool stated that there were some 800 youth immigrants in Lithuania, Denmark, and Sweden awaiting immigration to Palestine. Visas and money were available but thus far, from some unexplained reason, these people have not begun their journey. It was desirable that inquiries be made as to why this was so, as that would have a bearing on the question of the departure of the Chalutzim, assuming the money could be raised. Dr. Goldmann stated that he had been assured that once the money was forthcoming there would be no obstacle in the way of the departure of these persons, but he undertook to make inquiry by cable.

Dr. Goldmann reported on the letter received from Warsaw with regard to the opening of an immigration office there, including a section devoted exclusively to emigration to Palestine. A request for funds for the maintenance of this office had been received. It was agreed that Jerusalem be informed with a view to obtaining directions.

VISA SITUATION :

Dr. Goldmann reported that obstacles had arisen within the State Department with regard to the issue of further visas for leading Zionists in Europe, as previously arranged. The whole matter had come under review on Wednesday when Mr. James McDonald had seen the President. It was believed that facilities for the grant of visas for political refugees would probably continue and new regulations were expected next week. These, however, would undoubtedly provide for much stricter criteria of selection than heretofore and it was probable that the maximum list which the Committee might submit would be made up of 20 to 30 names in all. Dr. Goldmann asked that the parties should take cognizance of this fact.

NAME OF THE COMMITTEE :

It was agreed that the name of the Committee should be the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.

IMPORTS FROM PALESTINE :

Mr. Szold reported, for the information of the Committee, that he had been approached by a large importer of Palestine wines with a view to obtaining financial assistance for the import of Palestine wines, in view of the very greatly increased duty. Mr. Szold said that he had advised the importer that this was not a matter in which the Committee could help him.

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Arthur Lourie
Secretary

**COPY: ATTENTION MEMBERS OF OFFICE COMMITTEE,
Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs**

October 11, 1940

The Commissioner for
Migration & Statistics,
Department of Immigration,
Jerusalem.

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to refer to my interviews with you on the subject of immigration facilities for Jews resident in the USSR and the territories which have recently come under its jurisdiction.

It appears that His Majesty's Consular representatives in the USSR find themselves still precluded from granting visas for entry into Palestine even to persons holding immigration permits. As a result, some 400 persons in the Baltic countries who had obtained their immigration certificates before the annexation of those territories by the USSR but were unable to obtain visas prior to the departure of British Consular representatives from the Baltics, are now unable to proceed to their destination and find themselves in great distress. As you may be aware, a few of them have undertaken the long, costly and uncertain journey to Palestine across Siberia and via Japan.

Apart from the above question the Jewish Agency is unable, as long as the present state of affairs exists, to nominate for immigration permits other Jews residing in the Baltic countries or those in Soviet-occupied Poland who are considering refugees and have therefore the option of leaving Russia. The same disability applies also to former parts of Roumania now included in the USSR, viz. Bessarabia and North Bukovina. Nor are Palestinian residents caught by Soviet annexations able to obtain visas to return to this country.

So long as the question of transit through Turkey of would-be immigrants from the above territories had not been solved it seemed doubtful whether satisfactory arrangements regarding the grant of Palestine visas in the USSR would be of any avail. We are glad, however, to report that, according to the latest information received from our representative at Istanbul, the requisite authority for the grant of Turkish transit visas to Jewish immigrants into Palestine has now been obtained.

The USSR is not regarded by His Majesty's Government as an enemy territory from which immigration into Palestine is prohibited during the war. On the other hand the spread of the Soviet regime spells great material and spiritual hardship to Zionist Jews and to those religiously minded. It appears that Jewish refugees in Soviet occupied Poland, i.e., the Jews from Western Poland who fled eastwards before the advancing German armies of invasion, are now being deported wholesale to Siberia.

For all these reasons it is hoped that steps may be taken to render possible the immigration into Palestine of those Jews from the USSR who either possess immigration permits or will be nominated for immigration in the future and who will be allowed by authorities of the USSR to leave that country. As a matter will no doubt have to be decided in London it is requested that a telegraphic communication may be addressed on the subject to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

M. SMERTOK

Executive of Jewish Agency

NOTE ON THE VISIT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO WASHINGTON,
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

Having heard from Rabbi Breslau the previous day that Messrs. Brandeis, Frankfurter, and Cohen were opposed to the issuing of a public statement, I discussed the matter with Rabbi Wise Tuesday morning at breakfast. We were agreed that despite the divergence of opinion, the instructions of the Office Committee should be carried out but that the statement should be released only after the visit to the Embassy. It was agreed that the delegation should meet at the Embassy fifteen minutes before 12 o'clock, the time set for the interview.

At the hotel I met Dr. Solomon Goldman with whom I had discussed the whole matter in New York the previous day. He had just returned from a visit to Mr. Justice Brandeis and confirmed the previous report that the latter was strongly opposed to any public action. Dr. Goldman felt that a public statement should not be made, especially in view of the advice of our Washington friends as well as the cabled message from Dr. Weizmann advising caution. He could not join us as he had to leave by plane at once in order to keep an engagement in Chicago in the afternoon.

Mr. Lipsky and Mr. Szold had been unable to come. Mr. Kaufmann who had likewise been expected to join us, had decided, as Rabbi Breslau reported, not to join the delegation because he felt he was not sufficiently informed on the subject.

The delegation therefore consisted of Dr. Wise, Mrs. Pool, Rabbi Breslau and myself. We met at the Embassy at 11:45 where we had a brief consultation. At 12 we were received by Mr. Butler (who is, I understand, second in command of the Embassy) and Mr. Malcolm. They apologized for the fact that the Ambassador could not receive us because he had to be at the State Department at the time - a fact which was confirmed in the press the next morning.

Dr. Wise made the principal presentation/behalf of the Committee, first reading out our prepared statement (copy attached) and then elaborating upon it. He was supplemented by Mrs. Pool who expressed the readiness by Hadassah to help look after the refugees if they are permitted to remain in Palestine, particularly the children.

Mr. Butler's reply consisted in part of a letter addressed to Dr. Wise and signed by Mr. Butler, which he read out to us. Copy is attached. He supplemented the letter by further statements all tending to justify the action taken on grounds of war-time necessity, although he also made the point that the Government could now allow "the law" to be openly flouted.

I then pointed out that the entry of immigrants without permits had been going on for a considerable time, and that the Palestine Government had met the situation by occasionally interning such immigrants and also by deducting the corresponding number of certificates from the limited quotas provided within the framework of the White Paper. The attempted deportation was an entirely new departure. Dr. Wise and I also laid stress on the nature of the official communique and particularly on the assertion that the refugees would not be permitted to settle in Palestine after the War. This Dr. Wise characterized as a "needless affront" to the Jewish people throughout the world. Mr. Butler took exception to these words. I emphasized the fact that the language of the communique tended to base the decisions not merely on military grounds but on political grounds, and that the communique was therefore in effect a political document to which we were bound to take serious exception. In reply to Mr. Butler's repeated assertions that the principal considerations were (a) to win the War and (b) to maintain law and order in Palestine, we stated that there was another vital consideration - the preservation of an atmosphere and public opinion in this country conducive to the extension of maximum aid to Britain - an object which we had strongly in mind.

Mr. Butler also read out to us passages from a confidential report to the effect that Germany had made a declaration to the Arabs holding out the promise of freedom

and independence to the Arabs nations in the event of an Axis victory, and that Italy was associating itself with this declaration & the first official or formal declaration of this kind to come from the Axis Powers. He connected this with what was apparently a ~~systematic~~ attempt on the part of the Axis Powers to embarrass Great Britain and to inflame Arab opinion by encouraging the shipment of Jewish refugees illegally to Palestine. He also stated that the two boats were not an isolated instance but that another boatload was at Cyprus with Palestine as its destination. Public opinion in this country was important, but the military, strategic and political necessities of the position in the Middle ^{EAST} were paramount. He hoped that we as friends would help to put matters in the right light before the public.

Regarding the offensive references in the official communique, Mr. Butler and Mr. Malcolm said they were not sure that the text as reported in the press was accurate. They would cable London for precise information and would advise us.

In the course of the discussion, Dr. Wise referred to the matter of the Jewish Army, saying that the right of the Jewish people to participate in the war in this manner had been denied. To this Mr. Butler promptly replied that to his knowledge this had "not been denied", the inference being that the question was still under consideration.

As we left, Rabbi Breslau remarked to Mr. Malcolm that irrespective of what we may do, the Revisionists would probably take up the fight publicly, to which Mr. Malcolm replied that they expected it and were prepared to deal with it in their own way.

Shortly after 1 o'clock, Dr. Wise, Mrs. Pool and I met at the Willard Hotel. Mrs. Pool strongly opposed publishing our statement on the following grounds: (a) the opposition to such action on the part of Messrs. Brandeis, Frankfurter and Cohen; (b) Rabbi Goldman's concurrence with their views; (c) the sinking of the Patria, which had occurred in the meantime, had altered the position; (d) the cable from Dr. Weizmann advising caution, which Mrs. Pool felt would have influenced the decision of the Office Committee if it had been presented at its meeting last Friday.

Dr. Wise then felt that in view of all circumstances and the strength of dissenting ~~and~~ opinions, publication of the statement would have to be reconsidered, but that the opinion of the Executive Committee of the ZOA which was meeting that afternoon in Washington might be solicited.

I advised against placing the responsibility for such a decision on the Executive of the ZOA, it being preferable, in my opinion that the decision, affirmative or negative, should be made by Dr. Wise and Mrs. Pool representing the Emergency Committee. I also suggested as a possible alternative that a brief communique be issued by the delegation, stating that they had called at the Embassy to make representations, that they would await further information which might be forthcoming, and that the Emergency Committee would give further consideration to the matter in the light of the conversations which had taken place at the Embassy.

Dr. Wise and Mrs. Pool thought that if we withheld publication of our prepared statement, neither should any communique be issued.

Toward the close of the meeting of the ZOA Executive Committee that evening, Dr. Wise reported on the whole matter and informally asked the opinion of the ^{members} individuals. Their opinions were divided, the majority favoring no public statement under the circumstances.

Remaining over at Washington on other business, I took the occasion to call on Justice Brandeis Wednesday morning to inform him of the position. Justice Brandeis expressed satisfaction. He felt the sinking of the Patria "whether by an act of God or an act of man" had disposed of the matter for the time being. He pointed out that in contemplating public protest, we should take into account not only the effect on the British but also on Americans, more particularly on the Administration in Washington which was facing certain difficulties in connection with its foreign policy. Generally, he felt the most effective action Jews can take in such a situation is on the spot, in Palestine; and that such action in Palestine exercised a more effective influence on American public opinion. To my hypothetical question

whether in his opinion we should refrain from public protest in the event that British authorities went a step further and deported these refugees after they have landed in Palestine, Justice Brandeis replied that discussion on that point was premature, the case not having arisen and was probably unlikely to arise.

EMANUEL NEUMANN



MINUTES OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE
OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1940 - 41 East 42nd Street, N.Y.C.

PRESENT: Mrs. Pool, Messrs. Gellman, Lipsky, Wise, Wertheim, Szold.
Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Mr. Lourie.
By invitation - Rabbi I. Breslau.

Excuse for absence - from Rabbi Solomon Goldman.

INTERNEES IN CANADA :

It was reported that there were some 1700 Jews interned in Canada who have been brought over from Great Britain, including 247 Chalutz and Youth Aliyah members.

It was desirable that these Chalutzim and youth who were present scattered in different places throughout Canada should be concentrated in one camp and given an opportunity to continue Hachsharah work.

In view of the departure of Lord Lothian for London, it was agreed that a cable be sent to him to obtain his help in the matter and also that the British Zionists should be informed of the situation.

PALESTINIANS IN THE UNITED STATES :

It was reported that a number of Palestinians were at present in the United States who were anxious to return to Palestine, but lacked the necessary funds. From time to time application was made to the Emergency Committee for assistance in this connection.

It was agreed that the Emergency Committee was unable to appropriate funds for such a purpose at this time.

REVISIONISTS HAGANAH :

It was agreed that the Emergency Committee should bring to the attention of the existing Zionist bodies the propaganda and fund raising activities of the Revisionists in connection with their "Defense Fund". It was not thought desirable, however, that the matter should be raised in the Jewish press.

KLADAWA GROUP :

It was reported that the 170 refugees in Kladawa who had received certificates for Palestine and for whom transportation arrangements had been made with the Joint, had not yet left because of difficulties with the Turkish

and Bulgarian transit visas. No doubt if the Turkish visas became available it would be easier to get the Bulgarian visas. Rabbi Breslau had seen the Turkish Ambassador with regard to the general question of transit visas for immigrants to Palestine and was now sending him at his request, particulars of specific cases.

Apart from these 170, however, a further 1100 remain without certificates.

Requests had been received from Kladawa for payment of £ 1,000 on account of the amount allocated for transportation. The Emergency Committee had delayed payment of its share of £ 450 till word had been received from the J.D.C. that the £ 550 due from that body was forthcoming.

It was pointed out that once money was sent to Jugo-Slavia, it would be unlikely that in the event of any hitch the money could be recovered, and accordingly it was necessary that everything-else including in particular the visa question, should be settled before the money was cabled.

VISAS FOR ZIONIST REFUGEES :

It was reported that the new regulations which were being prepared by the Departments of Justice and State, in consultation with Mr. Welles, had not yet been drafted but it was expected that we should know details by Friday.

Dr. Goldmann stated that the subcommittee on visas would then be called together with the representatives of the parties. He also reported that the Pitsele group of 9 in Porto had got visas, also one or two refugees in Marseilles, as well as a few scattered cases elsewhere.

ZIONIST WORK AMONG GERMAN IMMIGRANTS IN UNITED STATES:

Dr. Goldmann stated that \$3,000 had been allocated for these activities, of which \$800 were still due.

There was some criticism among those present of the carrying on of a separate activity amongst these immigrants, which was calculated rather to segregate than to integrate them within the general body of the movement.

Mrs. Pool quoted the example of Hadassah which had made special efforts to get into touch with the individual immigrants and had offered them honorary membership for two or three years (except for payment of the shekel). This procedure had worked out well and was producing satisfactory results.

Rabbi Breslau also reported on a similar special effort by the Zionist District in Washington which had given encouraging results.

Dr. Goldmann said that in view of the fact that an allocation had originally been made of which there was still an unexpended balance, the work should not be stopped at a moment's notice, but that the balance be paid

while at the same time giving warning that the whole question was to be reconsidered, and that no further funds might be forthcoming.

This was agreed to with Mrs. Pool's dissent.

It was agreed also that a subcommittee be appointed to report on the matter.

ADDRESSES AT HADASSAH CONVENTION:

It was reported that Hadassah had invited Mr. Ickes to attend the Hadassah National Convention which opens October 28th, and there was some possibility of getting Mr. Wallace to speak on the following evening. Mrs. Pool asked whether it was thought that this was advisable.

Dr. Wise expressed the view that no candidate for office on either side should be asked to speak at a Zionist gathering immediately before the election - an opinion in which the others present seemed to concur.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMITTEE:

Dr. Wise read a letter which he had prepared on this subject.

Mr. Gellman moved as a recommendation to the full Committee that Messrs. Lipsky, Szold and Wise serve as co-Chairmen of the Committee. He thought that it would be desirable that the Co-Chairman should all be resident in New York, so that they might be available when called on.

Mr. Szold moved as an amendment to lay the motion on the table. He thought that Dr. Wise, Mr. Lipsky and Rabbi Solomon Goldman should continue as heretofore. Mr. Szold's amendment was defeated by three votes to two, and Mr. Gellman's motion carried by three votes to two.

It was moved and agreed that Dr. Wise, Mr. Lipsky and Mr. Szold should be authorized to settle the immediate budgetary requirements of the Committee in connection with the moving into new offices and other current expenditures. Mr. Szold pointed out that there were still a number of unexpended balances available in respect to office requirements, etc.

BUDGET OF WASHINGTON BUREAU:

Mr. Szold stated that no payment had been made to the Washington Bureau beyond the month of August.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the September appropriation for the Bureau should be paid now, and that for the month of October, as a provisional arrangement, \$250 should be the Emergency Committee contribution to Rabbi Breslau's salary.

Meeting adjourned.

A.L.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRSHELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1944 - 3:30 P.M., 41 East 42nd St., N.Y.C.

PRESENT : Messrs. Bublick, Gellman, Goldstein, Kaufmann, Lipsky, Ress, Szold;
Goldmann, Lourie;
By Invitation - Dr. Jona, Mr. Montor.

POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING OF OFFICE COMMITTEE :

In view of the letter received from Hadassah, which was read to the meeting, it was agreed to postpone the next meeting of the Office Committee originally scheduled for the 31st.

CONSTITUTION OF OFFICE COMMITTEE :

It was reported that in accordance with the decision of the previous meeting of the Emergency Committee, an Office Committee had been constituted, upon the nomination of Dr. Wise, as follows:

Leon Gellman
Rabbi Solomon Goldman
Edmund I. Kaufmann
Louis Lipsky
Mrs. David de Sola Pool
Rabbi A. H. Silver
Robert Szold
David Wertheim
Stephen S. Wise

ADDITION TO OFFICE COMMITTEE :

On the proposal of Mr. Gellman, Dr. Israel Goldstein was added to the membership of the Office Committee.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE :

It was reported that the Office Committee (two members dissenting) had recommended to the full Committee, that as it was desirable that the Co-Chairmen should all be resident in New York, that Messrs. Lipsky, Szold and Wise should serve as Co-Chairmen of this Committee.

Mr. Szold expressed the view that Dr. Solomon Goldman should continue to act as Co-Chairman with Mr. Lipsky and Dr. Wise.

After further discussion in which it was pointed out that it was desirable that all the joint chairmen should be resident in New York as various matters might arise for attention at short notice, the motion was put and carried:

THAT instead of acting through a single chairman, the Committee act through a Praesidium of three; namely, Messrs. Lipsky, Szold and Wise, who will agree among themselves in regard to the actual functions to be apportioned amongst the members of the Praesidium.

With reference to the position of Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Mr. Lourie on the Committee, it was explained that Dr. Goldmann as a member of the Executive was in that capacity cooperating with the Committee in all political matters; Mr. Lourie had been appointed Secretary of the Emergency Committee, and in addition represented the Executive in London of which he was the Political Secretary..

SUBSTITUTES :

With reference to the question as to whether substitutes may be appointed to act on behalf of a member of the Committee in the event of the absence of that member, it was stated that it had been agreed that substitutes might be appointed to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion but not to vote in the place of the absent member.

RED CROSS:

Mr. Montor reported on a telegram which he had received from Mr. Kaplan, dated October 24th with reference to the discussions which had taken place with the Red Cross and the State Department. Mr. Montor pointed out that Mr. Murray of the State Department had said specifically that the Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government and Mr. Wadsworth had reported that no aid was required and that the grant of aid might be misconstrued. He felt that this was a case which directly challenged American Jewry in its relations to the State Department, which had apparently, presented a false view of the facts.

Dr. Wise said that it seemed to be a clear case and proved that as long as there was no Jew in the State Department, we should not receive fair treatment.

Mr. Montor reported further that he had written to Mr. Murray with regard to developments since their last meeting when Mr. Murray had stated that the Consul in Jerusalem thought that complications might ensue from a grant by the Red Cross to the Jewish Agency. The State Department replied saying that they had communicated with the Red Cross, but so far Mr. Montor had been unable to get further information from the Red Cross.

Mr. Szold agreed that it was a matter of great importance which went far beyond the discussions with the Red Cross. Previous experience with the American Consul in Jerusalem did not give cause for any confidence in Mr. Wadsworth, and before placing the responsibility on the State Department, the possibility should be considered that Wadsworth had sent a second cable; i.e., subsequent to the one shown by him to Mr. Shertok.

On the motion of Mr. Röss, it was agreed that the Praesidium be authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to meet the situation.

ZIONIST INTERNEES IN CANADA:

It was reported that there were approximately 250 youth or Chalutzim internees in Canada who had been brought over from England. Efforts were being made to concentrate these people who were at present scattered in different camps throughout the country, in one or two large farms where they could continue with their Hachsharah work.

On the recommendation of the Office Committee a telegram had been sent to Lord Lothian at present in London, as follows:

"OCTOBER 29, 1940

NLT
LORD LOTHIAN
FOREIGN OFFICE
LONDON (England)

INCLUDED AMONGST INTERNEES IN CANADA TRANSFERRED FROM ENGLAND ARE ABOUT TWOHUNDRED FIFTY YOUNG JEWS WHO HAD BEEN PREPARING ON FARMS AND IN OTHER MANUAL OCCUPATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE STOP THEY ARE AT PRESENT SCATTERED IN DIFFERENT CAMPS THROUGHOUT CANADA STOP WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL CONCENTRATING THESE INTERNEES IN ONE OR TWO AGRICULTURAL CENTRES WHERE COULD CONTINUE WORK OF PREPARATION IMMIGRATION FOR SETTLEMENT PALESTINE STOP AM ALSO COMMUNICATING WITH LADY READING WHO IS AWARE SITUATION OF THESE PEOPLE STOP MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING YOU COULD DO.

STEPHEN WISE
BEHALF PALESTINE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Lady Reading had also been cabled in this connection.

PALCOR EXPENSES :

It was agreed to pay \$250 to Palcor in respect of the distribution of Palcor for a period of six months from July 15th to a number of Zionist centres in South America, Australia and the Far East. This distribution had been undertaken at the request of the Emergency Committee.

BUDGET :

It was reported that a cable had been sent to Mr. Kaplan, requesting authorization for the payment by the UFA to the Emergency Committee of \$25,000 for the next six months.

JEWISH UNIT IN NEAR EAST:

Dr. Goldmann reported that the situation regarding the negotiations between the Executive and the British Government had not yet been clarified. As soon as there was some clear development in the matter, Mr. Ben Gurion would discuss the whole question with the Committee. In any case, there could be no question of recruitment in America for a Jewish unit without the knowledge or consent of the United States Government.

REPORT OF DR. JONA :

Dr. Jona, President of the Australian Zionist Federation, was welcomed to the meeting and reported briefly on the Zionist situation in Australia. Their problems there were similar in many ways to those he had seen in America, though the community was relatively small, consisting of 25,000 Jews in Australia and 2,000 in New Zealand. A difficulty also was the great distances which separated many communities. While the party groups existed there as separate entities, a very considerable degree of unity in action was achieved. As in-

indicative of Zionist interest, Mr. Jona stated that there were some 5,000 JNF box holders in Australia. Every year, too, there was a campaign for the Keren Hayesod. A problem which troubled them was the constant flow of emissaries from Palestine and elsewhere over whom they had little or no control. He suggested that a committee of three should be set up in Jerusalem to decide on a time-table for such visitors.

Dr. Jona stated that practically every able-bodied Jew in Australia had enlisted with the forces. The Jewish proportion of enlistment being substantially above that of the general population - an act which had been publicly acknowledged by the military authorities. Many of the Australians had gone to Egypt and to Palestine. The troops had however been warned that they must have no dealing with the Jewish authorities in Palestine.

VISAS FOR EUROPEAN ZIONISTS :

Dr. Goldmann reported on the visa situation. For a time the issuing of visitors' visas had been stopped altogether by the State Department, but they had been renewed in the last few days under very restricted conditions. The Visa Subcommittee had examined the 80 or 90 applications at present on hand and had eliminated more than half of these, who were ineligible under the new regulations which required that an applicant should both have done distinguished public work and in addition by reason of that work should be in special danger from the Nazis. Moreover the State Department now required affidavits of support. These would have to be signed before a notary in the ordinary way but no tax statement or bank account references were necessary.

Dr. Goldmann asked for the cooperation of members of the Committee in obtaining the necessary affidavits.

VAAD LEUMI WELFARE COMMITTEE :

Mr. Montor reported that he and Mr. Kaufmann had received a telegram signed "Gershon Agronsky, Hadassah Samuel", as follows:

"OCTOBER 25, 1940

TELAVIV

NLT KAUFMAN MONTOR 41 EAST 42 STREET NEWYORK

JEWISH SOLDIERS WELFARE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED AUSPICES VAAD LEUMI SOLOVEITCHIK
CHAIRMAN PURPOSE COMFORTS EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES MEN SERVING BRITISH FLAG
PALESTINE NEIGHBOURING FRONTS ALSO ASSISTANCE DEPENDENTS CASE NECESSITY
REPRESENTATIVE LOCAL COMMITTEES BEGINNING FUND RAISING IMMEDIATELY STOP WILL YOU
FORM COMMITTEES SUPPORTING YISHUVS EFFORT STOP PLEASE REPLY CARE PALESTINE POST."

It was agreed to defer consideration of this request.

NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE:

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Office Committee be held on Tuesday, November 5th (Election Day) at 4:30 P.M., and the full Committee on Thursday, November 14th, at 4:30 P.M.

Meeting adjourned.

Arthur Lourie

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1940, 4:30 P.M., 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT: Messrs. Goldstein, Lipsky, Wertheim, Wise, Mrs. Poo;
 Messrs. Ben Gurion, Nahum Goldmann, Lourie;
 By invitation - Mr. Montor, Mrs. Schoolman.

Mr. Lipsky presided.

RED CROSS:

Mr. Montor read a cable received from Mr. Kaplan dated October 24th and a letter from Rabbi Silver to Mr. Swift of the Red Cross, of Oct. 31st. He also reported on a further letter of November 5th to Mr. Swift from himself covering medical needs in Palestine.

Mr. Ben Gurion stated that from purely internal evidence he was convinced that Mr. Wadsworth had not told Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Shertok the whole truth, but he had shown them only one of his telegrams to the State Department, or part of a telegram.

It was agreed that the Praesidium should give further consideration to what action can be taken and report to the Office Committee.

With regard to the proposal that the Red Cross send a representative to investigate matters on the spot in Palestine, Dr. Wise suggested that efforts be made to have such representative accompanied by a responsible Jew who would be fully acquainted with the situation.

ADDITION OF MR. NEUMANN TO COMMITTEE:

The Chairman said that it had been suggested that Mr. Neumann be added to the Emergency Committee as an adviser without a vote. Objection was taken to this on the ground that there should be no definite commitment with regard to additional members until the reorganization of the Committee had been completed. It was pointed out that this might take some time yet.

It was agreed that Mr. Neumann should not be coopted to the Committee but should be invited to attend meetings in an advisory capacity pending reorganization.

EXPENSES OF MR. MEIR GROSSMAN:

It was stated that Mr. Grossman had come to America virtually as a refugee, and that his fare had been paid for with borrowed funds. A sum of \$2500 still remains in the special fund voted by the Emergency Committee for the transport of Zionist leaders to this country, and it was proposed that an appropriation be made to cover Mr. Grossman's travelling expenses.

Although there was a general desire to help Mr. Grossman, it was suggested that the action proposed might lay the Committee open to criticism.

It was agreed that Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Wise and Mr. Lipsky should discuss the matter with Mr. Grossman personally.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PALESTINE:

Mrs. Pool said that this matter had been discussed at the Hadassah Convention, and an interview had also taken place with Mr. Stephens of the State Department with regard to the possibility of transferring Hadassah money to Palestine through the State Department, as it might be desirable in certain circumstances to obtain facilities through the State Department for such transfer.

It was agreed that Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Pool and Mr. Montor should consider this question further among themselves.

Mrs. Pool asked the opinion of the Committee as to whether in view of the fact that Hadassah had large sums available for transfer to Palestine, those moneys should be remitted forthwith or retained until actually needed.

Mr. Ben Gurion expressed the view that money should be remitted (a) when needed for immediate purposes; (b) for the purpose of buying land. Otherwise it was advisable to retain the money here until the need actually arose.

This was the view also of other members of the Committee.

Dr. Goldstein reported that the Jewish National Fund, and no doubt other Zionist bodies, had received proposals for the sale of dollars here at a discount as against payment of sterling in Palestine. The National Fund had adopted the policy of doing nothing which might compromise it with the British Government, and he believed that the acceptance of such proposals would be hazardous and might lead to politically unfortunate results.

This was supported by Mr. Ben Gurion and accepted by the Committee, and it was agreed that the Emergency Committee should communicate its view to the various Zionist bodies affiliated with it.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. AGRONSKY REGARDING JEWISH SOLDIERS WELFARE COMMITTEE :

It was reported that no reply had been received from the Political Department in Jerusalem, and the matter was accordingly deferred.

SHEKEL COMMITTEE :

It was agreed that Mr. Wolfson of the Shekel Committee be asked to report to the Committee on the prospect of a Shekel campaign.

Dr. Goldmann reported on a cable from the Executive in Jerusalem requesting the immediate remittance of Shekel money, as the financial condition of the Executive was serious.

Mr. Szold stated that he had spoken to Mr. Levavi in regard to this matter also with regard to the segregation in a separate account for the future, of all Shekel moneys received.

It was agreed that both the ZOA and the Poale Zion should be requested to pay to the World Executive the Shekel arrears due, and also to request them to segregate in a special account all future shekel receipts.

VAAD BITACHON :

It was agreed that a communication be addressed to the Vaad Bitachon with a view to obtaining regular reports from that body.

PALESTINE BUREAU:

It was reported that the Executive of the ZOA had decided to exclude the Bureau from its budget.

It was agreed that Mr. Wertheim who had been appointed Chairman of the Bureau some years ago (although for the last three years no meeting had taken place owing to the administration of the Bureau by the ZOA) should investigate the present status of the Bureau and make recommendations to the Committee.

WASHINGTON BUREAU:

The minutes of the meeting of October 16th were amended to read as follows:

2 "It was agreed that the September and October appropriation for the Bureau should be paid now save that for those two months, \$250 per month, should be the Emergency Committee contribution to Rabbi Breslau's salary; i.e. \$166 less than the previous amount per month."

Mr. Szold said that he understood that the office of the Bureau in the Woodward Building had been given up as from the 1st of November when the files and also Miss Greenberg the stenographer, had been transferred to the ZOA offices.

It was ~~aggr~~ agreed:

1. That the Praesidium should go into the question of the future of the Bureau with a view to making recommendations to the next meeting of the Office Committee; such recommendations to include the question of the budget for the next six months.

2. That the appropriation for the Bureau for November should continue on the same basis as for September and October, but that checks should be signed ~~by~~ not by Rabbi Breslau but by Mr. Szold and Mr. Lipsky on the basis of vouchers from Rabbi Breslau. Rabbi Breslau should be asked further to submit a report on the activities of the Bureau including a statement on the prospective obligations of the Bureau for the coming month for approval by the Treasurer.

FORTHCOMING MEETING:

It was agreed:

1. That Mr. Ben Gurion meet the Office Committee on Tuesday, November 12, at 8 P. M. for a discussion of the Zionist political situation and program.

2. That the full Emergency Committee meet on Thursday evening, November 14th at 8 o'clock.

3. It was agreed that apart from next week, the Office Committee should meet regularly on Thursday afternoon at 4:30.

Meeting adjourned.

A.L.

COPY

BRITISH EMBASSY
Washington, D.C.

November 25, 1940

Dear Rabbi Wise,

You will have seen in the press the Government of Palestine's announcement about the future of the 1770-odd illegal immigrants detained at Haifa recently. We have now heard from London the reasons which have led His Majesty's Government to adopt this new policy for dealing with this long standing problem, and my Ambassador would like you to be acquainted with them.

You know, of course, as well as we do, the background of persecution and cold-blooded exploitation of these poor people and there is no need to go over it again.

Lately however, the problem has again become acute and under war conditions assumed a graver aspect. There are indications that the Axis powers are encouraging an influx of Jews to Palestine (giving them the choice of embarking on a ship for Palestine or of remaining in a concentration camp) their object being not only to embarrass His Majesty's Government by inflaming Arab sentiment, but to introduce enemy agents into Palestine and the Middle East. His Majesty's Government are persuaded that to admit into Palestine any further shiploads of illegal immigrants and to allow the law of Palestine to be openly flouted would undoubtedly involve the risk of serious trouble with the Arabs and jeopardize the whole British military position in the Middle East.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has therefore approved strongly the recommendation of the High Commissioner for Palestine that the two shiploads (totalling one thousand seven hundred and seventy) who have already arrived at Haifa should not be admitted to Palestine and should be shipped the earliest possible moment to Mauritius where it is intended that provision shall be made for their detention during the period of the war. A further ship carrying Jewish refugees of similar origin has since arrived off Cyprus, having run out of fuel, provisions and water, and unless (as is unlikely) she can be induced or compelled to proceed elsewhere it will be necessary to take her to Haifa and there to arrange for the re-routing of the passengers.

It is hoped that when it has been made widely known that immigrants without permits will not be able to gain admission into Palestine but will be sent abroad for detention, the practice even with the Axis' encouragement, will cease.

We must, I suppose, expect plenty of criticism whichever way we tackle this problem of illegal immigration and the Axis powers will strain every nerve to exploit whatever we do. Nevertheless the controlling factor at a time like this must be the military safety of Palestine. The course which His Majesty's Government are now going to adopt seems to entail no risk on that score. Any help that you can give us in making that vital point understood among the Jews of America will, I am certain, be greatly appreciated in London.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) NEVILLE BUELER

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

We desire, on behalf of large numbers of fellow Americans, to express our deep distress and indignation at the unprecedented action of the Palestine Administration in deporting 1771 Jewish refugees from Palestine. We deeply regret further, the character of the official communiqué which seeks to justify the inhumanity of this action by alleging the necessity for safeguarding "the law of the country" and removing a "menace to British interests in the Middle East" - an explanation coupled with the gratuitous and vindictive assertion "that it is not proposed that they should go to Palestine" after the war.

We register this protest with extreme reluctance. In common with the majority of the people of this land, we ardently desire to expedite to the utmost aid to Britain in her heroic struggle and to avoid any act or word which may add to her burdens. But our very concern for the integrity of the British cause and its ultimate triumph impels us to break our silence when the acts of British officials do violence to those principles of justice and international morality for which Britain has drawn the sword.

The official statement in defense of the deportation procedure, refers to "illegal" Jewish immigration to Palestine... We reject and resent the imputation of illegality as applied to Jewish refugees, fleeing from the horrors of Nazi brutality to the one spot on earth which they may call Home. The "Law of the land" which they have allegedly transgressed is the White Paper, issued before the outbreak of the war by the Chamberlain Government. It was designed to appease and buy off declared and avowed enemies of Great Britain in the Middle East who were encouraged and supported by Nazi and Fascist Agents. It undertook to liquidate the Balfour Declaration, violate treaty obligations and bolt the gates of Palestine to the Jewish people. It was disapproved by the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations and condemned by leading Englishmen including Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. Amery, Sir Archibald Sinclair, Mr. Duff Cooper, and Mr. Herbert Morrison.

To justify the deportation on the basis of the White Paper policy is merely an additional proof, that such policy is inhuman, unjust and calculated to injure the best interests of Great Britain.

Our fundamental attitude towards the war, and our will to extend maximum aid to Great Britain in its prosecution, remain unaltered. We face a common foe toward whom we feel the abhorrence shared by the vast majority of Americans. We share, too, their admiration and regard for the people of Great Britain in these hours of trial. We cannot believe that the British Government having had its attention drawn to this grievous injustice will permit its continuance.

NOTE ON THE VISIT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
TO WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1940, IN CONNECTION WITH
THE ATTEMPTED DEPORTATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES FROM PALESTINE.

Having heard from Rabbi Breslau the previous day that Messrs. Brandeis, Frankfurter and Cohen advised strongly against issuing a public statement, Mr. Neumann discussed the matter with Rabbi Wise Tuesday morning at breakfast. We were agreed that despite the divergence of opinion, the instructions of the Office Committee should be carried out but that the statement should be released only after the visit to the Embassy. It was arranged that the delegation should meet at the Embassy fifteen minutes before 12 o'clock, the time set for the interview.

At the hotel Mr. Neumann met Dr. Solomon Goldman with whom he had discussed the matter in New York the previous day. He had just returned from a visit to Mr. Justice Brandeis and confirmed the previous report that the latter was strongly opposed to public action. Dr. Goldman felt that a public statement should not be made, especially in view of the advice of our Washington friends as well as the cabled message from Dr. Weizmann advising caution. He could not join us as he had to leave by plane at once to keep an engagement in Chicago.

Mr. Lipsky and Mr. Szold had been unable to come. Mr. Kaufmann who had been expected to join us, had decided, as Rabbi Breslau reported, not to do so because he felt he was not sufficiently informed on the subject.

The delegation therefore consisted of Dr. Wise, Mrs. Fool, Rabbi Breslau and Mr. Neumann. We met at the Embassy at 11:45 where we had a brief consultation. At 12 we were received by Mr. Butler and Mr. Malcolm. They apologized for the fact that the Ambassador could not receive us because he had to be at the State Department at the time - a fact which was confirmed in the press.

Dr. Wise made the principal presentation on behalf of the Committee, first reading out our prepared statement (copy attached) and then elaborating upon it. He was supplemented by Mrs. Fool who expressed the readiness by Hadassah to help look after some of the refugees if they were permitted to remain in Palestine, specifically the children.

Mr. Butler's reply consisted in part of a letter addressed to Dr. Wise and signed by Mr. Butler, which he read out to us. Copy is attached. He supplemented the letter by further statements all tending to justify the action taken on grounds of war-time necessity, although he also made the point that the Government could not allow "the law" to be openly flouted.

Mr. Neumann pointed out that the entry of immigrants without permits had been going on for a considerable time, and that the Palestine Government had met the situation by occasionally interning such immigrants and also by deducting the corresponding number of certificates from the limited quotas provided within the framework of the White Paper. The attempted deportation was an entirely new departure. Dr. Wise and Mr. Neumann also laid stress on the nature of the official communique and particularly on the assertion that the refugees would not be permitted to settle in Palestine after the War, which Dr. Wise characterized as a "needless affront" to the Jewish people throughout the world. Mr. Butler took exception to these words. Mr. Neumann emphasized the fact that the language of the communique tended to base the decisions not merely on military grounds but on political grounds, and that the communique was therefore in effect a political document to which we were bound to take serious exception. In reply to Mr. Butler's

repeated assertions that the principal considerations were (a) to win the War and (b) to maintain law and order in Palestine, we stated that there was another vital consideration - the preservation of an atmosphere and public opinion in this country conducive to the extension of maximum aid to Britain - an object which we had strongly in mind.

Mr. Butler also read out to us passages from a confidential report to the effect that Germany had made a declaration to the Arabs holding out the promise of freedom and independence to the Arab nations in the event of an Axis victory, and that Italy was associating itself with this declaration - the first official or formal declaration of this kind to come from the Axis Powers. He connected this with what was apparently a systematic attempt on the part of the Axis Powers to embarrass Great Britain and to inflame Arab opinion by encouraging the shipment of Jewish refugees illegally to Palestine. He also stated that the two boats were not an isolated instance but that another boatload was at Cyprus with Palestine as its destination. Public opinion in this country was important, but the military, strategic and political necessities of the position in the Middle East were paramount. He hoped that we as friends would help to put matters in the right light before the public.

Regarding the offensive references in the official communique, Mr. Butler and Mr. Malcolm said they were not sure that the text as reported in the press was accurate. They would cable London for precise information and would advise us.

In the course of the discussion, Dr. Wise referred to the matter of the Jewish Army, saying that the right of the Jewish people to participate in the War in this manner had been denied. To this Mr. Butler promptly replied that to his knowledge this had "not been denied", the inference being that the question was still under consideration.

Dr. Wise also made reference to the fact that Anthony Eden on his recent visit to the Middle East had conferred with Arab leaders in several countries but seems to have studiously avoided contact with representatives of the Jewish people in Palestine.

Mrs. Pool in replying to the alleged necessity of avoiding provocation of the Arabs, pointed to the steadily improving relations between Arabs and Jews in Palestine, a fact which Mr. Neumann confirmed from his personal knowledge.

As the conference was breaking up, Mr. Malcolm intimated that the Embassy would elicit further information from London and that a statement might be made, which would correct the impression contained in the press reports particularly with reference to the barring of these refugees from Palestine after the War.

Rabbi Breslau remarked to Mr. Malcolm that irrespective of what we may do, the Revisionists would probably take up the fight publicly, to which Mr. Malcolm replied that they expected it and were prepared to deal with it in their own way.

Shortly after 1 o'clock, Dr. Wise, Mrs. Pool and Mr. Neumann met at the Willard Hotel. Mrs. Pool strongly opposed publishing our statement on the following grounds: (a) the opposition to such action on the part of Messrs. Brandeis, Frankfurter and Cohen; (b) Rabbi Goldman's concurrence with their views; (c) the sinking of the Patria, which had occurred in the meantime, had altered the position; (d) the cable from Dr. Weizmann advising caution, which Mrs. Pool felt would

have influenced the decision of the Office Committee if it had been presented at its meeting last Friday; (c) the prospect that a new statement would be issued by the British Government or the Embassy, placing the matter in a new light.

Dr. Wise then felt that in view of the discussion at the Embassy as well as the strength of dissenting opinions, publication of the statement would have to be reconsidered, and that the entire situation be explained to the Executive Committee of the ZOA which was meeting in Washington that afternoon.

Mr. Neumann cautioned against seeming to place the responsibility for such a decision on the Executive of the ZOA, it being preferable, in his opinion, that the decision, affirmative or negative, should be made by Dr. Wise and Mrs. Pool representing the Emergency Committee. Mr. Neumann also suggested as a possible alternative to the publication of our statement, that a brief communique be issued by the delegation, stating that they had called at the Embassy to make representations, that they would await further information which was expected, and that the Emergency Committee would give further consideration to the matter in the light of conversations which had taken place at the Embassy.

Dr. Wise and Mrs. Pool thought that if we withheld publication of our prepared statement, neither should any communique be issued.

Toward the close of the meeting of the ZOA Executive Committee that evening, Dr. Wise reported on the whole matter and there was an informal exchange of views. Opinions were divided, the majority of the members present favoring no public statement under the circumstances.

Remaining over at Washington on other business, Mr. Neumann took the occasion to call on Justice Brandeis Wednesday morning to inform him of the position. Justice Brandeis expressed satisfaction. He felt the sinking of the Patria "whether by an act of God or an act of man" had disposed of the matter for the time being. He pointed out that in contemplating public protest, we should take into account not only the effect on the British but also on Americans, more particularly on the Administration in Washington which was facing certain difficulties in connection with its foreign policy. Generally, he felt the most effective action Jews can take in such a situation is on the spot, in Palestine; and that such action in Palestine exercised a more effective influence on American public opinion.

To Mr. Neumann's hypothetical question whether in his opinion we should refrain from public protest in the event that British authorities went a step further and deported these refugees after they have landed in Palestine, Justice Brandeis replied that discussion on that point was premature, the case not having arisen and was probably unlikely to arise.

EMANUEL NEUMANN

(CONFIDENTIAL)

#5

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE
OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

held on Friday, November 29, 1940 at 41 E. 42nd St.

Present: Mr. Lipsky in the chair; Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Pool, Mrs. Schoolman, Mr. Szold, Mr. Sokol (Poale Zion), and Dr. Wise.

Mr. Ben Gurion, Mr. Lourie.

Mr. Neumann, by invitation.

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION

A letter was read from the President's Advisory Committee to Dr. Wise with reference to the contribution by the Emergency Committee of \$2,500 (for six months) toward the expenses of the President's Advisory Committee. \$1,000 had already been paid by Dr. Wise personally on behalf of the Emergency Committee. It was stated that the annual contribution of the Zionists (originally from the UPA but subsequently undertaken by the Emergency Committee) was \$5,000 as against a similar amount given by the JDC.

It was agreed that the contribution of \$2,500 for the current six-month period should be paid, but that the whole question of the participation of the Emergency Committee in the finances of the President's Advisory Committee should be considered at a later meeting.

AMENDMENT OF MINUTES

At the request of Mrs. Schoolman the minutes of the Emergency Committee of November 22nd were altered to read:

a) (Under "Shekel Campaign") - "An advance of \$5,000 had been cabled to the Executive by Hadassah, but on behalf of the Executive Board of Hadassah the feeling was expressed that all existing liabilities by other organizations, etc.

b) (Under "Deportation of Refugees from Haifa") - Sub-heading "c" should read:

"While it was undesirable that there should be a wide-spread protest campaign, advantage should be taken of Zionist meetings that might have been arranged in two or three of the larger centers to give expression to the feelings which the deportation had aroused."

DEPUTATION TO BRITISH EMBASSY

Mr. Neumann read a minute on the activities of the Emergency Committee delegation (consisting of Dr. Wise, Mr. Neumann, Rabbi Breslau and Mrs. Pool) to Washington, including a report of the conversation at the Embassy.

Mrs. Schoolman expressed regret that the Emergency Committee on Friday had arrived at its decision to issue a statement to the press without knowledge of all the available facts, and referred to an exchange of cables

between Mr. Ben Gurion and Dr. Weizmann which she held should have been placed before the Committee. Mr. Ben Gurion took exception to Mrs. Schoolman's criticism and stated that he was not prepared to make public material of this kind unless he knew that it was the intention of the sender that it should be made public. He also rejected the suggestion of Mrs. Pool that the Emergency Committee was entitled to all such information as being in fact an extension of the Executive. Mrs. Pool, while withdrawing the suggestion that the Emergency Committee was in fact an extension of the Executive, pointed out however that unless the Committee could be trusted with all materials which came from the Executive, it could not be expected to arrive at a proper decision.

The Chairman protested against the action of the delegation in ignoring the decision which had been taken by the Committee. In answer to this, it was stated that where new circumstances had arisen subsequent to the decision of the Committee, a delegation constituted in the way the Washington delegation had been constituted, must be entitled to use its discretion as to the immediate action to be taken in the light of changed circumstances. Mr. Ben Gurion considered that the delegation was not entitled to take decisions which would, in effect, bind him without his knowledge. He was not concerned with this particular case, but with the principle behind it, and he could not accept the idea that no action should be taken by American Zionists to protest when victims of inhuman persecution were being deported as these refugees were being deported, because such action might be displeasing to the British or American governments or peoples. Dr. Wise said that on the one hand he had to admit the Embassy had made an impression on him in the course of their conversation, and on the other, it was difficult to see how Mr. Ben Gurion could on one day say that everything must be done to assist Britain to win the war, and the next day issue statements which might create difficulties for Britain.

After further discussion it was agreed:

- a) That the report of Mr. Neumann on behalf of the delegation should be accepted.
- b) That a letter should be sent to the Embassy by way of a memorandum of the conversation, this letter to be drafted by a sub-committee to consist of Dr. Wise, Mr. Neumann and Mrs. Pool.

A proposal that the Committee should issue a statement to the press was defeated.

MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

It was agreed that Mr. Szold, Mr. Lipsky and Dr. Goldmann should have the power to decide on certain administrative matters which concerned the internal functioning of the Committee.

al:re

Arthur Lourie.

MEMORANDUM
on
RALLY TO PRESERVE DEMOCRACY AND THE RIGHTS OF SMALL NATIONS

submitted by M. Huttner for consideration by the
Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.
12/11/40.

1. PARTICIPANTS -

- a) Youth groups (supported by responsible adult bodies) of those established American agencies enlisting aid for the war efforts and the post-war reconstruction of Greece (?) Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Holland, Poland, Norway, Denmark and Palestine.
- b) Adult Chairman (preferably Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt)

2. PURPOSES :-(a) to acquaint the American public with the scope of the war efforts which the friends and peoples of these former nations are making in behalf of Great Britain's fight against Hitler.
- b) Palestine purpose - to identify the contribution of Jewish Palestine and American Jewry with the contribution of the other small nations, causing American public opinion to place it on an even par.
 - c) Anti-Hitler and anti-fascist (maybe anti-Communist)
 - d) We who are defenders of the rights of small nations are also champions of democracy in America. No fifth column, minority scapegoats in United States.
 - e) Elicit a statement from the British Embassy championing the Post-War reconstitution of small nations (Palestine link)

3. SCOPE:
- a) Madison Square Garden - all these groups could muster a corps sufficient to jam the Garden.
 - b) Successful New York meeting could be imitated in other sections of the country.
 - c) Radio hookup to precede rally (With Mrs. Roosevelt time might be secured free)

4. SPEAKERS:
- a) One youth representative of each group
 - b) Chairman - Mrs. Roosevelt

5. PROCEDURE:
- a) Initiative to come from outstanding neutral personality willing to assume responsibility of calling groups together (we to contact him first and our name kept out except as participant)
 - b) Initial meeting - one adult representative and one youth representative (Youth rally with adult support)
 - c) Financial expense (shared equally by adult groups) expense of Garden, publicity, ad in papers, propaganda.
 - d) Working committees.
Arrangements, speakers, publicity, propaganda, contact organizations, resolutions.

Report No. 134

From: Dr. M. Kahany, Geneva
 To: Executive London
 Executive Jerusalem
 Emergency Committee, New York

Communications

The Swiss postal services - after an interruption of more than six weeks - accept now again mail for Great Britain and Palestine. This mail takes the way of France - Spain - Portugal and from there to Great Britain and Palestine respectively. It is surely a very long way (probably two weeks to G.B. and four or five weeks to Palestine).

France

I have now - in addition to what I have already reported on July 8th - more information on the whereabouts of our various friends in France.

Messrs. Naiditsch, Jarblum and Hermann are in Vichy and I am in contact with them. (The population of Vichy is now five times higher than six weeks before.) Mr. Jefroykin was seen in Southern France and is believed to have gone to Portugal and from there to Brazil. Mr. Fischer (K.K.L.) is now in Lyon. The people of the "Joint" and "Hicem" are in Portugal (Lisbon). The people of the "Alliance Israelite" and "Pica" are in La Bourboule (non-occupied zone). Mr. Hertz and Mme Gottlieb (France-Palestine) are in Turenne (non-occupied), Mr. Albert Cohen who left Paris already in the second half of May seems to be either in Spain, or in Portugal or in London.

The situation of all foreign Jews remained in France (both occupied and non-occupied) is disastrous, those of French Jews extremely precarious. You certainly have noted the new law empowering the Petain-Government to cancel all naturalisations without any limit of the period they have been accorded. On the basis of this law, even a man who became French some forty years ago by naturalisation can be denationalised by an arbitrary administrative decree.

Passages to Palestine

From the Balkan countries, there are still some possibilities to go to Palestine by the land way through Turkey and Syria (the passage through Syria being however difficult). A great number of refugees already in Turkey - among whom some 270 with Palestine visas - are however still awaiting there their passage, as they have no money to pay the trip. As long as their departure is not effectuated, it would be very difficult to get the Turkish transit visa for new immigrants, even when they have already the entrance visa to Palestine. Mr. Eliahu Epstein from the Jerusalem headoffice of the Executive is already since some weeks in Turkey, where he tries to arrange the departure of these immigrants to Palestine (he needs urgently financial support) and to make some arrangements with the Turkish authorities for further transit permits.

We are in contact with Mr. Epstein and we try also to obtain financial support for the immigrants in Turkey from the "Joint" people in Lisbon.

For the certificate holders who are still in Switzerland - some three

hundred - the way through the Balkans is however closed, probably for a long time, as they cannot pass through Italy to Yugoslavia (from where the way is already free). Some hope that it would be possible to transport them by special non-stop planes from Switzerland to Yugoslavia has now vanished. There are, however, possibilities - but only for individuals disposing of the necessary money - and only as long as Spain remains neutral - to pass from Switzerland to Portugal through Southern France and Spain (price £ 10 to 15), to continue from there by steamer to Capetown, Lourenco-Marques or to Bombay (from August there will be direct (Japanese) steamers of the Cunard White Line Lisbon-Bombay, (first class £ 120.--, second class £ 80.- and third class £ 49.-) and from Bombay via Basra to Palestine (price some £ 30.-). The trip takes - from Geneva - some four to five weeks. There are also planes from Capetown, Lourenco-Marques to Cairo and Palestine.

The more direct trip from Switzerland through Yugoslavia (if non-stop planes available!) Greece, Turkey and Syria is, however, also very expensive (some £ 100.- per head). We are therefore now energetically exploring the passage possibilities (through Portugal and hope that a first group of five Jewish Agency officials (Palestinians and Palestinian residents) will be able to return by this way to Palestine, leaving Geneva in some ten days.

Axis' Programme of "New Europe"

You certainly know already from the press the programme of European order outlined lastly by half-official writers of the Axis Powers. This programme contains also a point on the Jewish problem which is in conformity with the old Nazi idea developed already years ago by Rosenberg: the Jewish problem will be solved by the transfer of the European Jews into some territory in Central Africa "far from the sea-coast".

In a recent article of the "Stampa (Torino), his chief editor A. Signoretti (a militant antisemite) writing about the "New Europe" says inter alia: The new European civilisation will be a civilisation of labour, "the integral standard of all human values" and the "gold idol which conducted Europe to decadency" must be destructed. "The preliminary condition to attain this goal is the total and definite elimination of the Jews from Europe. The reventive measures adopted against the Jews by Germany and Italy must be extended to the whole European continent. It would be necessary to transfer the Jews as far as possible outside of Europe and under conditions most defavorable for any return of them. Yet the Zionists emphasize already for a long time the necessity and opportunity of a "home". It was absurd to have tried to create it in the Mediterranean Sea, a highly civilised bay, which more than any other zone has suffered from judaism." The writer then declares himself in favor of the establishment of the Jews on the Madagascar island which, in his opinion, offers the possibility for the establishment of millions of Jews in best conditions. "In any case (he says in conclusion) the migration of the Jews - to Madagascar or elsewhere - liberating Europe from their presence, must be realized. It would not be the sufficient condition of the formation of a new Europe, but certainly a necessary condition. Once purified of judaism in all its forms, Europe will surely be able to conserve, during centuries, his primacy of civilisation."

Geneva, July 22nd, 1940.

Report No. 134

Rectification to the note No. 134 of July 22nd.

France

The law referred to in my note of July 22nd, empowering the Petain-Government to cancel naturalisations is not - as it results from recent information - without limit of the period when the naturalisation has been accorded. The naturalisations which can be cancelled are those accorded after August 10th, 1927.

Geneva, July 23rd, 1940.



Letter from R. Lichtheim to Mr. S. Caplan

Geneva, July 19th, 1940

Mr. S. Caplan
Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs
111, Fifth Avenue
New York City

Re: Situation in Baltic-States.

Dear Mr. Caplan,

In the three countries Estland, Letland, Lithuania the introduction of the new political system seems to be in full swing. The same applies to Bessarabia and Bukowina.

The situation thus created for the Jewish population may be described as follows:

- a/ In some respects the situation of the Jewish masses is now better than before because they are no longer subjected to or menaced by antisemitic persecution. This is certainly the case with regard to the territories formerly belonging to Rumania.
- b/ The Jews who belong to the well-to-do classes will certainly suffer together with the other "Bourgeois" elements.
- c/ Jewish life in its previous forms will no longer be tolerated. We have already news from the Baltic-States that all Zionist work and all work for our Funds must cease and that we cannot communicate with our friends there any longer. Nurock writes that the Funds are liquidating themselves in cooperation with the Government.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

R. Lichheim.

GENEVA OFFICE

Letter from Mr. N. Herman (director of the French Keren Hayesod)
to Mr. A. Hantke translated from the French

Vichy, July 22, 1940

Until now the postal conditions have only allowed me to telegraph to you on two occasions, giving my present address in Vichy and asking you for news in the same way, but I have still not received anything. Since the mail seems to have begun to function more normally, I hasten to resume our correspondence. I do not know whether you have received my last dispatches from Paris as well as a card from Vichy, which happened before the recent developments here.

I repeat briefly that I left Paris for Vichy on the 8th of June, where Mr. L. Asscher was already, as well as other personalities of our friends and I have transferred our office here. Mrs. Goldstein, who left Paris at the same time and went to see her husband who was mobilized in the South-East of France, was able, after a thousand interruptions, to rejoin me on the 18th of June, that is 24 hours before the entry of the Germans into the city.

You certainly have heard reports of the tragic exodus of millions of men, women and children, who fleeing the terrible aerial bombardments, embarked on the roads of France with all kinds of conveyances, some on foot, on bicycles, in carts, etc. bent under the weight of baggage carried away in haste and obliged to abandon their loads on the roads as they advanced and encountered obstacles. Thousands of motor cars of every description had to be abandoned with all their contents, for lack of gasoline, because they were hit by projectiles or broke down under the too-great strain put upon them. I shall say nothing about the large number of victims among this whole population, but how will we be able to forget these horrible sights day and night, unique in the story of human suffering.

Mr. and Mrs. Blumberg were able to leave Paris two days after me for Bordeaux which they left for Pau, then Toulouse, where they now are. They are trying to go to Palestine, by Lisbon. Dr. Kontoreyk left Paris with his family at the beginning of June for a small place in the department of Nièvre, now occupied by the Germans. We still cannot get any news of them. Mr. Neumann, who was able to leave Paris is now in Marseilles. Many of our other friends whom you know were able to settle themselves in different cities in France after unimaginable difficulties, considering the fact that the roads were constantly machine-gunned.

It is in Toulouse and its surroundings that there are concentrated the greatest number of our refugees. Bordeaux and all the South West coast, which were completely submerged by the flood of refugees before, were greatly cleared at the approach of the Germans, who, actually, occupy this region, and have gone to the region of Toulouse. There are established, notably, Messrs. Naiditch, Jarblum, Dr. Benveniste and his brothers, Schermann, etc. We have heard that a number of our Belgian friends were able to embark on a boat at Bordeaux, which will take them to England. Some persons, few in number, went to Portugal.

Vichy harbors an important fraction of "all Paris" which interests us. I have bumped into here, namely, Bernheim, Corcos, Louis Asscher, Saul Amar, Raymond Weill, Mr. Braslawsky, etc. The management of the "Ort" and "Ose" are here, while the Hicem is partly in Lisbon and partly in Marseilles. The Joint is in Lisbon. Mr. Fisher, who was in the occupied area not far from Bordeaux was able to flee and reach Lyon where he is now with his office. Mr. Naiditch

spent some days here and Mr. Jarblum is now here to investigate the state of affairs. Dr. Weille-Halle, according to our information, who was in the region of Toulouse has gone to Paris on a mission by order.

The Germans entered Vichy on the 19th of June. The city was occupied for six days and abandoned after the conclusion of the armistice. We did not suffer from this occupation, though the moral atmosphere which you can imagine and the incessant noise of their infernal machines which did not cease firing on the roads and streets, made a violent impression on our nerves.

You know that the Government has been installed in Vichy. We are now in the very center of the political and administrative activity of France.

You probably know from the press of the constitutional changes which are about to be introduced, changes based on the "new Spirit" which has been proclaimed. This is a subject on which we must not speak and what is certainly of interest to us to know is whether the new France will copy its neighbors of the East and South East in everything.

I do not know what to say abroad. We have had up to now, no information to give us any indication. Here, in France itself, our people have been greatly alarmed by the possibility of the total German conquest and by some journalistic manifestations of the French press evident in the non-occupied zone.

I was naturally interested in this question and could make some contacts with some men who direct the destiny of France at present. I have received a clear impression for the moment, that neither the pride, nor the good French sense, will accept the political and racial practices of the neighboring countries. Some of these people insist vehemently that it is doing an injustice to France to believe it capable of such an attitude.

We understand, that there will not be at present legislative measures on the part of the French authorities which would injure the equality of the rights of the Jewish citizens of the country. There are, however, other categories, mainly the naturalized and the foreigners, who are in for trouble.

As regards the naturalized, the laws have already been passed banning them from access to public office, exception being made for those whose parents or who themselves had taken part in the wars of 1914-1918 and 1939. Nothing has yet been undertaken against the foreigners, but we know very well that if the idea of a corporative State is realized, the foreigners and perhaps even the naturalized will not be able to work and live.

The tendencies against the non-French or the French of recent citizenship affect a great number of our correligionists. It appears that these will affect still more the Italians and the Belgians. There are, therefore, in this case no anti-Jewish measures in the strict sense of the word.

I should add that from observations we were able to make, in spite of certain anti-Jewish evidence among the people, there is no real movement. One does not love the enemy of yesterday enough to share with him all his feelings and hatreds and one should bear in mind that those who are trying to divert the animosity against those truly responsible, are exaggerating purposely. So far

as practical actions are concerned, we have encountered a great deal of solicitude on the part of the general public and the authorities have treated the Jewish refugees with the same advantages as the French refugees and that the authorities have often warned them against the advancing Germans by facilitating the means of movement and provisions for them.

According to the news which we received from the occupied zone, from Paris, notably, the Germans will not upset the Jewish population especially. Some apartments belonging to rich Jews have been occupied by them to house their officers, but the houses of rich non-Jews have been occupied by them likewise. At all events, anti-Jewish propaganda is being made by the new newspapers, which have made their appearance under the protection of the authorities of the occupation. They print the well-known slogans against the Jewish capitalists. *** It seems that this does not take any great hold on the population which maintains an attitude of dignity and reserve. One can find placards on some large cafes on the Avenue de Champs-Elysees forbidding the entrance of Jews. There have been, it appears, some very strong anti-Semitic movements in Alsace, notably in Mulhouse.

To sum up, I do not think that the situation of the Jews in France will be compromised by any act of the present rulers of France. All will depend on the German influence, more or less great on the country. However, the European war is not ended, it is impossible to make sure prophesies.

In that which concerns our work for Palestine, in order to pursue it with success, we must be able to return to Paris, which will be possible in the event that the Government itself will be able to return in full. Negotiations to this end are in progress. There is a possibility that life will be able to return to a more or less normal way, without intervening complications, in September.

In the course of our first contact which we were able to make with the competent authorities in Vichy, we were given to understand the necessity which would force a large number of foreign Jews to immigrate to countries over-seas and, among others, to Palestine. The problem thus put will allow, at an opportune moment, a pro-Palestine activity.

It is needless for us to say that the tendency to emigrate is increasing greatly among people who do not believe it possible to remain in the country and follow a normal life.

I, personally, think that it will be possible to take up the proper activity of the Keren Hayesod much earlier than we could have believed. The different contacts which I have been able to have with members of our committee, have strengthened me in my point of view.

The present strained relations between France and Great Britain will certainly be a handicap. The lack of communications with Palestine hinder us enormously, but we hope that in September the situation will be much clearer.

This is the general picture which we are in a position to give you at the moment. You can imagine the impatience with which we await your news.

Greetings, etc.

(signed) N. Hermann

[1940]

Report No. 136

From: Dr. M. Kahany, Geneva

To : Executive, Jerusalem
Executive, London
Emergency Committee, New York

Passages to Palestine

As already mentioned in my report No. 134 from July 22nd, I was busy to explore the possibilities of passage through Portugal - at least for the Palestinians who still remained here. I succeeded now to get for some of them all the necessary transit-visas (South-African, Indian, Iraqi, Portuguese, Spanish and French) and to-day (August 1st) two Palestinians, namely Zwi Schechter and Pinchos Ginsburg left Geneva for Lisbon by car, from where they will proceed through the Cape and Bombay to Basra and Palestine.

In connection with this departure, I cabled to-day to our London office as follows: OBTAINED NOW ALL NECESSARY VISAS FOR PALESTINIANS STILL HERE ENABLING TRIP VIA LISBON CAP EREZ STOP SCHECHTER GINSBURG LEFT TODAY THIS ROUTE SOME OTHERS LEAVING NEXT WEDNESDAY STOP HOPE ARRANGE SUCCESSIVELY FOR MORE PEOPLE SAME TRIP PLEASE CABLE SOUTHAFRICAN FEDERATION HELP SCHECHTER WHEN ARRIVING STOP SCHECHTER WILL CABLE THEM FROM LISBON DATE HIS PASSAGE CAP - (cables sent also to Jerusalem and New York).

It was of course not easy to get all these transit-visas and I had frequently to explain the case to the various consuls concerned. I now arranged with the consuls the visa facilities for nine of our officials here; it depends only for these officials to take advantage of this arrangement. The cost of the trip from Geneva to Erez (by car to Lisbon, by steamer 2nd class to Basra and by plane from Basra to Erez) will amount to approximately L. 140.-. per head (including one full month boarding on the steamers). There are also of course less expensive possibilities (for instance 3rd class steamer and railway instead of plane from Basra). The whole question of travel possibilities by this route will now be practically explored by Schechter who will remain in contact with me and will give me both from Lisbon and from Capetown all the necessary information.

A second group of Palestinians and Palestinian residents (Orenstein, Schwalb, Rubinstein, Dr. Weiss and Dr. Burg) will probably be ready to leave on Wednesday next. Some others are not yet decided and I am afraid that they will miss this opportunity if they continue to hesitate.

If the route from here via France and Spain to Portugal will remain as free as it is now, some of the Olim with Palestine visas who are still in Switzerland would perhaps be able to take the same way. I am watching this side of the problem too.

Correspondence with Palestine - Inquiries through the Red Cross

Correspondence by letter from here with Palestine is practically only possible through the intermediary of one of the Balkan countries. This way takes some 15 days in one direction.

The difficulties obstructed also the exchange of family messages between Palestine and the German occupied territories through the intermediary of the International Red Cross Committee. A new kind of inquiries important now for our Palestine people are those concerning Polish Jewish soldiers who fought in France and are now war prisoners, or interned in some neutral country.

I am in contact with the International Red Cross Committee and with our Executive in Jerusalem on this subject and I hope that this Red Cross correspondence service - which is for thousands of people in Palestine the only way to get some news from their relatives - will in a few weeks function again.

The Agony of the League of Nations

It is hardly necessary to report to you in detail about this problem, as you know it probably from the general news. There is still in Geneva something like a vestige of the L.o.N. - the magnificent buildings of the Secretariate of the L.o.N. and the International Labour Office - but the institution itself does no more exist in political reality. Some technical sections of the League of Nations (financial, economic and social problems) and some services of the I.L.O. are still continuing a kind of research work with a few officials of various nationalities. The Secretary-General of the League (Monsieur Avenol) has resigned and the Director of the I.L.O. returned to the U.S.A. More European countries have or will formally withdraw from this institution which still exists, theoretically only. A little staff - together perhaps some eighty persons - will however remain both in the Secretariate of the L.o.N. and the I.L.O. as long as a formal dissolution has not been pronounced.

Geneva, August 1st, 1940.

RESOLUTION ON IMMIGRATION SCHEDULE

Passed at the meeting of the Administrative Council
of the Zionist Organization of America
January 5, 1941.

Deeply conscious of the suffering and despair which have engulfed millions of their fellow Jews in Central and Eastern Europe who are afflicted alike by the horrors of war and of a ruthless and vicious anti-Semitism;

Conscious further that the possibility of settlement in the Jewish National Homeland has remained to these Jews as a single ray of salvation and of hope;

The Administrative Council of the Zionist Organization of America voices its protest at the action of the Palestine Administration in withholding the issue of an immigration schedule for the six-month period ending April 1941.

The Council records the loyal and unreserved support of the Jews of Palestine for Great Britain in its heroic struggle for human justice and freedom, and urges the British government to terminate in Palestine, as it has done elsewhere, a policy which can only be interpreted as one of appeasement to enemies and potential aggressors.

The members of the Council, in giving expression to this protest, do so as friends of the British people, and as Americans who wholeheartedly endorse the American Government's program of aid to Great Britain."

IMPORTANT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE:

Please note that in view of the delayed arrival
of Dr. Bernard Joseph, who is to report to the Office Committee,
the meeting scheduled for Thursday has been changed to
FRIDA Y. January 17. at 2:30 p.m. sharp.

Arthur Lourie.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

8

MINUTES OF MEETING OF OFFICE COMMITTEE
of
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS
Thursday, January 9, 1941.

PRESENT: Mr. Lipsky, in the chair; Mr. Bublick, Mr. Cruso, Dr. Goldstein.
Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Perlzweig, (later Mr. Neumann).
Apologies were received from Dr. Wise who was going to be in Washington, and Mr. Szold who was away due to an indisposition.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from Mrs. Jacobs regretting that she was not available to serve as a member of the Committee.

A letter from Mrs. David de Sola Pool of January 8 with reference to the cooperation of Hadassah in the work of the Emergency Committee was also read.

REPORT OF THE PRAESIDIUM

For the Praesidium, it was recommended that:

1. Under the direct supervision of the Praesidium a Department for Public Relations be constituted with Emanuel Neumann in charge at a salary of \$500.00 per month.
2. Pending acceptance by Mr. Kaplan of the budget submitted to him for activities of the Economic Department, the Committee continue the employment of Mr. Rechaviah Levin-Epstein at the rate of \$100 weekly, on a week-to-week basis.

Following a discussion, Mr. Neumann's engagement as above stated was agreed to, but it was specifically provided that the engagement should be on a month-to-month basis and in any case, as at present arranged, was not to extend beyond the fiscal period ending September 1, 1941. Mr. Cruso abstained from voting.

Recommendation 2 was unanimously accepted.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Later when Mr. Neumann was present the Chairman stated that the Praesidium, in discussing the matter with Mr. Neumann, had agreed that he should also be entitled to undertake certain work in the line of his profession. Mr. Neumann said that he realized the budget of the Committee did not permit the payment of the salary to which he felt he might be entitled. He was prepared, however, to accept the proposal made to him provided he was not deterred from supplementing his income from other sources in such a manner as would not conflict with his work on behalf of the Public Relations Department. Mr. Neumann went on to say that he hoped it was understood that whenever arrangements were made with Washington, everything should be centralized through the Bureau here otherwise there would be chaos. For example, the UPA had asked Mr. Breslau to do something for them. This was all to the good, but matters of this kind should be cleared through the center - i.e. through the Committee - to avoid confusion and to correlate action.

Mr. Neumann stated that the question of publications in connection with the Public Relations work was being studied. He had in mind an internal bulletin for circulation perhaps through the Zionist bodies, to key people, and a bulletin intended primarily for non-Jewish recipients. These publications might require considerable monies.

He had been in Washington a few days previously and his observation there indicated that Mr. Breslau was at present able to give little time to personal contacts with Congressmen and officials there. Our position in Washington was not too good. The Near East Division of the State Department was definitely antagonistic nor could the attitude of other circles be regarded as satisfactory. The old Pro-Palestine Committee, of which Bishop Freeman had been a principal figure, no longer existed and Bishop Freeman himself had apparently lost interest to some extent. He hoped that it might be possible to resuscitate that body.

Finally, Mr. Neumann urged, that the possibility of creating a non-Zionist "buffer group" from among those non-Zionists who were really interested in Palestine, should be investigated without delay.

Dr. Goldmann reported that at a meeting of the Praesidium a majority had decided to recommend a payment of \$250 a month to the ZOA for work to be done for the Emergency Committee for the time being, which allowance was to replace all payments to the former Washington Bureau. It was agreed that this recommendation be accepted on the understanding that the Bureau as such no longer existed but that the ZOA, either through Mr. Breslau or anyone else, could be called on to carry out such work for the Emergency Committee as might be required in Washington.

LETTER FROM MEIR GROSSMAN

A letter from Mr. Grossman of the Jewish State Party was read urging that public meetings be held in the principal Jewish centers at which representatives of all Zionist parties should define their attitude to the present day policy of Great Britain regarding Palestine and openly demand the intervention of the U.S. government.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr. Grossman indicating what had been done with reference to the refugee deportations; also referring to the resolution passed by the Administrative Council of the ZOA with regard to the schedule; and informing him that for various reasons a campaign of public meetings at this time was held inadvisable.

PALCOR DISTRIBUTION

It was agreed that a second payment of \$250 be made to Palcor in respect of the distribution of the Palcor News to South America, Australian and certain other Zionist centers for the coming six months. It was also suggested that the ZOA and Hadassah should be given a list of all the bodies to which Palcor was at present being sent in this way, with a view also to having the New Palestine and the Hadassah News Letter distributed to these centers.

MEMORANDUM OF DR. GOLDSTEIN

Dr. Goldstein had circulated to the members of the Committee a memorandum with regard to political work in this country. It was decided to discuss the memorandum at the next full meeting of the Committee.

Dr. Goldstein asked that it be recorded that with reference to the decision for the payment by the UPA of transportation of the Palestine certificate holders at present in Lithuania, his name had been included in the telegram to Mr. Kaplan without his knowledge. Dr. Goldmann confirmed that he had spoken to Dr. Goldstein on the telephone when Dr. Goldstein had said that the proposal was acceptable to him provided Jerusalem agreed, but that he had no power to make the decision here. It may be that a misunderstanding had arisen in this connection. Dr. Goldstein stated that the UPA operated on the basis of an agreement between the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth, and had no right to make allocations not provided for in that agreement. Transportation fell within the budgetary responsibilities of the Agency and not the KKL and should therefore be advanced by the Keren Hayesod or the Agency.

It was agreed that the matter as to how the actual payment should be made should be taken up with Dr. Silver.

Mr. Lipsky pointed out that in certain emergency cases people here might be justified in undertaking certain responsibilities without specific authorization from Jerusalem - e.g. where delay might defeat the object of the action or even in certain cases, where Jerusalem was not in a position to have all the facts at its disposal and accordingly arrive at a proper judgement.

ALLOCATIONS FOR SPECIAL RELIEF

The Secretary reported that an amount of \$100 had been authorized for payment to David Zacharin in connection with the small fund originally allocated for specially deserving cases. It was decided by vote that for the future no further allocations under this heading should be made as the funds of the Committee did not permit of such grants.

ADDITIONAL OFFICE SPACE

It was decided that since there had been no authorization by Mr. Kaplan of the budget of the Economic Department, a proposal to take additional office space should be deferred until the following meeting, unless in the interval Mr. Kaplan's agreement should have been received, in which case the officers were authorized to sign the lease.

OFFICE MANAGEMENT

It was agreed that on the setting up of the additional departments, Mr. Levin-Epstein, Mr. Neumann and Mr. Lourie should act as a controlling group for the management of the office and control all office expenditure. This shall include the presentation of a complete financial report of the expenditures incurred both in New York and in Washington.

EXPENSES OF DR. WEIZMANN IN AMERICA

It was stated that in connection with the expenses of Dr. Weizmann's last visit in America, totalling about \$6,000, a substantial amount - totalling perhaps \$4,000 - could properly be attributed to work in connection with the loan. It was agreed that efforts should be made for the Emergency Committee to recover this amount from the Keren Hayesod.

BRITISH PEACE AIMS

Dr. Nahum Goldmann said that in view of a possible statement by Mr. Churchill regarding British Peace Aims, the American Jewish Congress was contemplating sending a telegram to Mr. Churchill with a view to the inclusion of some reference to the Jewish problem. It was felt that any reference to the future of Palestine in such a statement was at this time very unlikely. On the other hand, the Congress felt that it was clearly desirable that in their telegram Palestine should be referred to in some form.

Mr. Neumann pointed out that if it was desired to do something effective there were other things that should be attempted - e.g. - through the Embassy, the State Department, or Mr. Hopkins in London.

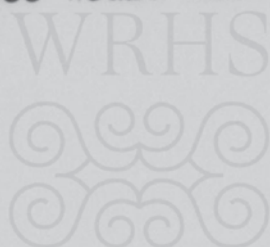
Dr. Goldmann reported that Dr. Wise would be seeing Mr. Sumner Welles on Saturday and would raise the question with him.

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It was agreed that there should be a meeting of the full Committee on Tuesday, January 21, at 4:30.

The Office Committee would meet as usual on Thursday, January 16, at 4:30.

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1/14/41



Arthur Lourie.

Strictly Confidential

#9

(Friday, January 17, 1941)

MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING

OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

PRESENT: Mr. Lipsky, in the chair; Messrs. Gellman, Goldstein, Wertheim, Wise.
Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Messrs. Lourie, Neumann, Istorik.

CORRECTION OF MINUTES

At the request of Dr. Goldstein that part of the minutes of January 9th under the heading of "Memorandum of Dr. Goldstein" was amended in paragraph 3 from "Mr. Lipsky pointed out" to read "Mr. Lipsky gave it as his opinion."

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

i. Dr. Goldstein referred also to the minutes of December 30 under the heading "Public Relations and Political Action." He stated that it had not been intended at the meeting that there should be two separate departments - one for public relations and the other for political activity.

Mr. Lipsky said that he remembered the discussion and that his impression had been that there should be a single bureau which would combine public relations and political action. Dr. Goldmann said that it was obvious that Mr. Neumann should be used both in connection with the public relations work and for political action but that the character of the political activity to be undertaken should be decided upon by the Office Committee.

Mr. Szold said that to his recollection it was not possible to report any consensus of opinion at the meeting; but the vote taken was in respect of the establishment of a single committee. However, regardless of its set-up or name, so far as the Washington Bureau was concerned, he had understood that Mr. Breslau would remain the representative and contact man of the Committee. Accordingly, with reference to the minutes of January 9, the mention of the "former Washington Bureau" was not correct. So far as he knew it had never ceased to exist.

Mr. Lipsky said that the idea had been that a department of public relations and political action be established in New York with Mr. Neumann in charge, under the direction of the Praesidium and Office Committee. In Washington the work should be carried out, under the direction of the department, by Mr. Breslau, or if he was away, by someone else in his behalf.

Mr. Szold suggested that details involved in the arrangements with Washington should be decided on in consultation with Mr. Breslau and the ZOA. He accordingly recommended that Mr. Breslau be asked to attend a meeting of the Office Committee or the Praesidium at which such matters could be finally resolved. This was agreed to by the Committee.

Mr. Szold asked whether he was right in assuming that Mr. Breslau was still to be considered as representing the Committee in Washington. It was agreed that this was so. In answer to Mr. Neumann's question as to whether it was intended that there should be a clear-cut separation between his work and Mr. Breslau's, each being directly and separately responsible to the Committee,

it was stated that this was not the case - that Mr. Breslau was to be an integral part of the department as its representative in Washington and that his work would be done in conjunction with and for the department; but the department should have a single head in New York. Mr. Neumann reported that he had had a long talk with Mr. Breslau and thought there could be complete understanding between them as to the work in Washington, though Mr. Breslau's ultimate cooperation was dependent on the policy of the ZOA with regard to the Committee.

In summing up the discussion it was stated that the department will work in conjunction with a special committee for public relations. The department will also be responsible for carrying on political work but its activity in this field will be under the instructions of the Office Committee and the Praesidium.

Mr. Lipsky asked that there should be a complete record to date of the Washington Bureau. Mr. Szold stated that a fully audited statement which had been submitted would be included in the record.

JEWISH MILITARY UNIT

Dr. Goldmann reported that a recent communication from London made it imperative to discuss the question of a Jewish military unit immediately. Word had been received that negotiations with His Majesty's Government with regard to a Jewish military unit within the British army were proceeding, but that before taking a final decision the British Government would shortly consult with the American government. It was essential for responsible Zionists to discuss the matter with the State Department before it received the message from London. As a matter of fact, Dr. Wise had already written to Mr. Sumner Welles asking that no action be taken in the matter before consultation with the Zionist leaders, and Mr. Welles had invited Dr. Wise to meet with him. Dr. Goldmann asked the Committee to make its explicit instructions to Dr. Wise and those who would accompany him in the interview with Mr. Welles.

In Dr. Goldmann's opinion there are two points to be considered:

- 1) That the United States Government should encourage the British Government to form a Jewish military unit within the British army.
- 2) The question of enlisting volunteers from America within such a unit.

As conceived in London, the first Jewish military unit should comprise a division composed of 15,000 men, 3000 of whom would be Palestinians and the rest Jewish volunteers from all over the world.

There was unanimous agreement on the desirability of Point 1. On the question of the Zionist position in relation to the enlistment of volunteers from America there was considerable discussion. It was generally agreed that in the interview with Mr. Welles discussion of this aspect of the problem should not originate with the Emergency Committee's representatives; but it was recognized that Mr. Welles himself would be likely to initiate such a question, since it was bound up with the whole concept of a Jewish military unit. The suggestion was made that Mr. Welles be told that Zionists would favor the enlistment of American volunteers in a Jewish military unit on principle but would take no steps to that end without consent of the American government. Mr. Szold emphasized the gravity and seriousness of the whole problem at this time in American affairs. In his opinion any intimation to the State Dept. that American enlistment was involved might jeopardize its endorsement of the whole plan. He recommended that under no circumstances should Mr. Welles be informed that the

Zionists have already taken a stand on this question in so far as American enlistment is concerned. It was agreed that a written memorandum be prepared for Mr. Welles confined to endorsing a Jewish unit in the British army, with no mention of enlistment of Americans. Mr. Welles is to be informed the question is so momentous that - (a) it requires full discussion by American Zionist leaders; and (b) it goes without saying that no action will be taken in this country without the consent of the American government.

Mr. Neumann stated that if there were to be any attempt later at enlistment here the Zionist public should be prepared for the possibility well in advance as they would not be receptive to such a proposal today.

Mr. Istoric informed the Committee that London was trying to arrange that the Jewish military unit be designated to serve in the Near East rather than elsewhere.

STATEMENT BY DR. WISE RE PRAESIDIUM

Dr. Wise rose to a question of personal privilege and asked that the following statement be recorded in the minutes since the matter to which he was about to allude would probably come up next Friday at the executive committee meeting of the ZOA. His statement follows:

"When some months ago in September or October there was a discussion of a change in the structure and organization of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, the suggestion was made that the praesidium should as before consist of Dr. Solomon Goldman, Mr. Lipsky and myself. I thought it wise and was particularly insistent that there be no change in the praesidium, foreseeing that difficulties might arise (which is actually what has happened), if there were any change in the historic praesidium as set forth by Dr. Solomon Goldman in Geneva and London.

"Originally the objection to the inclusion of Dr. Solomon Goldman came from Hadassah representatives, they claiming or purporting that their objection derived from the circumstances that Dr. Solomon Goldman was not in New York and would be unavailable for meetings and consultations; for this reason they made fundamental objection to the inclusion of his name in the praesidium. It was therefore suggested by Dr. Nahum Goldmann that if Solomon Goldman could not be included, then someone who closely represented his viewpoint in Zionist affairs should become a member; namely, Mr. Robert Szold, who was accordingly made a member of the Praesidium. "

Dr. Wise accepted the following addendum to this statement as made by Mr. Lipsky: "When Mr. Szold's name was suggested, he declined on the ground that the original praesidium should continue with Dr. Solomon Goldman on it".

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A committee composed of Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldstein and Mr. Lipsky was appointed to discuss with Mr. Baerwald and Mr. McDonald the whole question of further contributions from private organizations to the President's Advisory Committee.

HASHOMER HATZAIR

Mr. Lourie reported that the Hashomer Hatzair had requested representation on the Emergency Committee. It was pointed out that this would set a precedent whereby all organizations recognized as minority groups at the Congress would be entitled to representation on the Emergency Committee. No action was taken.

PEACE AIMS

Dr. Goldstein reported that he had been invited to membership on the Inter-Faith Committee, composed of ecclesiastical and lay persons of various religious denominations. Dr. Goldstein felt that it might be of value for a member of the Emergency Committee to be included in this committee which was giving consideration to the question of peace aims. He suggested that Mr. Neumann give thought to the question of formulating Zionist peace aims and post war settlements.

In this connection Mr. Neumann reported that Hadassah had a committee for the purpose of outlining a study course on Palestine and the post-war settlement, and had consulted with Dr. Pool, Dr. Moskowitz of the American Jewish Committee, and himself. In view of the fact that the American Jewish Congress is setting up an Institute to study the whole question of peace aims, Mr. Neumann recommended that the Emergency Committee appoint a commission to conduct research work - such a commission to work in close cooperation with the Congress Institute.

Dr. Goldmann recalled that the Emergency Committee had already accepted the proposal for the establishment of a committee on peace aims and he endorsed the idea that such a committee work in cooperation with the Institute on Peace Aims of the American Jewish Congress.

REORGANIZATION PLANS

Dr. Goldmann reported that Hadassah had requested a reconsideration of the question of the praesidium and the structure of the Emergency Committee. The committee agreed that this be on the agenda at the next meeting at which Hadassah representatives were present, and that Hadassah be informed accordingly.

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Arthur Lourie

1/22/41

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR
ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Tuesday, January 21, 1941.

PRESENT: Messrs. Lipsky (in the Chair), Szold, Wise; Bublick, Gellman, Gold, Goldstein, Rothenberg, Segal, Wertheim;

Nahum Goldmann, Levin-Epstein, Lourie, Montor, Perlzweig, Bernard Joseph.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Committee was informed that a financial statement for the period January 1, 1940 to December 30, 1940, had been received, which showed that expenditures during the past year had totalled \$54,548.64. An examination of the itemized account however, indicated that actual expenditures in connection with the work of the Committee amounted only to about \$21,243.50. Thus \$6,800 had been expended in respect of Dr. Weizmann's visit to America, \$4,200 for the Kladowa refugees, \$7,500 to the President's Advisory Committee, and \$7,700 in connection with visas for Zionist refugees. With regard to some of these amounts, it was hoped to recover monies expended and in any case, they would not recur in the next budget.

It was agreed that the financial statement be circulated and the 1941 budget considered at a subsequent meeting.

UPA DRIVE IN CHICAGO

On the proposal of Dr. Wise, a telegram of encouragement and support to Dr. Solomon Goldman in connection with the stand he was taking at the meeting of the Welfare Funds regarding the UPA allocation, was approved by the Committee.

ADDITIONS TO COMMITTEE:

A letter from the Poale Zion, naming Mr. Cruso and Mr. Segal as their additional representatives on the Committee, was reported.

REPORT OF DR. JOSEPH

Dr. Bernard Joseph, who had arrived that morning from Palestine, was welcomed to the meeting. He gave a long report on the situation in Palestine which is recorded separately.

Dr. Joseph's report was continued on Thursday, January 23, at which the following were present:

Messrs. Lipsky (in the Chair), Wise; Bublick, Cruso, Gold, Goldstein, Greenberg, Segal, Rothenberg, Wertheim;

Nahum Goldmann, Bernard Joseph, Levin-Epstein, Lourie, Neumann.

Arthur Lourie

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RESOLUTIONS

Passed at the National Conference of the
United Palestine Appeal
January 26, 1941.

JEWISH DEFENSE OF PALESTINE

The Conference expresses its gratification at the splendid contribution of the Jews of Palestine by providing nearly 8,000 volunteers for service in the British Army, partly in distinct Jewish units, and by mobilizing its agricultural, technical and industrial resources for the war effort, and expresses the hope that Great Britain will soon avail itself to a fuller extent of the readiness of the Jewish people to make its maximum contribution to the struggle against Nazism and for the defense of Palestine by the establishment of a suitable Jewish military force for service in that struggle and in the defense of Palestine.

THE WHITE PAPER

The Conference expresses its profound regret that notwithstanding the change in government and policy in the United Kingdom with the advent of Mr. Winston Churchill as Prime Minister, the White Paper Policy, with its restriction on Jewish immigration and land purchase, is still being adhered to by the Palestine Administration. The Conference appeals to His Majesty's Government to end this injustice to the Jewish people, and to open the gates of Palestine to those Jewish refugees who turn to Palestine as their only hope of salvation; and to remove the discrimination against Jews entailed in the land transfer regulations, so that Jewish colonization may proceed unimpeded as contemplated in the mandate for Palestine.

The Conference declares its belief that in the conditions which will prevail in post-war Europe Jewry will be faced with the task of finding a home for large masses of Jews from Central and Eastern Europe and that it is their deep conviction, proved by past experience, that only by large-scale colonization of these Jews in Palestine, with the aim of re-constitution as a Jewish Commonwealth, can the Jewish problem be permanently solved.

AID TO GREAT BRITAIN

This Conference gives its unqualified endorsement and complete support to the policy established and pursued by the Government of the United States of extending maximum aid to Great Britain and its Allies in their struggle to insure the survival of democracy, freedom and justice throughout the world.

The Conference expresses the hope that the victory of the Allied cause will vindicate and permanently establish the principles of individual and national freedom, equality and independence, and accordingly, that termination of the war will result in

- a) equal individual and group rights for Jews in all countries where they reside, and the eradication of all racial, religious and national discrimination in any form;
- b) the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth.

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MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE
of
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

February 6, 1941

PRESENT: Messrs. Lipsky (in the Chair) Wise, Wertheim;
Dr. Joseph, Messrs. Lourie, Neumann, and Montor (by invitation).

OFFICE SPACE

It was agreed to lease, for the period up to April 30, 1942, additional office space at a monthly rate of \$80.50 adjoining the present premises of the Committee.

REPORT OF MR. NEUMANN

The chairman suggested that in addition to his oral report Mr. Neumann prepare a fuller written report for the record. Mr. Neumann agreed to do this. His oral report follows:

1. POLICY

Mr. Neumann referred to the political resolutions adopted at the U.P.A. Conference in Washington and the Canadian Zionist Convention. These resolutions emphasize:

a) The reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth. In the case of the Canadian resolution the words "within the British Commonwealth of Nations" were added.

- b) Approval of the establishment of a Jewish Military Force.
c) Vigorous support of Great Britain in the conduct of the war, and equally vigorous opposition to the White Paper policy in Palestine.

The Department of Public Relations is endeavoring to bring the import of these resolutions and the policy they express more strongly to the attention of the Zionists and public at large.

2. INTERVIEW WITH SUMNER WELLES

Mr. Neumann reported that Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldmann and himself had called on Mr. Welles to discuss with him the document which his Majesty's Government was planning to send the State Department in connection with the proposal for the establishment of a Jewish military force. Mr. Welles said that such a document had not yet been received, but assured them that as soon as it arrived he would inform them and provide an opportunity for discussion. A memorandum setting forth the position of the Jewish Agency on this matter was sent to Mr. Welles.

On Monday, January 27, Dr. Joseph called on Mr. Welles accompanied by Mr. Neumann. Dr. Joseph gave Mr. Welles a complete report on current conditions in Palestine, on Jewish participation in the war efforts, on the Arab situation, and on the deportations of Jewish refugees from Palestine.

Mr. Welles was interested and sympathetic. He suggested that a deputation call on Lord Halifax "as a first step" to present the viewpoint of the Jews and to make him understand the weight and influence of Jewish opinion.

3. PRO-PALESTINE COMMITTEE

Mr. Neumann then reported his efforts at resuscitating the Pro-Palestine Committee in Washington which he had originally organized some years back. He endeavored to enlist the cooperation of Senator King and, after a consultation with Rabbi Silver and Mr. Montor, offered to compensate him for his efforts in securing the adherence of Senators and Congressmen. Mr. Neumann reported further that through the intervention of Dr. Wise he had secured Senator Wagner to be the spearhead of such a committee and had also invited Senator MacNary to act as co-sponsor so that it would be non-partisan in character. Thirty senators had already been lined up from both parties. (This number has since grown to fifty-seven. Negotiations were proceeding for enlisting the cooperation also of members of the House; already the majority leaders as well as the speaker had indicated their endorsement of the plan.

In this connection, Mr. Neumann expressed his appreciation of the cordial attitude of Rabbi Breslau and Mr. Shulson of the Z.O.A. office, but pointed out that their cooperation, though willing, was necessarily limited by their heavy commitments in Z. O. A. work. There was, therefore, no one available at the moment to follow up the work systematically.

4. PUBLICATIONS

Leaders of public opinion throughout the country are also being approached for their cooperation. It is planned to issue a publication entitled "Palestine Today and Tomorrow" to be issued to Congressmen and leaders of public opinion with an editorial staff composed of men like Edgar Mowrer, who had already indicated that he would be glad to cooperate, Dr. Lowdermilk, Archibald MacLeish and others whom Mr. Neumann had interviewed. The plans for this publication include enlisting the cooperation of others as contributing editors; names suggested in this connection were Pierre Van Paassen, Paul Kellogg, Professor Albright of Johns Hopkins University, Raymond Gram Swing, Charles Edward Russell, Rev. John Haynes Holmes, Lewis Mumford and others.

Another publication planned by Mr. Neumann was intended as an internal bulletin for circulation among Zionists, to be called "Fact and Comment". Mr. Israel Goldberg had been engaged, under instructions from the Praesidium, to help prepare the editorial content of these publications and to assist in press work.

5. RESEARCH

Mr. Neumann further planned a series of pamphlets by authoritative research workers, the first one of which was now being prepared by Professor Jacob Lestchinski on the prospects for European Jewry after the war; another of these pamphlets will deal with "Zionist prognosis and realization", etc. etc.

Mr. Neumann said that he was convinced of the necessity for such research by the prevailing spirit in official Washington, which though very

sympathetic and friendly towards the Jews, was not sufficiently convinced about the Zionist solution as the solution of the Jewish problem. He was gratified, he said, to report that there are many young Jews in government service eager to cooperate in the research work essential for an effective presentation of the Zionist approach to the Jewish problem. In this connection, he referred to a conference he had with Dr. Isaiah Bowman, President of Johns Hopkins University which he regarded as of great importance. He considered it possible to enlist Dr. Bowman's cooperation in certain directions.

6. CONFERENCE OF EDITORS

Mr. Neumann reported that he had initiated a bi-weekly conference of the editors of Zionist publications the purpose of which was to unify Zionist thought and coordinate Zionist policy. The conference had been enthusiastically received and should be an effective means of directing a Zionist "line".

Mr. Wertheim took vigorous exception to the engagement of personnel (i.e. in this case, Mr. Goldberg - although he had no objection to the appointment of Mr. Goldberg as such) by the praesidium without the knowledge or consent of the office committee. The office committee went on record as agreeing that all decisions to be authoritative and binding must be submitted to and approved by the office committee.

7. Budget

Mr. Neumann recalled that it had been proposed that at least \$10,000 be allocated as a budget for his department for six months, or, approximately \$1,600 a month; after the deduction of salaries there would be a balance of five to six hundred dollars a month for all work.

The consideration of the budget for this department was referred to a committee to be composed of Messrs. Lipsky, Lourie and Szold.

In conclusion Mr. Neumann stated that he was working in close cooperation with Justice Brandeis who was kept fully informed and frequently consulted. Mr. Brandeis' attitude was one of hearty approval of the activities of the Department and of disapproval of prolonged internal discussions, at this time, not related to the immediately important work in hand.

DEPUTATION TO LORD HALIFAX

It was agreed that Dr. Wise should write to Lord Halifax requesting that he receive a deputation of Zionist representatives and the representatives of other leading Jewish organizations in America sympathetic to Zionist aims.

It was agreed further that the question of the composition of the deputation and the official memorandum to be prepared await the receipt of Lord Halifax's reply.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Dr. Wise reported that he and Dr. Goldmann had sent a telegram to Mr. Kaufmann asking him to call a special meeting of the Z. O. A.

COLONEL DONOVAN

Dr. Wise reported that he had urged Mr. Fred Greenman, a friend of Colonel Donovan, President Roosevelt's special representative in the Near East, to send him the following cable:

"Colonel William J. Donovan
c/o American Consul General Wadsworth
Jerusalem, Palestine

WITH MANY YOUR AMERICAN FRIENDS STRONGLY URGE YOU MAKE FULL STUDY MAGNIFICENT
JEWISH DEVELOPMENT IN PALESTINE CONFERRING WITH JEWISH LEADERS ESPECIALLY
SHERTOK HOPE YOUR REPORT WILL MAKE CLEAR GALLANT PARTICIPATION PALESTINE
JEWS IN BRITISH CAUSE. REGARDS AND GOOD LUCK FRED GREENMAN"

Mr. Lourie reported that Dr. Solomon Goldman had also asked an influential friend to cable Colonel Donovan and that the latter had in fact had a long, private talk with Mr. Shertok.

CABLE FROM BUCHAREST

Mr. Lewin-Epstein reported the receipt of a cable from Bucharest informing him that there are 700 Jews there with certificates for Palestine. He was authorized by the committee to proceed with financial negotiations for their transportation.



Arthur Lourie

ALre

*Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs*41 EAST 42nd STREET
ROOM 1121
NEW YORK CITYCONFIDENTIAL

February 10, 1941.

Dear Friends:

For reasons beyond our control, several months have passed since our last information letter to you. It is hoped henceforth to transmit these letters at more regular intervals.

WAR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEAR EAST

Since the date of our last letter the military situation in North Africa and the Near East has undergone considerable modification. Whereas in September and October considerable anxiety had been felt as to the fate of Palestine in the event of a large-scale Italian drive on the Suez Canal, the successful British offensive in Lybia has brought about a radical change in the situation.

In that offensive the Jews of Palestine have played an important part. Altogether about 8000 Jews have enrolled for service with the British forces in the Near East. Some of these have participated in the fighting in Greece, but the bulk are in Egypt and Lybia. These volunteers are not organized in a single army formation but are for the most part distributed in small units as engineers, aircraftsmen, etc., among various British formations. Thirty-five of them hold **commissioned ranks**, while fifty more are due to obtain their commissions shortly. The volunteers include 1500 men now attached to the R.A.F. in Egypt and Greece. On several occasions the work and fighting qualities of the Jewish units has elicited warm praise from the army authorities.

From the beginning of the war, however, the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine directed its efforts toward the creation not of scattered units but of a Jewish army, which should as such take its place on an equal footing with the other Allied armies - Poles, Czechs, Free French, etc. which have combined with Great Britain in the fight against Hitler.

It was urged that the Jewish people, who were the first victims of Hitler, should be given the opportunity to play their full part in this war as Jews; the need for a Jewish army to serve in Palestine, is further of particular importance, and in view of the special status of the Jews of Palestine, they are entitled as a Jewish community to the recognition of their elementary right of self-defense. Discussions which have been proceeding with the authorities in London for a considerable time with a view to the establishment of such an army have recently made material progress and on certain matters agreement has been reached, but these talks have still not achieved finality. While in view of previous

disappointments it is unwise to be too optimistic with regard to the outcome of these talks, there is some reason to hope for a favorable announcement before long.

In Palestine itself there have been a few sporadic air-raids on Haifa and Tel Aviv. A number of houses were destroyed and there were several hundred casualties, but in both towns the Jewish population behaved excellently and morale was unaffected. With some small measure of government support, the Yishuv has initiated anti-air raid precautions, but there is considerable need for more adequate shelters, and no proper financial allocation for this purpose has yet been made by the authorities.

PALESTINE AS A SUPPLY BASE

Another matter on which the Executive had been pressing the British Government for some time previous to the outbreak of the war was the desirability, in view of the possible outbreak of hostilities, of creating in Palestine a large supply base. It was clear that in the event of Italian entry into the war very great difficulties might be expected to arise in communications between Palestine and Europe, involving possibly the virtual cutting off of the Eastern Mediterranean from direct contact with England.

In memoranda submitted to the government, as well as in a number of conversations with leading English personalities, the importance was accordingly stressed of fostering Palestine industry with a view to supplying a great part of the military and civilian requirements in Palestine and the neighboring countries. It is true that apart from the great chemical deposits in the Dead Sea, and the oil conveyed by pipe to Haifa from Iraq, Palestine is deficient in raw materials. But the immigration into Palestine particularly of recent years, of many highly skilled technicians, chemists, engineers, experts and artisans of all kinds, has created a reservoir of knowledge and ability which, if properly organized and assisted, could go far toward developing industries on a large scale.

Government support of these proposals has not been as active as might have been hoped. Nevertheless, largely as a result of individual Jewish initiative, a fair amount has been achieved. Among the industries already functioning may be mentioned, apart from the Dead Sea Potash Works (today the only important source of potash in the British Empire) cement, chemical products, medical supplies, optical instruments, aluminum-ware, work tools and instruments, wire both for electrical and fencing purposes, pumps, piping, leather goods, textiles and clothing. No less than 250 factories are concerned with the metal industries alone, including 20 foundries. Estimates place the amount of capital invested in Jewish industry in Palestine at some LP 12,000,000 sterling and the annual output at present at LP 8,000,000 and 9,000,000. Some 30,000 Jewish workers are employed in these factories and workshops.

In October and November of last year, an Inter-Governmental conference was held in Delhi (India) of representatives of Great Britain's dominions, colonies and mandated territories, with a view to co-ordinating and expanding the contribution of these different areas to the Empire's war effort; the Palestine administration was represented by Mr. George Walsh, the Economic Advisor, and by one of the senior Jewish officials in the administration - Mr. Julius Jacobs. As a result of the recom-

recommendations of this conference a more active policy in regard to local industry in Palestine is hoped for.

ECONOMIC POSITION

With the outbreak of the war, the Palestine economy, as was to be expected, suffered a severe shock. There was a run on the banks and various economic enterprises were more or less seriously affected. Fortunately, largely through the intervention of the Anglo-Palestine Bank (originally established by the Zionist Organization with Keren Hayesod funds) the banking crisis was overcome. There was a recurrence of financial tension following Italian entry into the war, but the situation is now well in hand and with the continuation of British success in Libya, renewed confidence has brought about a substantial return of deposits to the banks.

The hardest hit branches of the Palestine economy were the building trade and the citrus industry, which were both very severely affected. As regards the building trade, nearly all private building activities came to a stand-still, nor has there as yet been a resumption of this branch of construction in which thousands of workers had previously found employment. The effects of the stoppage have to a large extent been compensated for now by important building works including air fields, forts and barracks, which were undertaken by the army and the government in which there has been a large participation of Jewish labor. The cost of these works, more than LP 2,000,000, has been paid for by the British Exchequer.

The citrus industry, however, responsible as it is for about 75% of Palestine's normal imports, faces a critical period. The outbreak of hostilities had created a serious shortage of cargo space in the Eastern Mediterranean. Nevertheless, during the first winter of the war the citrus growers managed to export a little more than half of their normal peace-time total. Since then Italy has entered the war and this season the industry is feeling the full effects of the absence of ordinary shipping facilities. Only a very small proportion of the twelve million exportable cases can be sent abroad this year, and while efforts are being made to dispose of portions of the crop through the army and also by conversion into orange juice and other by-products, the situation of the great majority of the growers today is extremely difficult. Some already have begun to pull up their trees and are turning their land over to mixed farming. Discussions are at present proceeding with the Palestine administration with a view to getting a substantial government loan for the purpose of maintaining the groves which, without proper care, are liable to deteriorate rapidly, and it is hoped that some measure of relief will be obtained, but it is clear that the industry as a whole will be faced for some time to come by grave anxieties.

Apart from the citrus question, Palestine agriculture has made important advances in the past 18 months. The inadequacy of supplies from abroad has given strong stimulus to local cultivation of all kinds and the Executive of the Jewish Agency is lending its encouragement to the expansion of Jewish agriculture with a view to supplying the increased local market as well as army needs. The Executive has also been pressing the government to grant small loans to farmers and has at present arranged

for LP 200,000 to be forthcoming in this way. In all, about 7,000 additional workers have been absorbed in agriculture.

Sufficient has been said in an earlier heading to indicate the great expansion, largely attributable to the war, which is taking place in our industry of all kinds. Before leaving the topic, reference should be made to one entirely new branch of work which promises to expand in size and importance namely - the diamond industry which has been established at Natanya. Some 300 expert workers from Holland and Belgium are engaged in this new enterprise. The raw diamonds are obtained from South Africa or from London and there is a ready sale of the finished product. Exports already average some LP 12,000 a month.

In general a major problem which confronts industry in Palestine as a whole, is that of the import of necessary raw materials and this will call for a large-scale organized effort on the part of responsible Jewish bodies both in Palestine and abroad. The Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs has set up an Economic Commission under the direction of Mr. Rehabiah Levin-Epstein with a view to fostering and co-ordinating as far as possible Palestine imports from the United States.

As regards the labor situation as a whole, it may be stated, in conclusion, that unemployment amongst the Jewish workers which towards the end of 1939 stood at the very high figure of 30,000, has now been reduced to about 12,000.

LAND PURCHASE AND SETTLEMENT

The Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth) has been active in expanding its land holdings throughout the war period. It is a matter of first importance that there should be no interruption in our acquisition of land in Palestine. In the three and a half years of the disturbances no less than 60 new Jewish settlements were established, and in the first year of the war 8 further points were colonized. Not only are we using up reserve lands which must be replaced, but it is essential to combat the White Paper policy by additional acquisition wherever possible. Purchases remain to be completed in the Huleh where, with proper drainage, most fertile soil is available; also in the "corridor" between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and in the south where our position remains weak.

Every effort must be made to provide the necessary funds for these purchases. The example of the last war, when the tongue of land which projects north to Tel Hai and Huleh was included within the boundaries of Palestine only because of the presence there of Jewish colonies, is a potent reminder of the importance of taking advantage of every available opportunity for consolidating our land holdings.

IMMIGRATION

Despite the war, immigration into Palestine from various parts of Europe has continued, though inevitably, following the entry of Italy into the war, on a considerably reduced scale. In recent months, as a result of the virtual cessation of ordinary passenger transport through the Mediterranean, immigrants from Eastern Europe have been arriving by new and difficult routes.

Some have come by boat down the Danube and through the Dardanelles, while others have taken the land route via Turkey and Syria. For others again, the only practicable way was through the territory of the Soviets and thanks to a certain modification in the attitude previously adopted by the Russian government with regard to such transit, several hundred youth and chalutz immigrants from the Baltic countries have been enabled to reach Palestine after making the long land trip southwards through Soviet territory.

At present the Executive of the Jewish Agency is engaged in arranging with the aid of funds of the United Palestine Appeal in America, the transport of 1,000 holders of Palestine certificates who were in Lithuania and Latvia at the time of the Soviet occupation; they are now on their way to Palestine, some via Odessa and some via Turkey.

It is estimated that since the outbreak of the war in September 1939 over 20,000 Jews have immigrated into Palestine; more than 280,000 Jews from Germany, Poland and elsewhere have found a home in Palestine since 1933.

IMMIGRATION SCHEDULE, OCTOBER 1940 - APRIL 1941

By reason of the war a substantial number of the certificates granted by the Government under the Immigration Schedule for the summer of 1940 could not be used in time. Basing itself on this fact, the Government announced in December that it had decided not to issue a new schedule for the period ending April 1941 and it limited itself to the renewal of a part of the unused certificates granted by the Government under the previous quota.

Exception was taken by the Executive to this action on the part of the administration, the more so as despite the war, refugees without permits were continuing to arrive in Palestine whose status could have been legalized by the grant of these unused certificates.

The Government emphasized that it was continuing to carry out the policy of the White Paper of May 1939, by stating that of the quota of 75,000 immigrants therein provided for (after which immigration was to cease!) 28,835 had already arrived in Palestine, of whom 16,565 came without permits.

As will be seen from the above figures, unauthorized refugee immigration has continued simultaneously with authorized immigration. War conditions, however, have added enormously to the already great difficulties and dangers attached to immigration of that kind. Indeed in many cases, conditions of safety, sanitation and provisioning under which the refugee immigration has been taking place has been nothing short of appalling. A recent example is that of the 100 ton sailing vessel, the Salvador, which, with 352 refugees on board, sank in the sea of Marmora with a loss of more than 200 lives.

That men, women and children should be willing to face these risks in order to reach the haven of Eretz Israel is an indication of the horrors and hopelessness from which they flee.

Until recent months it had been the practice of British authorities to intern in special camps in Palestine immigrants who had in this way reached its shores without certificates, and after a certain period of detention to permit their release. The numbers thus admitted were, as above indicated,

deducted from the total of 75,000 prescribed in the White Papers. Early in December the High Commissioner announced that for the future, refugees arriving in Palestine without certificates would be deported, and as a first case 1770 refugees who had arrived in Haifa on two boats, the Milos and the Pacific, were transferred to a larger vessel, the Patria, for removal to a British colony. The official statement of the High Commissioner added that these refugees would not be allowed to return to Palestine even after the war. The feelings of the 1770 refugees and of the whole Yishuv at this cruel announcement requires no comment. Steps were taken through friends in America to intervene with the British authorities and in addition a delegation called on the British Embassy in Washington. The whole matter assumed a new aspect, however, when an explosion, the cause of which is still unexplained, took place aboard the Patria and the ship sank. British soldiers and police did heroic rescue work but at least 150 persons on the Patria were known to have been drowned. Of the survivors, over 1500 were brought ashore and interned in Palestine, and so far as they were concerned, the government rescinded its deportation order.

But on December 9, 1940, 1700 refugees who had arrived on another boat, the Atlantic, who had actually been landed in Palestine, were forced to embark in two ships for transfer to Mauritius, a British colony in the Indian Ocean.

From what has gone before it will be clear that the Jewish people are faced with something of a dilemma in its relations to Great Britain in the present situation. On the one hand, England's fight against Hitler and all that Hitler stands for is one to which Jews everywhere will lend their unqualified support. That struggle is also our struggle. On the other hand, so far as Palestine is concerned, the administration is still attempting to pursue the policy of the MacDonald White Paper which had its origin in the general appeasement efforts of the Chamberlain government. That policy we shall resist whether as regards immigration, land purchase or colonization. Our work in Palestine must and will go on. It is clearer today than ever before that Palestine alone can offer an assured and permanent home not for thousands but for millions of Jews, and when peace comes it hardly can be doubted that even though Hitler will have disappeared, great masses of Jewry in post-war Europe will still have to seek a haven elsewhere.

Zionist policy today must therefore be directed on the one hand to unqualified support for England in her struggle against the Nazis, but on the other to opposition and protest against actions on the part of the British Administration which would mean the strangulation of the Jewish effort in Palestine and a set-back to Zionist hopes perhaps for generations. That these policies are not inconsistent is clear when it is realized that leading writers and politicians in England whose patriotism could not be impugned, have not hesitated to criticize British policy in Palestine even in the midst of war.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

The Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, under the joint chairmanship of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Louis Lipsky and Robert Szold, which includes representatives of the leading Zionist parties, has been meeting at regular intervals to deal with matters of current importance as they arise.

The policy of the committee is reflected in the resolutions adopted by the United Palestine Conference held in Washington, D.C. last month with reference to:

- 1) Criticism of and opposition to the White Paper policy,
- 2) The formation in the Near East of a Jewish Army to fight as an ally in the struggle against Hitlerism.

Censorship has imposed considerable difficulties in the way of adequate communications between headquarters of the movement in London and Jerusalem and the committee in New York, but contact has been maintained through the visit first of Mr. David Ben-Gurion, Chairman of the Executive, who was in New York during the months of November, December and January and now Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal advisor to the Agency in Jerusalem, who arrived by air from Palestine in the middle of January.

A department of Public Relations and Political Action has been established by the committee under the direction of Emanuel Neumann. The function of the department is on the one hand to organize Zionist sentiment and to issue an internal bulletin with a view to clarifying the Zionist opinion in this country, and to creating a united front for action when required; and on the other, to establish a representative group of non-Jews who will be ready to support us in our efforts to obtain recognition of Jewish rights and needs in regard to Palestine. The first issue of the internal bulletin which is to be distributed to the principal Zionist groups and centers has now been undertaken; in addition, a pro-Palestine committee is being organized with the support of a considerable number of United States Senators and Congressmen sympathetic to the work of Jewish settlement and regeneration in Palestine.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

In concluding this report, reference should be made to the \$12,000,000 drive which has been launched by the United Palestine Appeal in this country. For the past two years the United Palestine Appeal has combined with the Joint Distribution Committee which is concerned with overseas needs other than those of Palestine, and with the National Refugee Service which is devoted to the needs of refugees within the United States, in a united campaign for funds.

In coming to an arrangement with these other fund raising bodies in 1940 the UPA had, in the interests of a unified campaign, accepted a ratio which represented a substantial sacrifice on its part. Following prolonged negotiations this year, an acceptable arrangement which would meet the competing claims of these three bodies was not found possible, and the United Palestine Appeal has now undertaken its own drive for funds.

The needs of Palestinian Jewry for support in the great work in which the Jewish people is engaged in its homeland have never been more urgent, and Zionist sentiment in this country is likely to receive a considerable stimulus from the vigorous independent campaign which has now been initiated under the leadership of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver.

It is imperative that the whole program of work in Palestine be seen in its proper perspective to the rest of the Jewish world. Relief for the suffering thousands on European soil who have been overtaken by persecution and disaster is essential, but constructive statesmanship demands that what is wholesome and vigorous and creative in Jewish life - and the work in Palestine stands for all these things - should be preserved for the Jewish people. Unceasingly, day by day, and in spite of the serious economic dislocation and distress caused by the war, the work of upbuilding is going on.

It is our paramount duty to preserve, to develop and to strengthen the Jewish National Home, and in that one task we dare not and we shall not fail.

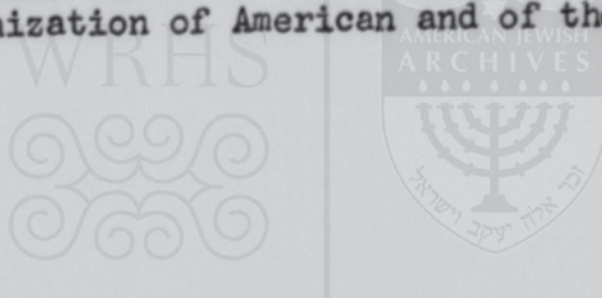
With warm Zionist greetings, I am

Yours sincerely,

Nahum Goldman
Dr. Nahum Goldmann

al:re

P.S. For your information we annex copies of the resolutions adopted at meetings this month of the Administrative Council of the ZOA Zionist Organization of American and of the United Palestine Appeal.



MURRAY HILL 2-1160

Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs

41 EAST 42nd STREET
ROOM 1121
NEW YORK CITY

February 24, 1941.

To the Members of the
Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs:

I enclose for your ^{confidential} information copy of a circular
letter which has been sent on behalf of the Emergency Committee
to Zionist Organizations and groups in Central and South America,
South Africa and Canada.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Lourie

Arthur Lourie.

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enc.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES

Meeting of the Office Committee
Emergency Committee for
Zionist Affairs.

February 27, 1941

PRESENT: Mr. Lipsky (in the chair), Mesdames Pool and Schoolman;
Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. B. Joseph, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Emanuel Neumann.

MEMORANDUM TO LORD HALIFAX

Dr. Wise reported the receipt of a telegram from Lord Halifax fixing the date for reception of the deputation as Wednesday, March 5 at noon. There was a brief discussion on the question of the size of the deputation and the opinion was expressed that fifteen people were too many for an effective interview. It was, however, pointed out that it was unlikely that every member of the deputation would be able to attend so that it would be automatically smaller than had been planned.

It was decided to wire to all members of the deputation informing them of the appointment with Lord Halifax and inviting them to attend.

The draft of the statement to Lord Halifax as prepared by Dr. Joseph was considered by the Committee. The following comments and suggestions were made:

Mrs. Pool suggested that the statement was too lengthy and should confine itself to a positive statement of what Jews expect as their right in Palestine, eliminating all recriminations. It should also include the point that Congress has endorsed Jewish aspirations in Palestine.

Mr. Szold summarized the purpose of the deputation as follows:

1. To impress Lord Halifax with the deep concern of large numbers of Jews in this country with the future of the National Home.
2. The profound interest of Jewry in the success of British arms.
3. Opposition to the White Paper policy in Palestine.

The memorandum should, in his opinion, cover only these points and the deputation might reserve the right to submit supplemental memoranda.

Mr. Neumann expressed the opinion that in view of the fact that the war had aggravated the situation in Palestine, the main purpose of the interview with Lord Halifax was to tell him exactly how Zionists felt; namely, that on the one hand they were eager to help Great Britain in the war effort and on the other hand they must make a vigorous protest against the tactics of the current administration in Palestine.

Dr. Goldstein said that the memorandum as drafted did not convey the impression of the profound interest of American Jewry in British war efforts. He said that he was in favor of pointing out British injustices in Palestine, but felt that the draft was not sufficiently balanced and did not place enough emphasis in our desire to help Great Britain in its struggle.

It was also suggested that the statement should make clear that both American parties were united in endorsing Zionist aspirations, and that the section on Jewish war efforts in Palestine include mention of the fact that 136,000 men and women had volunteered for national service.

Mrs. Pool took exception to the section on the Jewish Military Force and objected specifically to the sentence that such a force "should enjoy similar status and privileges as the Czechs, the Poles, and other allies of Great Britain". In her opinion the position of the Jews in Palestine was not analogous to that of the Czechs who had been invaded and whose government was in exile. Moreover she thought that the Jewish Military Force should be recruited from Palestine.

There was an animated discussion on this point which revolved around the fundamental question of whether a Jewish Army should be enlisted throughout the Diaspora or chiefly in Palestine.

Dr. Joseph said that the Actions Committee had already decided this question and was negotiating with Government in Great Britain for the formation of a Jewish Military Force to be recruited wherever it was possible in accordance with the laws of the land, for Jews to enlist. It was emphasized that nothing would be done without the consent or acquiescence of the governments concerned.

Mrs. Schoolman said that this was the first official announcement of this decision of the Actions Committee Hadassah had had. However, granted that such action had been taken, she considered that whatever was done in this connection in America must be decided by American Zionists.

Mr. Lipsky said that the decision of the Actions Committee was binding but when it came to the question of what part American Zionists should take, they would have to consider the matter in relation to the local situation.

The important thing was that the general principle of a Jewish Military Force had been laid down; just what action should be taken in America could be considered later. To this Dr. Joseph added that of course American Zionists would have a voice in such questions but in the last resort decision rested with the World Executive.

The suggested wording of the sentence concerned with the status of the Jewish Military Force was "Such a force should have similar status to that accorded to other forces of allies of Great Britain."

It was agreed that all the recommendations and suggestions be considered and that the memorandum be referred back for final drafting to Dr. Joseph and the praesidium, and sent out to all the members of the deputation.

In answer to Mr. Szold's question on how the Jewish Force would be officered, Dr. Joseph replied that according to a cable received from London the conclusion of the negotiations with the British Government was to be expected very shortly. It was not clear whether in the result there would be a completely separate Jewish force or one which would be part of a division of the British Army. In all probability however it would be officered by Jews, and the raising of the force would be entrusted to the Jewish Agency. Apparently there would be no express mention of Palestine as the area of combat for the Jewish Military Force though this had been requested. It would evidently be recruited for service wherever required but the understanding was that it would serve in the Middle East.

DR. JOSEPH'S REPORT ON THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Dr. Joseph reported on discussions that had taken place with a view to removing certain differences within the committee. As members of the Committee would know, there had been a certain amount of discontent with regard to matters in the Emergency Committee expressed both in ZOA and Hadassah circles. He had been trying very hard, together with other members of the Committee, to see if it would not be possible to reach an arrangement which, while possibly not an ideal one from the point of view of all concerned, could at any rate provide a working basis for future activity and put an end to internal dissensions, thereby making possible the cooperation of all Zionist bodies and the smooth functioning of the Committee.

Dr. Joseph said that he was happy to be able to report that a proposal had been put forward which, if adopted and approved by the Executive, and it was to be assumed that the Executive would approve, would serve as a basis for effective cooperation. The proposal was as follows:

1. That there be added to the Emergency Committee an additional representative of Hadassah, giving them 5 instead of 4 members. The ZOA, the Poale Zion and the Mizrachi should have four representatives each on the Committee, of whom Mr. Kaufmann, already a member of the Committee, should be regarded as one.

2. Praesidium: It was proposed that Dr. Solomon Goldman be added to the Praesidium, which, as had previously been agreed, should be merely a presiding and not an executive group.

3. Public Relations Committee: In order to facilitate the work of the Public Relations Department there should be a Public Relations Committee; it was clearly understood that this was not to be a political committee, that work being the province of the Office Committee. The Public Relations Committee would be a committee within the circumscribed meaning of the term. It would not have the power to make political decisions or undertake political action. It would not, for example, be entitled to interview Mr. Sumner Welles or Government officers. It would be subordinate to the Office Committee whose decisions would be binding on the Public Relations Committee.

The Public Relations Committee would consist of one representative from each of the parties and should have three co-chairmen: Dr. Solomon Goldman, Mrs. Pool and Dr. Wise.

Mrs. Pool said that the decision had been not to have three co-chairmen, but a chairman, Dr. Solomon Goldman and two co-chairmen. Dr. Joseph pointed out that if A was a co-chairman of B, then B was necessarily a co-chairman of A, and they were therefore both co-chairmen.

Mrs. Schoolman said that Dr. Joseph had omitted to report on the decision on rotating chairmen for the Office Committee, to which he replied that it had not been decided that there should be rotating chairmen. Dr. Joseph then went on to say that on the contrary, he had clearly told Mrs. Pool that there was no purpose in biting off more than one could chew - that the changes proposed were the maximum we could hope to have accepted, and there was no point in pressing for changes which would not be agreed to.

Mrs. Schoolman added that she understood it had been decided that Mrs. Jacobs be added to the Committee, to which Dr. Joseph replied that the addition of Mrs. Jacobs would be on the direct nomination of the Executive and need not be dealt with in connection with the proposals.

Mr. Wertheim objected to the acceptance of the report if it meant that the ZOA was to have three additional members on the Committee as against the two additional for each other party.

Dr. Joseph pointed out that according to the decision reached at the morning meeting, Hadassah only was to have an extra member - i.e. five in all, while all other parties would continue to have the same number as before.

After much discussion it was agreed that:

1. Hadassah should be entitled to appoint three additional members to the Committee.

2. That Mr. Szold should (on Dr. Joseph's strong plea) ask the ZOA to accept an addition of two and not three further members.

3. That (again after a personal plea by Dr. Joseph to Mr. Wertheim) the Office Committee should remain unchanged, i.e. to include two Hadassah members and one representative each from the other organizations.

Assuming acceptance of 2 and 3 above, it was agreed that the proposals reported by Dr. Joseph be recommended for confirmation by the Emergency Committee and the hope was expressed that henceforth there would be wholehearted and effective cooperation in the work of the Committee by all the Zionist bodies concerned.

AIR-TRAINING COMMITTEE

Dr. Joseph, Mr. Wertheim, Mr. Lipsky were authorized to deal with the details of the organization of the air training committee.

PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL FURNITURE

The matter of purchasing additional office furniture was referred to Mr. Szold and Mr. Lourie.

SHEKEL

Mr. Lourie reported receipt of a letter from Jerusalem regarding the Shekel Campaign for 1941. It was referred to the Zionist bodies concerned.

re

A. Lourie.

MINUTES
of
MEETING OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

March 14, 1941.

A meeting of the full Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Friday, March 14, 1941 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Robert Szold (in the chair), Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Gellman, Mr. Chaim Greenberg, Judge Rothenberg, Mrs. Pool, Mrs. Schoolman, Mr. Segal, Mr. Linsky, Mr. Wertheim;

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mr. Lewin-Epstein, Mr. Emanuel Neumann, Mr. Lourie.

REORGANIZATION

The plan for reorganization of the Emergency Committee was reported as follows, with a recommendation of the Office Committee for its acceptance:

1. On the full committee, the Poale Zion and Mizrachi are to have 4 members each; the ZOA is to nominate 2 additional members to the committee, and Hadassah is to nominate 3 more members.

2. The composition of the Office Committee shall remain unchanged, (i.e. - 2 representatives from Hadassah are to be included.) Dr. Solomon Goldman is to be added to the Praesidium.

3. A Public Relations Committee is to be set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Solomon Goldman. Its membership is to include Dr. Wise, Mrs. Pool, a member of the Poale Zion and a member of the Mizrachi. It is clearly understood that the work of this committee shall be confined to Public Relations within the restricted meaning of that term and that it shall have no right to undertake political action or to make political decisions. It shall, further, be responsible to the Office Committee. It may also, at its discretion, co-opt members.

The plan was accepted by the full committee, subject to the ratification of the executive boards of the four constituent organizations.

DELEGATION TO LORD HALIFAX

Mr. Neumann reported on the call to Lord Halifax. The delegation consisted of Mrs. Pool, Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Wise; Messrs. Bublick, Greenberg, Kaufmann, Lipsky and Neumann.

After the usual courtesies had been exchanged, Dr. Wise had read the memorandum which had been prepared. Lord Halifax had expressed his gratification at the assurances of sympathy and desire for cooperation in the British war effort which appeared in the memorandum. He pointed out with regard to the other parts of the memorandum, that he could hardly be expected to give any immediate answer on behalf of his government. Its contents however, would be cabled to the Foreign Office.

Lord Halifax apparently was surprised at the contents of the memorandum and had expected no more than a courtesy call. He was very reticent and obviously anxious to make no statement which might be considered a commitment of any kind. He made some general remarks to the effect that the White Paper policy in Palestine had been dictated by the necessities of the situation and to maintain a "balanced

situation" in the Middle East. He was courteous and friendly, but it was apparent that any favorable action on his part in the Zionist interest was unlikely.

In the course of the interview the Ambassador had referred to the "strong language" of the memorandum. Mr. Neumann had given some details of the shocking treatment meted out at Atlit to the refugees of the Atlantique, and had stated that in the interests of the British war effort these facts had been kept from the general public, but American Zionist leadership considered it their obligation and responsibility to their constituency to bring them before the British Ambassador.

It was further stressed that the policy of the civil administration in Palestine and the Colonial Office in London seemed to be deliberately to sabotage Jewish efforts in Palestine to be of help in the war.

Lord Halifax had suggested that a supplementary memorandum be sent to him containing details of some of the matters complained of.

Mrs. Pool had told the Ambassador of evidences of improved relations between Arabs and Jews and gave instances of cooperation in Hadassah health centers and medical institutions.

Dr. Goldstein further had made the point that before the war, the White Paper Policy had been defended on the basis of its necessity in view of the strong Axis influence among the Arabs, but since this factor had been shown to be grossly exaggerated, the continued enforcement of the White Paper policy on the basis thereof seemed unjustifiable. Lord Halifax remarked that he wished Dr. Goldstein's assumption that there was no longer any strong Axis influence among the Arabs was true. He disagreed with the position that the White Paper policy was a pre-war measure. It was a definite policy based on the best compromise taking into account "conflicting rights".

Lord Halifax showed no inclination whatsoever to recommend any change in the White Paper policy but merely offered to transmit the representations to London. He said that the White Paper policy was not a hasty measure, but one adopted by His Majesty's Government after careful consideration of all the facts.

Mr. Neumann then asked for the opinion of the Committee in regard to the release of a communique to the press reporting the visit. Mr. Breslau had communicated with Mr. Malcolm, Secretary of the Embassy, who had objected to the release of a statement to the press, though he had not seen the one prepared by Mr. Neumann in collaboration with several members of the committee. The communique only mentioned the fact of the visit and did not quote the memorandum or any conversation. The question of the wisdom of releasing a statement despite the objections of Mr. Malcolm of the Embassy was discussed at length.

Mr. Lipsky expressed the point of view that a statement on the fact of the visit was not within the jurisdiction of the Embassy, but entirely a matter for the Emergency Committee to decide. He considered that such a delegation was not a confidential, but a public action, and that not only was the Embassy ungracious in objecting to the publication of this fact, but that it would make for bad rather than good relations to keep such a fact secret.

The Committee agreed in principle with Mr. Lipsky's point of view, but since the Embassy had already indicated its disapproval of publicizing the fact of the visit of the delegation, it was generally conceded that it would be politic to do nothing to jeopardize the possibility of further visits to the Embassy.

Mrs. Pool's motion that no action on this communique be taken without arrangement with Mr. Malcolm of the Embassy, was carried. Mr. Lipsky voted against the motion.

It was agreed that the supplementary memorandum which Lord Halifax had asked for be drafted by the office and submitted to the praesidium. Each member of the Office Committee is to be sent a copy of the draft for comment.

It was further agreed that the memorandum submitted to Lord Halifax also be submitted to Mr. Sumner Welles of the State Department.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr. Neumann reported that 71 senators and 19 governors had signed as members of the American Palestine Committee; Mr. Willkie had also signed, as had ten University presidents and various members of the clergy. Senator Wagner had agreed to act as chairman, and Congressman McNary as co-chairman of the committee; Former Senator King of Utah, William Green of the American Federation of Labor, and Monsignor Ryan of the Catholic Church had agreed to accept vice-chairmanships on the committee.

Vice-President, Wallace, who had indicated a readiness to be the Honorary Chairman of the Committee, had since changed his mind, apparently as a result of pressure from some source.

Mr. Lipsky warned that it would be a serious error to attempt to sign up the whole of Congress as members on this committee, which might seem to give it an official character; that it was one thing to get signatures of endorsement such as had been secured in 1922 and quite another to invite people to membership of a permanent committee.

Mr. Neumann stated that on the advice of Justice Brandeis he had withheld publicity on this committee until two-thirds of the Senators had signed up. He was now prepared to release such a statement and asked for authorization.

It was generally agreed to accept Judge Rothenberg's suggestion that if, upon investigation, it was learned that the pressure had been brought to bear upon Vice-President Wallace originated in the State Department, no publicity be released without a full discussion by the Office Committee.

BUDGET

The chairman reported that Mr. Neumann had presented a budgetary outline which would be considered by the Office Committee. He pointed out for the record that the Treasurer merely signs checks and does not either authorize or control expenditures.

al:re
3/18/41

Arthur Lourie.

MINUTES
of
OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 14, 1941

A regular meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Friday, March 14, 1941 at 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Robert Szold (in the chair); Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Gellman, Mrs. Pool, Mrs. Schoolman, Mr. Wertheim;

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann.

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Szold reported that according to the plan for reorganizing the Emergency Committee, the praesidium now consisted of four persons of equal authority and equal rights. These four are to decide among themselves which one of them is to preside at meetings.

Dr. Goldmann presented the proposals for reorganizing the committee as follows:

1. On the full committee, the Poale Zion and Mizrachi are to have 4 members each; the ZOA is to nominate 2 additional members to the committee, and Hadassah is to nominate 3 more members.

2. The composition of the Office Committee shall remain unchanged, (i.e. - 2 representatives from Hadassah are to be included). Dr. Solomon Goldman is to be added to the Praesidium.

3. A Public Relations Committee is to be set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Solomon Goldman. Its membership is to include Dr. Wise, Mrs. Pool, a member of the Poale Zion and a member of the Mizrachi. It is clearly understood that the work of this committee shall be confined to Public Relations within the meaning of that term and that it shall have no right to undertake political action or to make political decisions. It shall, further, be responsible to the Office Committee. It may also, at its discretion, co-opt members.

These proposals were accepted by the Office Committee to be recommended for acceptance to the full Emergency Committee:

DR. WEIZMANN'S VISIT

Mr. Lourie reported that the London office had cabled Weizmann would leave Lisbon for New York on March 18 or 19.

1. Reception at Airport : - It was agreed that members of the Emergency Committee be informed in advance of the time of Dr. Weizmann's arrival and that those who could should greet him at the airport. Dr. Wise should be asked to communicate with Mayor LaGuardia with a view to the latter also meeting Dr. Weizmann on arrival.

2. It was reported that Dr. Weizmann agreed to address a session of the B'nai Brith Convention on March 30 in Chicago. It was considered important that some arrangement be made whereby Dr. Weizmann's first public appearance in America would be before a Zionist gathering.

After some discussion it was voted unanimously that the Emergency Committee should be the body to plan Dr. Weizmann's activities in this country, but that financial aspects of Dr. Weizmann's stay be settled by a committee consisting of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Mr. Lipsky, Dr. Goldstein and Mr. Szold. It was further agreed that Dr. Weizmann's first public meeting be under the auspices of the UPA, who shall be invited to arrange the program in consultation with the Emergency Committee on a date prior to March 30.

3. Publicity Release: It was agreed that a brief announcement of Dr. Weizmann's visit should be released to the press.

AVIATION TRAINING GROUP

There was a brief discussion on the aviation training group.

INVITATION TO OTHER BODIES

It was agreed to recommend to the full committee that the Hashomer Hatzair and the State Party be invited to send an observer to attend meetings of the full Emergency Committee.

BUDGET

It was agreed to postpone discussion of the budget until the next Office Committee meeting.

al:re
3/18/41

Arthur Lourie

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS
January 1, 1941

Cash in Bank	\$ 2,878.36	
Accounts Receivable	2,548.00	
Petty Cash	25.00	
Expenses 1/1/40 - 12/31/40	54,548.64	\$ 60,000.00
Income - through U. P. A.		
	<u>\$ 60,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 60,000.00</u>

Expenses - Jan. 1, 1940 to Dec. 31, 1940

Administrative Expenses:		
Rent & Equipment	\$ 607.80	
Salaries - Sec.-Steno.	2,307.42	
Clerical Assistance	964.33	
Cables, tel., postage, etc.	1,674.18	
Travelling Expenses	2,385.69	
Dr. N. Goldmann's Expenses	620.74*	
Printing & Supplies	<u>626.08</u>	\$ 9,186.24
Regular Departments:		
Washington Bureau, etc.	\$ 11,887.53	
Economic Department	1,589.71	
Visas for Zionist Refugees	<u>7,766.33</u>	21,243.57
Other Items:		
Palcor	\$ 250.00	
President's Advisory Com.	7,500.00	
Relief Fund for Palestinians	100.00	
Aid to Zionists in Prison Camps	225.00	
Kladowa Refugees	<u>4,276.25</u>	12,351.25
Non-Recurrent:		
Zionist Work among Refugees	\$ 3,500.00	
Revisionist Pamphlet	410.00	
Weizmann Expenses	6,810.04	
Protest Meeting - Carnegie Hall		
Land Restrictions	<u>1,047.54</u>	<u>11,767.58</u>
		<u>\$ 54,548.64</u>

* Expenses incurred August 1st to Nov. 1st, to be allocated when the accounts are received from the K. H. - these expenses cover salaries, postage, etc.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS
 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
 January 1, 1941

Herman F. Finn	\$ 85.00
Benno Frank	350.00
Hechalutz	840.00
Mrs. Pevsner	100.00
American Jewish Congress	7.53
Keren Hayesod	14.37
Executive	1,137.54
Y. Sacharov	4.92
U. P. A.	4.74
U. S. Shekel Board	3.52
E. Neumann	-.38

\$ 2,548.00



STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
Not for circulation

REPORT BY MR. LOCKER OF CONVERSATION
with

MR. GEORGE HALL, M.P., UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

AT DINNER - MARCH 18, 1941

(Mr. Middleton, Secretary British Labour Party also present).

Mr. Locker reported that they had met at 5:30, and parted at 7:45 p.m. There had been a fair amount of general conversation before they came to the subject of Palestine.

Mr. Locker referred to the policy of the Colonial Office and the Administration towards the Jews since the outbreak of war. They had all expected that after the outbreak of the war the status quo would be maintained. The Jewish Agency had not asked for a reversal of the White Paper policy; they had no intention of asking even for the cancellation of the immigration clauses. But they had expected that the Government would not implement those parts of the White Paper which had not yet come into force. He believed that even the Arabs had had no such expectations. In March, however, had come the Land Restrictions, which the Labour Party had strenuously opposed, and which even he, Mr. Hall, had voted against. When the new Government had come into power, with Mr. Churchill at its head, and a number of Labour leaders among its members who had opposed the whole White Paper policy, they had certainly not expected to see anything new attempted on the lines of that policy. Unfortunately, however, though appeasement had been abandoned in this country, it was still the policy in Palestine. He pointed to the attitude of the Arabs, and asked Mr. Hall to consider what Egypt and Iraq had done for Great Britain in the present emergency. The Jews were still being "sold" for alleged Arab interests. The immigration regulations were being rigidly enforced. Before the war, the White Paper had made available 75,000 certificates for a period of five years. With the fresh disasters which had swept over the Jews in Europe, it might have been expected that the Government might have said that they could not keep to a rigid timetable, and would be prepared to admit these 75,000 Jews within a shorter period so as to alleviate the terrible distress among them. He had asked Mr. Hall why the Government had suddenly changed over from its previous policy of allowing illegals to remain debiting them against the 75,000 permitted immigrants? He had asked why it was necessary for some hundreds of unhappy refugees to die, and for a Cabinet decision to be obtained, before the illegals on the Patria were allowed to remain? He had then mentioned what had happened at Athlit, and said that both Mr. Middleton and Mr. Hall would be aware of the details. It was a stain on the honour of Great Britain. He knew that the official reply would be that the High Commissioner had investigated the matter and that the allegations were untrue or exaggerated. But they had no confidence in the High Commissioner nor in any local enquiry. They wanted a neutral enquiry by a person in whom both the Jewish Agency and the Government had confidence. He had then mentioned Sir Wyndham Deedes should be sent out to Mauritius so that he might talk to the victims. It would also be necessary to take the evidence of the doctors on the SS. Atlantic. It would be difficult to obtain evidence in Palestine, because many of those who knew the details might be afraid to speak for fear of the consequences. He had mentioned that new ships might come to Palestine. What would the Colonial Office do? Would they treat them in the same way again?

Mr. Locker had then turned to the Land Legislation, which he said was against the law. It was discriminatory legislation, and as such should have been repugnant to the British sense of justice. But the High Commissioner was a law unto himself. There were no regulations that Jews could not buy Government lands; but in fact Jews who had been cultivating Government land had been driven off, and the lands given to Arabs, thus creating incidents. He had also referred to the High Commissioner's notice accompanying the statement that there would be no schedule for the current period. That notice had stated that unused certificates from the last schedule might be reissued to persons whose arrival would be "of clear advantage to the country". Such a condition was absolutely unwarranted either by the law itself or by any of the existing interpretations of it. Indeed, Mr. MacDonald's letter of February 13th, 1931 to Dr. Weizmann stated precisely the contrary - namely that while Jewish immigration must not injure the economic position of the general population, there was no obligation to show that it would benefit them. Here too the High Commissioner was making laws for himself.

Efforts were being made to create an atmosphere in which it might be said that Arab-Jewish relations had improved sufficiently to justify the introduction of part III of the White Paper. He had warned Mr. Hall that if they wanted to spoil those relations they could do so by endeavouring to implement part III. There was a limit to Jewish patience.

Behind the whole policy there stood people in whom the Government still had, apparently, full confidence - e.g. the High Commissioner, Sir Miles Lampson, Mr. Smart, etc. They represented the policy of appeasement which had been thrown overboard in this country. As regards the war effort, the Jews had been allowed to supply only as many men as the Arabs were prepared to give. In practice, it had not turned out quite as bad as that, for they had managed to get in more than three times as many. But this fact was rarely mentioned. The Administration was intriguing against the Jewish Agency, and playing off the Revisionists against them. For instance, although the Jewish Agency had supplied 95% of the recruits, and the Revisionists only 5%, any public recognition was always accorded equally to both organisations.

Mr. Locker had gone on to say that the High Commissioner did not really represent Britain. He was a good official, but a small man. He had come to the country prejudiced against them and was doing what he could to destroy them. The High Commissioner had sympathisers in the office where Mr. Hall worked.

Mr. Hall replied that he had listened with great attention. He felt that they did not appreciate the Government's difficulties. The Jewish Army was only postponed. He agreed that equipment was not the only reason; there were also political reasons. The Arabs were not reliable, but they were a power. Britain desired to win the war, and did not wish to give the Arabs any excuse for doing anything against her. It was true that this was appeasement. But the Jews were as interested as Britain that the war should be won. "Terrible as it is for you, you must take it in good part." The picture which Mr. Locker had given of the immigration situation was to a great extent true, though exaggerated. They had provided for 75,000 people to come in in five years, but the Jews had started to come in in great numbers. The Government had received secret reports that this fact might start unrest among the Arabs. After all, they had not treated the refugees badly; they had sent them to a British colony.

(Mr. Locker had previously mentioned that part of the pronouncement made in Palestine which said that the refugees would not be allowed to come to Palestine even after the war. Mr. Hall said he had had to write the letter to Mr. Locker although they, at the Colonial Office, felt that that pronouncement could not stand.)

As regards Athlit, Mr. Hall said that the High Commissioner absolutely denied that the acts mentioned in Mr. Shertok's letter took place. A number of the illegals had resisted, and a certain amount of force had had to be used. Mr. Hall commented that the High Commissioner was an honourable man. Mr. Hall did not believe that the third part of the White Paper would be dealt with for the present. But if it did come it would be because they had to appease the Arabs. The Jews, said Mr. Hall, would have to take it in good part.

Mr. Locker replied that Mr. Hall had given him the expected official answer, but here they were talking unofficially. He did not admit that the Arabs would be likely to cause trouble. Relations with them were better than before the war. He did not believe that the Arabs would have made a row over the admission of Jews within the framework of the White Paper.

Mr. Hall then asked whether, if they were to receive the balance of the 75,000 certificates now, they would agree to that figure as a limit? Mr. Locker replied emphatically in the negative; they would not be prepared to sell Jewish rights for 75,000 certificates.

Mr. Hall then asked whether they had put forward a request for an impartial enquiry into the Athlit case. Mr. Hall would be in favour of such an enquiry; they had indeed been thinking of sending someone from South Africa. Mr. Locker replied that they should send someone from this country, in whom both the Agency and the Government would have confidence.

Mr. Hall then mentioned that although he could give no details, it had been decided to do something for the Jews in the Balkans.

At the end of the discussion Mr. Hall said that the Government was trying to keep the balance between Arabs and Jews, and that the Arabs also complained against the High Commissioner. Mr. Locker replied that he doubted whether the Arabs were serious in their complaints, and that the Government was certainly not holding the balance even. To do that, they would have to have maintained the status quo, instead of which they were implementing the White Paper, which meant that they were in fact acting against the Jews.

Mr. Hall then asked Mr. Locker to make some suggestions as to what should be done, and he had put forward the following:

- (I) The Government should not implement the White Paper any further, especially the third part;
- (II) They should mitigate the effect of those parts already put into force, especially the immigration clauses, and should stop hunting down the illegals;
- (III) They should organise a Jewish Force; they should encourage the Jews; help economically, and try to convince the Jews that at the end of the war they would try to solve the Palestine problem by giving a wider freedom to the Arabs, with safeguards for the British Empire on the one hand, and, on the other hand, living-space in Palestine for the Jewish people. If there were to be an Arab Federation, then the Jews should have their State.

MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

March 20, 1941

A regular meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Thursday, March 20, 1941 at 4:30 p.m.

There were present: Mr. Lipsky (in the chair), Mr. Bublick, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Schoolman, Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann. By invitation - Dr. Rosenbluth.

MEMORANDUM TO LORD HALIFAX

A first draft of the supplementary memorandum to be submitted to Lord Halifax was distributed to members of the committee and their observations were requested by the following day.

It was agreed that a copy of the memorandum submitted to Lord Halifax should be sent to Mr. Welles with a covering letter, expressing the hope that the State Department would continue its long established tradition of support for the Jewish National Home.

Mr. Neumann reported that a communique was released to the press after having been revised by the staff of the British Embassy.

IMMIGRATION FROM SOVIET RUSSIA

Mr. Lourie reported that there had been 1,600 Chalutzim and others in Lithuania who had been in possession of certificates for Palestine. The cost of their transportation via Shanghai had been estimated at \$175,000 which was to have been met by the UPA, Hadassah and the Executive in Jerusalem. An attempt had been made to come to an arrangement with the JDC, but without success. Most of the people concerned had now left for Palestine. It was now expected that the transportation costs would amount to about \$88,000. Of this sum, \$31,000 had been paid by Hadassah, \$24,000 by the Executive, and \$33,000 by the UPA.. An amount of \$3,000 was also contributed by the Agudah.

Dr. Martin Rosenbluth, who was present at the invitation of the Committee, reported that he had been cooperating in connection with the transportation from Russia of immigrants for Palestine. He asked for guidance in regard to appeals for funds to enable would-be immigrants to Palestine who had no certificates. They include many prominent Zionists and also a number of Chalutzim who would have received certificates in due course. They were anxious to leave Russia for Japan while there was still a possibility to do so. Once in Japan they hoped in the course of time to get Palestine certificates. It was pointed out that the UPA had undertaken to finance only the transportation of certificate holders and that no further funds could be properly made available without an authorization from Jerusalem.

It was agreed that the matter should be pursued with the JDC. Further, that the Executive in Jerusalem should be informed of the results of any action of the JDC and if necessary be requested to contribute to the expenditures involved.

In response to a suggestion that the UPA again be approached for funds, Dr. Goldstein emphasized that insofar as UPA funds involve Keren Kayemeth funds as well, it would be incorrect to approach them, since the Keren Kayemeth charter would automatically prohibit the allocation of any funds for purposes other than land purchase or colonization.

HECHALUTZ

Mr. Lourie reported that a letter had been referred to the Committee addressed by the Hechalutz organization to the UPA, asking that the Hechalutz be included in the UPA fund-allocation, and pointing out that neither the Executive in Jerusalem nor the UPA here have made any provision for Hechalutz in their budgets.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that inasmuch as this was a question which involved all American Zionist organizations, the ZOA should be asked to take the initiative and call together a committee of all the Zionist Organizations to discuss the whole problem of financial responsibility for Hechalutz. If the ZOA is not prepared to take such action the matter is to be referred back to the Emergency Committee for further consideration.

MEETING WITH DR. WEIZMANN

Mr. Montor reported that he had arranged a public meeting for Dr. Weizmann on the evening of Wednesday, March 24, at the Hotel Astor. In view of the fact that Mr. Kaufmann had planned to speak at a Zionist District meeting that night, it was agreed that Mr. Kaufmann be consulted before making the arrangements final.

CHIEF RABBI HERZOG

Mr. Lourie reported that Chief Rabbi Herzog had offered his cooperation with American Zionist activities. The proposal that Dr. Pool invite Rabbi Herzog to meet with various leaders of the non-Jewish clergy at his home was warmly accepted. It was further agreed that a special meeting of the Emergency Committee was to be called to meet with Chief Rabbi Herzog.

MR. NEUMANN'S REPORT

Mrs. Schoolman pointed out that in her opinion Dr. Joseph's visit to Mr. Morgenthau unaccompanied by any representative of American Zionism was a mistake.

It was agreed that in the future no official visits shall be made in connection with American Zionist activities without the presence of an American Zionist.

Mr. Neumann reported that he was prepared to release a statement on the formation of the American Palestine Committee. The release is to be circulated to members of the Office Committee, as a separate document.

He further reported the addition of a number of University Presidents to the Committee, and that he had begun to enlist the endorsement of mayors and state officials.

In connection with Dr. Weizmann's visit, Mr. Neumann was planning a radio broadcast, press conferences, and a meeting with the Dinner Club in Washington.

ZOA MEETING

Dr. Wise reported that the following motion had been adopted by the Executive Committee of the ZOA:

A committee was to be named which should, in conjunction with the other Zionist bodies, work out a plan for a National Territorial Union of all Zionist Organizations in America.

It was agreed that the ZOA be informed that Dr. Wise had reported the adopted of this motion to the Emergency Committee which recorded its deep satisfaction and offers its cooperation in the formation of the National Territorial Union.

Note: In error, Mr. Lipsky's name was omitted from the list of those present at the meeting of the Emergency Committee held on March 14, 1941.



Arthur Lourie.

re
3/28/41

*Strictly
Confidential*

C O P Y

March 24, 1941

His Excellency
The British Ambassador
British Embassy
Washington, D. C.

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the delegation which had the honor of meeting with you on March 12, 1941, I wish to express our sincere appreciation of the friendly reception accorded us and of the frank way in which you discussed the questions which we raised.

2. In the course of the interview Your Excellency requested additional information on certain matters contained in Paragraph Six of the Statement which we submitted at the time; and we enclose accordingly for your consideration the supplementary memorandum which we undertook to provide. In so doing we desire again to emphasize that we have been careful to prevent the publication of certain of the facts there set out; and insofar as some of them may have become matters of public knowledge, we have sought to keep in check such reactions on the part of our constituents as might, in this critical hour, have been a source of embarrassment to Britain's cause, which as you know we regard also as the cause of us all.

3. We are confident that once brought to the attention of those in highest authority in Britain, actions of the kind referred to, committed under a British flag, and by representatives of a British administration, will not be permitted to continue unchecked.

4. We would take this opportunity to reciprocate the hope to which Your Excellency kindly gave expression, that despite any difference of viewpoint which may exist between us in regard to policy in Palestine, we shall continue to maintain relations of mutual confidence and cordiality. We trust that we may have other opportunities to confer with you with a view to discussing not only such matters of immediate concern as we have now raised, but questions of a wider character bearing on the future of the Jewish National Home.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Stephen S. Wise

CONFIDENTIAL

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE TO STATEMENT

SUBMITTED TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, MARCH 12, 1941

DEPORTATIONS

1. Early in November, 1940 a small vessel, the S. S. "Atlantique" with 1800 refugees on board - men, women and children who had fled from Nazi persecution in Central and Eastern Europe - reached Palestine. They had been traveling for months under appalling conditions of overcrowding, inadequate sanitation and semi-starvation. Arrived at last in Haifa, they were brought ashore by the police authorities and detained as illegal immigrants in a camp at Atlit.

2. Prior to this time it had been the practice of the Palestine Administration to allow refugees arriving in Palestine without immigration permits to remain in the country, and to deduct, in pursuance of the specific provision of the White Paper of May 1939 an equivalent number of certificates from the regular immigration quotas, though in some cases the refugees concerned were detained in internment camps for a greater or lesser period before release.

The decision of the government which was now announced, to deport to Mauritius the refugees from the "Atlantique" as also those which arrived at about this time on two other small ships, the "Milos" and the "Pacific", represented a radical change in the administrative practice. This change was made at a time when the sufferings of the Jewish populations of Central and Eastern Europe under the Nazi tyranny made especially poignant the fate to which these refugees were now condemned. It was the more surprising in view of the fact that as a result of the war, use could be made of only a small part of the immigration certificates actually issued by the government, thus leaving a substantial balance on the basis of which the arrival of these refugees might have been legalized. Indeed the refusal to grant any immigration schedule at all for the period of October 1940 to April 1941 was grounded on the existence of this surplus of unused certificates.

3. The passengers on the "Milos" and the "Pacific" were transferred to the ill-fated "Patria" and after the sinking of that ship with a loss of 190 lives, the survivors were, by an act of mercy on the part of the authorities in London, permitted to remain in Palestine. But an appeal to the High Commissioner to allow the passengers of the "Atlantique", who had already undergone such grievous hardships, likewise to remain, was rejected.

4. Late at night hundreds of British police were sent to the Atlit camp, which had been surrounded by military units armed with bayonets and machine guns. At 4 a. m. the police went to the various huts and warned the people that they were to dress as they were to be moved. The refugees realized that they were about to be deported from Palestine, and began to cry and to shout, and refused to dress. The order was given to the police to take all measures necessary to remove the people and at about 7 in the morning the police entered the huts and started beating the occupants mercilessly with their truncheons to force them to leave. Some of the refugees were eventually carried out on stretchers, unconscious; others were pushed out naked or bare-foot; some were bleeding from newly inflicted wounds. They were finally crowded into lorries which were covered over with canvas and removed by a circuitous route to two ships which were awaiting them in Haifa. The women and children who had been placed in another part of the camp had been crying

and screaming while the men were being taken away. After the removal of the men they too were taken off to Haifa, though by this time without resistance on their part. The deportation to Mauritius was duly completed.

5. Two further instances of the attitude of the Administration in barring or deporting Jews from Palestine are as follows:

a) Five Roumanian Jews who had entered Palestine without permits had volunteered and been accepted into the first company of Pioneers that had been formed by the Army. The men had served in France, and later their unit had been transferred to Egypt. Their wives and families had remained behind in Roumania. When M. Antonescu came into power and it was evident that Roumanian Jews were likely to be subjected to Nazi pogroms and persecution, these men applied to their commanding officer for permission to have their wives and children come to Palestine. They pointed out that they had not made this request earlier but that they felt justified in doing so now that it was clear that Roumania was coming under the domination of the very enemy they were engaged in fighting. The commanding officer considered their request reasonable and referred it to the civil authorities. They were later informed that the High Commissioner was not prepared to grant certificates to their families to come to Palestine.

b) In 1934 a Jew from Syria had crossed the border into Palestine without a permit. In the course of time he had established himself there, married, and had a family of three children. Apart from the fact that his entry into Palestine was unauthorized, the authorities had nothing against him; for some reason, however, his presence came to official notice, and a deportation order was issued. Representations on the man's behalf, on the ground of his residence in Palestine for a period of over six years, and also that his return to Syria would involve removal to a country where the Vichy anti-Jewish laws were now in operation, proved fruitless, and he was sent back to Syria.

THE LAND REGULATIONS

6. The Administration in Palestine is going even further in its application of the land regulations, issued under the White Paper of May 1939, than is required by the restrictive provisions of that policy. We do not refer here to those areas in which the transfer of land to Jews is altogether prohibited, deeply though that discriminatory policy is deplored. But even where the Administration has discretionary power under the White Paper to authorize transfer to Jews, as for example in the case of the sale or lease of government lands, its invariable practice is to exercise its powers unfavorably to the Jewish applicant.

7. One example which has come to our notice is that of a large swampy area in the Beisan district: Prior to the introduction of the White Paper policy, the Jewish settlers from the neighboring village of Maoz, had, at a cost of LP 2,000, carried out drainage work on this land which had been derelict for centuries, and having obtained a lease of the land for a year from the Government, they tilled it and reaped its harvest. Subsequently they had sought to renew the lease for the following year, Government practice being in the ordinary way to let the land to those persons who had cultivated it in the previous year. They were informed that they would not be allowed to renew the lease and that the land was to be let to Arabs; further, that although the renewal of the lease would not have been contrary to the White Paper, the Government was, as a matter of Policy, opposed to any further Jewish settlement

in the areas subject in general to regulation under the White Paper. This, despite the fact that the land in question adjoined other Jewish land and that Jews had already expended considerable efforts and money in ameliorating it and rendering it fit for cultivation.

CENSORSHIP

8. The right of free speech is one of the basic democratic principles for which Britain is fighting. In England the censorship is being administered on the principle that freedom of expression should be permitted even in time of war, except insofar as the publication of any statement may be useful to the enemy or otherwise harmful to the war effort. In Palestine, however, the war censorship is used unjustifiably by the civil authorities to suppress the slightest criticism of any official action, and to prevent any independent expression of opinion on local public affairs which may be distasteful to the administration. As an example of the absurd length to which the Administration is prepared to go in this direction we quote the following:

The Director of Education took the view that kindergartens were unnecessary in the Jewish school system, and he refused to approve a governmental allocation to the budget of that system unless the Kindergartens were closed. A letter to the press criticizing this interference in the Jewish educational system and explaining why, for pedagogical reasons, kindergartens were desirable, was suppressed by the government censor. It can hardly be contended that this had any relevance to the war effort. A similar instance concerned the criticism of a trifling item in the Petach Tikvah municipal budget which had received the approval of the District Commissioner.

9. A further illustration of the spirit animating the government censorship is furnished by an incident connected with the sinking of the steamship "Patria" referred to above. The action of the British police and others who assisted in saving many of the passengers of the Patria from drowning, was commendable in the extreme and evoked many expressions of gratitude and praise. In addition, many English men and women in Haifa showed the greatest kindness and sympathy for the miserable survivors as they were brought ashore, and they helped to provide them with food and clothing. A note in the Palestine Post reporting this sympathetic behavior on the part of the British community was at first suppressed by the censor, though publication was finally allowed.

10. In conclusion it must be added that the Palestine censorship operates unjustifiably to prevent the communication abroad of news of events in Palestine even though such information may be without military significance. The isolation in this way of the Jewish community of Palestine from their fellow Jews abroad constitutes a real hardship and is calculated to lower any possibility of resistance to unjust and discriminatory action. Characteristic was the action of the Administration in holding up cabled dispatches regarding the proposed deportation of the refugees of the "Atlantique" until some days after their actual removal from Palestine. In general it is not too much to say that the censorship is used by the Palestine administration to muzzle any criticism of itself within the country, and so far as it can, to prevent the transmission outside of any information which may provoke reactions against it abroad.

Office of Senator Robert F. Wagner
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE, FRIDAY, MARCH 28th

U.S. CABINET MEMBERS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, GOVERNORS, NOTED EDUCATORS AND CHURCH
AND CIVIC LEADERS JOIN IN ESTABLISHING BODY TO ENCOURAGE RECONSTRUCTION
OF JEWISH HOMELAND IN PALESTINE

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SENATORS WAGNER AND McNARY HEAD AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF HOLY LAND
AS "OUTPOST OF FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE": FAVOR LARGE-SCALE
COLONIZATION IN POST-WAR PERIOD

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Prominent Local Leaders Enrolled As Members of New Group

Willkie, Ickes, Vandenberg, Taft, Jackson, Al Smith, Wickard, Dykstra, Barkley, George,
Rayburn, McCormack, William Allen White, McNutt, Marshall Field, Col. Roosevelt
Among Members of American Palestine Committee

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Senator McNary Named Co-Chairman; William Green, William H. King and Monsignor John A.
Ryan, Vice-Chairmen; Bishop A. K. Moulton, Dr. Daniel A. Poling and Other Church-
men Endorse Zionist Program

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Washington, March 27 -- More than 300 outstanding government officials, legislators, Governors, educators, churchmen and civic leaders have joined in establishing the American Palestine Committee under the chairmanship of U. S. Senator Robert F. Wagner to support the movement for developing Palestine as "an outpost of freedom and social justice" and preparing the Holy Land for large-scale colonization of hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from war-torn European lands during the post-war period, it was announced today at Senator Wagner's office.

The Committee will endeavor to win public support for the program for the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

Senator Charles L. McNary has been named Co-Chairman of the Committee and William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor; former Senator William H. King of Utah and Monsignor John A. Ryan are serving as Vice-Chairmen.

A dinner in Washington, D. C. in April will mark the launching of the American Palestine Committee's program of activities.

Among the members of the newly-organized American Palestine Committee are Attorney General Robert H. Jackson, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of Agriculture Claude A. Wickard, Wendell L. Willkie, Alfred E. Smith, Clarence A. Dykstra, Director of Selective Service and head of the Defense Mediation Board, Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator, John M. Carmody, Federal Works Administrator, and William Allen White of Emporia, Kansas.

Pointing out that by treaty and Congressional enactment the American Government has formally recognized and approved the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine, Senator Wagner declared that this policy has received the public endorsement of Presidents Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover and Roosevelt. In assuming the chairmanship of the American Palestine Committee, Senator Wagner said:

"The Jewish National Home in Palestine has been a world-sanctioned experiment in democracy. It must be protected and cherished today as an outpost of freedom and social justice. Its continued upbuilding must be a vital part of a just world order when the present conflict is over. The American Palestine Committee will aim to give expression to the interest, sympathy and moral support of the American people for this humane and statesmanlike cause."

Included among the members of Congress who have joined the American Palestine Committee are: Senator Alben W. Barkley, Majority Leader of the Senate; Senator Walter F. George, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan; Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio; Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., of Massachusetts; Representative Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House; Representative John W. McCormack, Majority Leader of the House; and Representative Joseph W. Martin, Jr., Minority Leader of the House and Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

The American Palestine Committee also has on its roster of membership a number of distinguished educators and religious leaders among them: Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, Chancellor of New York University; Dr. George N. Shuster, President of Hunter College; Dr. Harry D. Gideonse, President of Brooklyn College; Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President of Stanford University; Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, President of Boston University; Bishop A. K. Moulton, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Monsignor Ryan and Michael Williams. Marshall Field, Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Dr. Mary E. Woolley, Quincy Howe and Wythe Williams are also enrolled in the committee.

The governors of 19 states have joined the American Palestine Committee. They are: Governors Homer M. Adkins of Arkansas; Culbert L. Olson of California; Ralph L. Carr of Colorado; Robert A. Hurley of Connecticut; Spessard L. Holland of Florida; Dwight H. Green of Illinois; Henry F. Shricker of Indiana; Sumner Sewall of Maine; Herbert R. O'Connor of Maryland; Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts; Murray D. Van Wagoner of Michigan; Harold E. Stassen of Minnesota; Robert O. Blood of New Hampshire; Charles Edison of New Jersey; J. Melville Broughton of North Carolina; J. Howard McGrath of Rhode Island; Herbert B. Maw of Utah; William H. Willis of Vermont; and Matthew M. Neeley of West Virginia.

Senator McNary, Co-Chairman of the Committee, stressed the fact that Palestine offers the greatest promise of solution for the refugee problem. "The solution of the age-old Jewish problem is as much the concern of enlightened Christendom as it is of the Jews themselves," he said. The Republican leader asserted that American Jewry which is seeking to provide a haven for refugees "made homeless by totalitarian brutality" should be assured that in the promotion of this effort "they can count on the good will and the moral support of their Christian fellow citizens."

Declaring that the hope for the reunion of the Jewish people with the land of its ancient inheritance has always commanded the sympathy of the liberal Christian world, Senator Wagner emphasized that the fulfillment of that hope is an "urgent and tragic necessity today" in view of the "totalitarian tide of intolerance and brute force which has swept over one European nation after another."

The chairman of the American Palestine Committee pointed out that many thousands of oppressed Jews have found safety and peace in their ancient homeland, adding that "it becomes increasingly apparent that the conclusion of the present war will necessitate Jewish resettlement and colonization on a large scale."

"In ancient days Palestine, almost wholly agricultural, is believed to have sustained a population of 4,000,000 to 5,000,000. With intensive cultivation and scientific industrialization, the country today would absorb an even larger number," Senator Wagner said.

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SENATOR WAGNER

The full text of Senator Wagner's statement is as follows:

"I am thankful for the opportunity to give moral support to the movement for the restoration of the Jewish National Home in Palestine in collaboration with a large group of distinguished Americans.

world. The fulfillment of that hope is today an urgent and tragic necessity. As the totalitarian tide of intolerance and brute force has swept over one European nation after another, increasing thousands of oppressed Jews have found safety and peace in the ancient homeland. Not even the war has stemmed this tide of refugees. At a time when these unfortunates are being denied all political and religious freedom in their own countries, and other lands are closed to them, Palestine is their natural and rightful haven, in all justice and humanity and in pursuance of the obligation prescribed by the mandate. Moreover, it becomes increasingly apparent that the conclusion of the present war will necessitate Jewish resettlement and colonization on a large scale. Efforts to find territories for that purpose in lands other than Palestine have been made for many years, but they have been fruitless. The ancient Homeland alone has been able to evoke the requisite spirit of sacrifice and pioneering qualities.

"In the past twenty years Palestine has demonstrated its capacity to absorb large numbers of Jewish immigrants. In 1920 the Jews in Palestine numbered 83,000; today there are more than half a million. Since the Nazis seized the reins of power in Germany in 1933, Palestine has given permanent refuge to 280,000 victims of persecution, a number exceeding those finding havens of safety in all the rest of the world. That Palestine could accommodate millions of additional inhabitants is attested by the evidence. In ancient days Palestine, almost wholly agricultural, is believed to have sustained a population of four to five millions. With intensive cultivation and scientific industrialization, the country today would absorb an even larger number.

"The record of Jewish heroism and achievement in the Holy Land has been among the most inspiring works of free, liberty loving people in the Old World in the last two decades. Cities villages and farmsteads have sprung up over sand dunes, marshes and rocky wastes. Swamps have been drained, forests planted and endemic diseases stamped out. The ancient Jordan has been harnessed to produce electric power, and the Dead Sea has been found to be alive with mineral wealth. Schools and other cultural institutions, crowned by a University overlooking the Holy City, have been established. Agriculture, industry and commerce have been modernized and extended to the advantage of the native Arabs as well as the immigrants. The foundations have been laid, and a people for whom no sacrifice has been too great in the furtherance of the task is pleading for the opportunity to build further upon them.

"This plea has always met with a sympathetic response from the American

to extend their support to the Jewish pioneers in Palestine. By treaty and Congressional enactment, our Government has formally recognized and approved the establishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine under British Mandate. Since 1917, this policy has received the public endorsement of every President of the United States - - Woodrow Wilson, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"In truth and in fact, the Jewish National Home in Palestine has been a world-sanctioned experiment in democracy. It must be protected and cherished today as an outpost of freedom and social justice. Its continued upbuilding must be a vital part of a just world order when the present conflict is over.

"The American Palestine Committee will aim to give expression to the interest, sympathy and moral support of the American people for this humane and statesmanlike cause."

STATEMENT BY SENATOR CHARLES L. McNARY

Senator McNary's statement is as follows:

"I am glad to associate myself with Senator Wagner and the other distinguished members of the American Palestine Committee in lending moral support to the historic effort for the restoration of the Jewish National Home in Palestine. There are few undertakings in the world today that are so completely in accord with the dictates of justice and necessity. The problem of the refugees, is one of the principal problems facing the world today. The problem will continue to be with us even after the war, and so far as the Jewish refugees are concerned, Palestine, by reason of its historic significance and its demonstrated capacity to receive large numbers of them, offers the greatest promise of solution.

"The Jews of America are, of course, deeply concerned over the plight of their co-religionists, made homeless by totalitarian brutality, and are generously supporting the Palestine enterprise. They should be assured that in the promotion of this effort they can count on the goodwill and the moral support of their Christian fellow citizens. The solution of the age-old Jewish problem is as much the concern of enlightened Christendom as it is of the Jews themselves."

PARTIAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

The following U. S. Senators are members of the American Palestine Committee:

Joseph H. Ball of Minnesota, John H. Bankhead of Alabama, W. Warren Barbour of New Jersey, Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, Theodore G. Bilbo of Mississippi, Homer T. Bone of Washington, Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, C. Wayland Brooks of Illinois, Prentiss M. Brown of Michigan, William J. Bulow of South Dakota, Harold H. Burton of

Ohio, Hugh A. Butler of Nebraska, Harry Flood Byrd of Virginia, James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, Arthur Capper of Kansas, Dennis Chavez of New Mexico, D. Worth Clark of Idaho, Albert B. Chandler of Kentucky, Tom Connally of Texas, James J. Davis of Pennsylvania, Sheridan Downey of California, Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana, Walter F. George of Georgia, Guy M. Gillette of Iowa, Carter Glass of Virginia, Theodore Francis Green of Rhode Island, Joseph F. Guffey of Pennsylvania, Chan Gurney of South Dakota, Pat Harrison of Mississippi, Carl A. Hatch of New Mexico, Carl Hayden of Arizona, Clyde L. Herring of Iowa, Lister Hill of Alabama, Rufus C. Holman of Oregon, James H. Hughes of Delaware, Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado, Harley M. Kilgore of West Virginia, William Langer of North Dakota, Josh Lee of Oklahoma, Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. of Massachusetts, Scott W. Lucas of Illinois, Pat McCarran of Nevada, Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee, Charles L. McNary of Oregon, Francis Maloney of Connecticut, James M. Mead of New York, Abe Murdock of Utah, James E. Murray of Montana, George W. Norris of Nebraska, Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, John H. Overton of Louisiana, Claude Pepper of Florida, George L. Radcliffe of Maryland, Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina, Richard B. Russell of Georgia, H. H. Schwartz of Wyoming, Morris Sheppard of Texas, William H. Smathers of New Jersey, Robert A. Taft of Ohio, Elbert D. Thomas of Utah, John Thomas of Idaho, Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire, Harry S. Truman of Missouri, James M. Tunnell of Delaware, Millard E. Tydings of Maryland, Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan, Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana, Robert F. Wagner of New York, David I. Walsh of Massachusetts, Wallace H. White, Jr. of Maine, Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin, and Raymond E. Willis of Indiana.

Among the Congressmen who have joined the Committee are: Homer D. Angell of Oregon, Wm. B. Barry of New York, C. Jasper Bell of Missouri, Geo. H. Bender of Ohio, Philip A. Bennett of Missouri, Frank W. Boykin of Alabama, Fred Bradley of Michigan, Michael J. Bradley of Pennsylvania, Chas. A. Buckley of New York, Louis J. Capozzoli of New York, Emanuel Celler of New York, Cliff Clevenger of Ohio, John N. Coffee of Washington, Wm. P. Cole, Jr. of Maryland, Lawrence J. Connery of Massachusetts, John M. Costello of California, Frank Crowther of New York, Francis D. Culkin of New York, Thos. H. Cullen of New York, Thos. D'Alesandro, Jr. of Maryland, Clifford Davis of Tennessee, Chas. S. Dewey of Illinois, Samuel Dickstein of New York, Anthony J. Diamond (delegate) of Alaska, John D. Dingell of Michigan, Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois, Herman P. Eberharter of Pennsylvania, Frank Fellows of Maine, James N. Fitzpatrick of New York, Thos. A. Flaherty of Massachusetts, Thos. F. Ford of California, Lee E. Geyer of California, Leonard W. Hall of New York, Vincent F. Harrington of Iowa, Fred A. Hartley, Jr. of New Jersey, Arthur D. Healey of Massachusetts, Knute Hill of

Washington, Sam Hobbs of Alabama, John N. Houston of Kansas, Ed V. Izac of California, Benjamin Jarrett of Pennsylvania, Robert W. Kean of New Jersey, John Kee of New Jersey, Frank B. Keefe of Wisconsin, Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, Herman P. Kopplemann of Connecticut, Chas. Kramer of California, Clarence F. Lea of California, John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, Raymond S. McKeough of Illinois, Anton F. Maciejewski of Illinois, Lucien J. Maciora of Connecticut, Warren G. Magnuson of Washington, Jos. W. Martin Jr. of Massachusetts, Noah M. Mason of Illinois, Matthew J. Merritt of New York, Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois, Francis J. Myers of Pennsylvania, Caroline O'Day of Pennsylvania, Donald L. O'Toole of New York, Walter M. Pierce of Oregon, Walter C. Ploeser of Missouri, Sam Rayburn of Texas, James P. Richards of South Carolina, Thomas Rolph of California, Albert G. Rutherford of Pennsylvania, Leon Sacks of Pennsylvania, Harry Sauthoff of Wisconsin, Pius L. Schwert of New York, James A. Shanley of Connecticut, Bob Sikes of Florida, Albert Thomas of Texas, Wm. R. Thom of Ohio, Samuel A. Weiss of Pennsylvania, Wm. H. Wheat of Illinois, and Chas. A. Wolverton of New Jersey.

RELIGIOUS, CIVIC LEADERS and EDUCATORS

Among the religious, civic leaders and educators who have joined the Committee are: Professor Ralph Harlow, Dr. John Haynes Holmes, Rev. J. Howard Melish, Rev. James Meyers, Bishop A. K. Moulton, Reinhold Niebuhr, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, Monsignor John A. Ryan, Michael Williams, Prof. William Foxwell Albright, Johns Hopkins University; John M. Carmody, Federal Works Administrator; Marshall Field; William Green, President of American Federation of Labor; Quincy Howe; Hon. Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior; Hon. Robert H. Jackson, Attorney General; Hon. Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator; Col. Theodore Roosevelt, L. S. Rowe, Harry Slattery, Pierre Van Paassen; William Allen White of Emporia, Kansas; Hon. Claude Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture; Ray Lyman Wilbur, Stanford University; Wythe Williams, Wendell L. Willkie; Dr. Mary E. Woolley, Mt. Holyoke, Pres. Emeritus; Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, President Boston University; Dr. Guy Stanton Ford, University of Minnesota; Dr. Ralph D. Hetzel, Pennsylvania State University; Dr. R. B. Von Kleinsmid, University of Southern California; Dr. Homer P. Rainey, University of Texas; Dr. Frank Cody, Wayne University, Detroit, Michigan and Dr. Harry D. Gideonse, President of Brooklyn College.

31. March 1941

Dear Dr. Lauterbach,

Re: Situation in Germany.

1) I have received reports about certain changes which have taken place in Berlin with regard to the position of our Palestine Office there.

You are aware that after the dissolution of the German Zionist Federation (Zionistische Vereinigung fuer Deutschland) and the suppression of its organ (Juedische Rundschau), the Palestine Office was the only Zionist institution which until recently was still allowed to function. It occupied a number of rooms in the building of the once German Zionist Federation, and a large number of officials was dealing with the various aspects of our work: Aliyah, Hachscharah etc. The K.H. and K.K.L. offices being in the same building and continuing their work, the old "Meinekestrasse" was still alive.

But for some time already the authorities (Gestapo) have requested the heads of the Palestine Office to reduce their staff. They argue that now - with Jewish emigration to Palestine having practically come to a standstill - there is no need for such a large office with so many employees.

Our people have of course resisted to this demand as long as possible. To retain the staff meant three things: a) employment for a number of people who otherwise cannot find any position in view of the Anti-Jewish legislation and the destruction of all Jewish business undertakings, b) to maintain Zionist life on the largest possible scale, 3) to avoid the transfer of the names of the dismissed people on the register of Jewish forced labour.

For some months the heads of the Palestine Office have been successful in avoiding any drastic measures. But now they had to give in. The authorities have decided that the Palestine Office is considerably to be reduced. The large department dealing with Hachscharah in its various forms ("Berufsvorbereitung", "Juedische Jugendhilfe") must cease to exist in its present form; it is to be incorporated as a department in the respective office of "Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland". Only six of the former officials of the Palestine Office dealing with Hachscharah etc. will be transferred to this department, while the others will lose their jobs - with all the consequences involved. It is doubtful if the Palestine Office in its crippled form will be allowed to continue its existence. The remaining people are Lyon, Pick, Rosenberg and a typist; for the Funds: Rosenthal.

There is also a change in the general attitude of the authorities re emigration. Only women and children are now allowed to emigrate while all able-bodied men, without any age limit, must remain. But emigration of women and children is also restricted: Emigration to European countries is not allowed, to Palestine not desired.

2) The situation in Vienna is obscure. As I have reported in a previous letter the authorities have been ordering a new expulsion of the remnants of the Jews in Vienna whose number has already been reduced from 200,000 to 40 or 50,000. The idea was to have Vienna "judenrein" by the end of April. During the last weeks already 4000 Jews have been sent away in trainloads to Poland, and from letters received here the terror and panic of the Jews in Vienna could be heard and seen.

Now there must have been some counterorder because the latest letters indicate that the expulsion has come to a standstill and that even some of the people already deported hope to be able to return. It is said that for some reason or other the expulsion has been deferred until September or October. Maybe the military need the rolling stock for more important business. This gives the Jews of Vienna a breathing space if only for a few months and in their present atmosphere even such a breathing space means a lot to them. Who knows what will happen in three months time?

3) Holland: News from this country has become scarce and the latest is unpleasant: Mr. Max Bolle informs us in a letter dated 20.3. that they are all well but that "our president is now away; we hope this will be only for a short time". This apparently means that Mr. L. M. Kan has been arrested.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

R. Lichtheim

GENEVA OFFICE



MURRAY HILL 2-1160

Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs

April 1, 1941

41 EAST 42nd STREET
ROOM 1121
NEW YORK CITY

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am writing to enlist your cooperation in assisting us to get leading Zionists out of Europe. There are still a few of them who must be saved and the difficulty lies in getting affidavits for them. All of our friends in New York have given so many that we must look for them elsewhere. I am sure that you could get some friends who would be prepared to give us affidavits, especially since there is no financial risk involved, as Zionist organizations are taking all financial responsibility for their people. I feel terribly about not being in a position to save good Zionists who have devoted their lives to Zionism, because of a lack of affidavits.

Please talk with your friends and let me know whom we can ask; we will then supply them with the names and the necessary data.

I hope to hear from you soon.

With cordial greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Nahum Goldmann
Nahum Goldmann

MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

April 10, 1941

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Thursday, April 10th.

PRESENT: Mr. Lipsky, (presiding), Mr. Bublick, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Shulman, Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise, Mr. Szold.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann.

GENERAL ZIONIST REFUGEES

Dr. Goldmann brought to the attention of the Office Committee that no financial provision existed to enable Zionist workers from abroad who arrived in this country penniless to tide over the first difficult period. He suggested that the ZOA, Hadassah, UPA, Mizrachi and the Labor Zionists be approached in this connection. He suggested that Hadassah, the ZOA, and the UPA might each appropriate a \$1,000 toward a fund for this purpose, and the Mizrachi and Labor Zionist group \$500 each, which would make a fund of \$4,000 which should be allocated by a committee formed for the purpose. Such a fund would enable the general Zionists to give some small financial assistance to its workers who came to this country to tide them over until they make economic adjustments.

Dr. Goldmann's recommendation was approved and was to be followed up with the bodies mentioned.

BUDGET

Mr. Neumann reported that he had discussed with Dr. Weizmann the question of additional funds from the Agency for the expenses of the Emergency Committee. Dr. Weizmann had endorsed a cable to the Agency with reference to an appropriation of a further \$25,000 which was essential for the conducting of the political and public relations work.

Mr. Neumann further reported that Dr. Weizmann had recalled that at the time of the Balfour Declaration a special fund of LP 80,000 had been raised for political work, and suggested that his presence here be utilized for the raising in America of a special fund for political purposes.

REPORT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Neumann reported that Dr. Weizmann's visit in Washington had been a very successful one. He had met key people in government circles and he also had had discussions with leading Zionist friends in Washington, and he thought that a number of these talks had been very valuable.

Mr. Neumann referred to certain specific conversations which had taken place, in the course of which the question of the absorptive capacity of Palestine had been raised. Dr. Weizmann had stressed that whereas other plans for refugee settlement would involve long-term colonization efforts which would

make them impracticable as a solution to the problem of the resettlement of European Jews after the war, since time would then be of the essence - - Palestine would be able rapidly to absorb 2½ to 3 million Jews. Dr. Weizmann further pointed out that preparations for such resettlement by way of planning and financing had to go on now. He recalled the omission of Palestine from the agenda of the Evian Conference; that must not happen again; Palestine would have to be given primary consideration on the agenda of any conference convened to discuss the pressing problem of resettlement of European Jewry after the war.

Mr. Neumann reported further that there had been a dinner of Jewish government officials which Dr. Weizmann had addressed and that the audience was keenly interested in what Dr. Weizmann had to say. He also announced that a dinner meeting of the American Palestine Committee was scheduled for April 30th and requested additional secretarial help in connection with the plans for this dinner. This request was approved.

NEW AMERICAN CONSUL TO JERUSALEM

Mrs. Shulman suggested that further information be secured on the new American Consul in Jerusalem.

NEXT MEETING

Chief Rabbi Herzog is to be invited to the next meeting of the Emergency Committee, the date to be decided upon later.

al:re
4/25/41

Arthur Lourie.



MINUTES OF MEETING OF OFFICE COMMITTEE

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Thursday, April 24, 1941.

A regular meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Thursday, April 24, at 3 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Lipsky, presiding; Mr. Gellman, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Pool, Mrs. Schoolman, Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Mr. Levin-Epstein, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann.

KEREN HAYESOD WORK IN SOUTH AMERICA

Mr. Lipsky reported that a communication had been received from Mr. Kurt Blumenfeld in which he suggested that a committee of three be set up to act as a liaison between the head office of the Keren Hayesod and the Emergency Committee to coordinate the activities of the Keren Hayesod with other Zionist activities in the Central and South American countries.

It was pointed out that normally the Keren Hayesod in Jerusalem deals directly with the South American countries. Now that connection with Palestine was more difficult, contacts with these countries should come within the general scope of the Emergency Committee work, as delegated to it by the Executive.

Mr. Wertheim took the view that it should not be for the Emergency Committee to supervise Keren Hayesod activities in the Western Hemisphere but that the Keren Hayesod here should appoint a committee for that purpose.

On a vote being taken (Dr. Goldstein abstained from voting) it was decided 3 votes to 2 that Mr. Lipsky, Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Mr. Blumenfeld be appointed a sub-committee of the Emergency Committee to go into the whole question and report back to the Emergency Committee.

MESSAGE TO MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL

Dr. Wise referred to the critical situation which was developing in the Middle East. Following a discussion it was decided to send a telegram to the British Prime Minister as follows:

"NLT

APRIL 25 1941

RT HON WINSTON CHURCHILL
DOWNING STREET LONDON

SPEAKING FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ORGANIZED ZIONISTS AND MILLIONS OF FELLOW JEWS IN THIS COUNTRY WE BEG TO SUBMIT TO YOUR EARNEST CONSIDERATION THE SPECIALLY DANGEROUS POSITION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN PALESTINE IN THE PRESENT WAR SITUATION STOP APART FROM ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND THE DESIRE OF THE JEWS TO MAKE THEIR MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR EFFORT WE STRONGLY FEEL THAT THE JEWISH POPULATION IN PALESTINE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE POSSIBILITY AND MEANS TO MEET ALL EVENTUALITIES AND TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY THEMSELVES AND (cont.) THEIR HONOR STOP WE ARE PERSUADED THAT THE URGENCY OF AN IMMEDIATE DECISION ON THIS REQUEST IS SELF EVIDENT

ALL EVENTUALITIES AND TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY THEMSELVES AND THEIR HONOR STOP WE ARE PERSUADED THAT THE URGENCY OF AN IMMEDIATE DECISION ON THIS REQUEST IS SELF EVIDENT

STEPHEN S WISE FOR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS
REPRESENTING ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA HADASSAH
WOMENS ZIONIST ORGANIZATION MIZRACHI POALE ZION

A proposal that the State Department be approached in the same manner was negatived.

PUBLIC STATEMENT BY HADASSAH

In connection with a Hadassah mid-year National Board conference, which was to take place the following week, it was agreed that the conference might issue a statement in the light of the current situation. The Praesidium was to be consulted with reference to the content of the statement.

NON-ZIONISTS

It was stated that Dr. Weizmann had come to the conclusion that it might be useful to call a private exploratory conference of leading non-Zionists to discuss the position of the non-Zionist section of the Jewish Agency. Invitations would be issued in his name and May 25th had been set as a tentative date for the meeting.

It was agreed that a meeting of the sub-committee appointed to consider the question of the Agency should be convoked to meet with Dr. Weizmann on his return with a view to considering the nature of the proposals to be placed before the meeting of the 25th.

REPORT BY MR. NEUMANN

Mr. Neumann reported that Dr. Weizmann had received an invitation from AB to come down to Washington as he was anxious to discuss certain matters with him. Dr. Weizmann had not found it possible to go at that time and at his request, Mr. Neumann had called on B in Washington.

B. had said that he hesitated to give expression to what he had in his mind, lest anything which might be regarded as anti-Zionist be construed as anti-Semitic. He went on to say however, that the position in the Near East was grave -- on the one hand the Germans and on the other hand, the Arabs. It had occurred to him that with Dr. Weizmann's presence here there existed an opportunity for a show of real statesmanship on the part of Zionists. Would it not be possible to make an accommodation now with the Arabs. It might involve concessions and sacrifices in Palestine, but perhaps compensation might be found elsewhere, so far as Jewish settlement was concerned, possibly in the highlands of Abyssinia. On the other hand, in Jerusalem the Jews might have a kind of Vatican City. Mr. Neumann asked him if he thought the Arabs really were a force and whether they behaved as they were behaving because of Zionism. Mr. Neumann referred to the attitude of the Egyptians, and B. had agreed that their conduct was not motivated by reference to the Zionist issue. On the other hand, B. held that the line taken by Iraq was affected by the Palestine situation.

B. repeatedly said that he was not speaking on behalf of the Department. He was merely trying to think aloud. He was extremely worried about the situation. When asked if he had any formula in mind for the future of Palestine he said no -- and that that should come from the Zionists.

Mr. Neumann thanked B. and said that he would report the contents of the conversation to Dr. Weizmann and also to LDB. He had seen the latter who had emphasized that this was no time for concessions and that the Zionist policy must continue firm and resolute.

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE DINNER

Mr. Neumann reported on arrangements which were being made for the American Palestine Committee dinner. Senator Barkley, in the absence through illness of Senator Wagner, had agreed to preside. Dr. Weizmann, Major Cazalet, Dr. Lowdermilk, and Senator Gillette would be the other speakers; a national WOR hook-up was being arranged and a number of correspondents in Washington had agreed to write specials around the dinner.

Mr. Lourie reported on a conversation which Mr. Wertheim and he had had with Mr. Ziff. The Committee took no objection to Mr. Ziff's continuing his inquiries, but was not prepared to take any responsibility in the matter.

Arthur Lourie

DJS



Letter from Mr. Lichtheim of the Geneva Office

April 28th, 1941

RL/T.

J. LINTON, Esq.
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
77, Great Russell Street,
L o n d o n W.C.I.

Dear Linton,

I received your letters of April 8th. We are still in touch with most of the countries on which I have reported in my previous letters, but as you rightly suppose, we now get less information than in previous months and this for the following reasons:

a) difficulties in the transmission of letters owing to disturbed railway-communications;

b) severe censorship in all German - or German-occupied countries. This means the whole of Europe with the exception of Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal - from where there is not much to report - and the semi-independent States of Rumania and Hungary and one third of France, where there is also censorship and anti-Jewish legislation. Under the circumstances, our people in all these countries have become more and more reluctant to say or write what is not strictly necessary and they are certainly not inclined to indulge in lengthy descriptions of their situation by way of letters and reports.

c) In spite of these facts which make it increasingly difficult to obtain reliable and regular reports, we have our ways and means of communicating with most of the European countries. Whenever I hear anything of greater importance I shall certainly continue to send you all information I can get.

d) At present, the situation may be summarised as follows:
Germany (including Austria and Czechoslovakia) : No changes. I wrote you already that the Palestine Office in Berlin has been reduced to a few officials. Mass-expulsion of Jews in Vienna was again planned, some thousands were sent to Poland, but then the plan was dropped.

Poland : Life of the Jewish masses is as miserable as it can be imagined. You know all about the Ghetto, etc. Members of our Youth-Organisations are still trying to uphold something which may be called Hachscharah, but you can easily imagine what it looks like. In some places - as for instance Oberschlesien - the German authorities allow and even encourage the establishment of such Hachscharah-institutions, where a limited number of young people are trying to learn some craft, but they lack in everything : food, clothes, material, instruments. We are cooperating with the Joint and other relief-organisations to obtain some funds for this purpose, but in fact it is only a drop of water in the desert.

France : Nothing new to report since my last letters re: anti-Jewish legislation. Two days ago, I have sent you some press-cuttings, one of them containing a report on anti-Jewish activities of the Doriot-Deat-Group in Paris.

We are in constant touch with our people in Lyon (Jarblum, Fisher, etc.) mostly about relief-work.

Holland : I wrote you that the president of the Zionist Organisation, Mr. L.M. Kan, has been arrested. This and other arrests among Jews and non-Jews are apparently the result of the wide-spread unrest among the population and are intended to terrorise the people.

Holland: Our offices, Amstel 93, are still functioning. I just had a letter from Dr. Abeles and the work of the Organisation and the Funds (in a new form) continues.

Belgium : Very little news and nothing new to report.

Denmark : Here the situation is comparatively better than in other German-occupied country. The Jews seem to have no difficulty in following their usual occupations.

Rumania : There was a lull in the constant rebellions of the Iron Guard and the Jews - after the terrible pogroms during which some two thousand were killed - have been profiting by this period of quiet. A few thousand have been able to leave the country - many of them going to Palestine. Our offices, Anton Pan 7, Bucarest, are open, the Zionist Organisation and the Funds are allowed to continue their work. (I am in touch with Bucarest and Timisoara regarding various questions of Zionist work and our Funds (Transfer). Antonescu wants "law and order" and for the time being he is backed by the Germans. But there are already signs that a new rebellion is threatening, the Iron Guard is preparing another coup d'etat and it is quite possible that the Germans will try to make peace between them and Antonescu - which may lead to new pogroms.

Bulgaria : No news. War-zone. Complete suppression of all Jewish organisations.

Jugoslavia : No news from our friends after the German invasion. Mrs. Spitzer on her way to Palestine. But what has become of Spitzer and the others? The country is surrounded by enemy countries, therefore no escape, no refugees to neutral countries. Prior to the German invasion, there was already unrest and antisemitic excesses in Zagreb. The Croate extremists were threatening the Jews. No less than 11.000 Jews are said to have left Zagreb and to have fled to the interior, i.e. to the Serbian parts of the country. What has become of the Jewish refugees from other countries who were mostly concentrated in some camps (the biggest near Cladowa), nobody knows. Just before the outbreak of the war, number of refugee-children who had received certificates through the Youth-Alijah left Cladowa for Turkey : Altogether 153 young people who are probably now on their way to Palestine.

Hungary : No changes. Our Funds and the Z .O. in Budapest are trying to start collections for Palestine under the slogan: "Prepare Hungarian Jews to settle in Palestine". After the successful conclusion of our transfer-arrangement with the Government, they now hope to obtain new permission of a similar kind after the campaign for the funds - which is now in swing - will have been completed. Acting for the KKL-Headoffice, I have nominated Dr. Desider Weisz to conduct the campaign. In the "new Hungarian territories" (formerly Transsylvania), work is also starting.

I hope this survey will be of some use to you. If I hear anything of greater importance regarding the Jewish position in continental Europe, I shall certainly let you know.

With kind regards
sincerely yours

(Signed)

R. Lichtheim
G E N E V A O F F I C E

P .S. Dr. Josef Weiss is now in Lisbon, He will leave for Palestine shortly.

April 28, 1941

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

FROM: Mr. Rehabiah Lewin-Epstein

SUBJECT: Prevailing economic conditions in Palestine.

Under date of March 27th, 1941, Mr. Aaron Baroway writes me as follows with regard to prevailing economic conditions in Palestine:

"Were it not for the state of the citrus industry, economic conditions here would in general be better than average. With the elimination of the Italian threat in Africa the community re-adjusted itself well generally to the new operation conditions. Where increased production was necessary and possible, it was brought about. Where new means of communications were necessary and possible, they were achieved. New outlets for manufacturing, commercial and service activities were recognised and very frequently utilised. Except for the citrus sector almost the entire community has, in one way or another, and more or less, had some benefit from the revival of business and the evident intention to continue to operate. An important factor in the revival and subsequent continuous turnover has been large public and allied spending. The citrus industry remains the most important negative factor in the entire situation and presents difficulties which only Government can cope with. That Government has the problem under consideration is well known. With public and other aids we have managed well by and large in the matter of supplies and transportation, but constant action and vigilance are needed since in some respects our stocks are not adequate for too long a period. There are still opportunities for wartime investments which should be good on a peace-time basis also. (I do not want to give a bill of particulars since to do so properly involved thorough investigation, but I know of several instances which warrant that investigating.)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1941, AT 3:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mr. Lipsky (presiding), Mr. Bublick, Dr. Goldstein,
Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Pool, Mrs. Schoolman, Dr. Wise;
Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie.

LETTER FROM LORD HALIFAX.

Dr. Wise reported the receipt of a letter from Lord Halifax in response to the memorandum which had been submitted by a delegation of the Emergency Committee.

It was decided that a suitable reply should be sent to this letter and that the position taken in the original memorandum was to be maintained. Reference to the Public Commission of Inquiry requested by the Jewish Agency is to be included in the letter, which is to be circulated among the members of the Office Committee before it is dispatched.

REPORT OF AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE DINNER

In the absence of Mr. Neumann, Mrs. Pool reported on the dinner held the evening of April 30 in Washington under the auspices of the American Palestine Committee. She congratulated Mr. Neumann on a remarkable achievement. She stated, however, that from one aspect the dinner was disappointing in that she estimated that less than a hundred persons attended, about a third of whom represented Zionist circles. She recommended that the Public Relations Committee appointed to work with Mr. Neumann should begin to function, since she considered that, regardless of his competence - and Mr. Neumann was most competent - no one acting alone could achieve maximum results in the public relations work. Her recommendation was accepted.

REPORT FROM LONDON OFFICE.

In the absence of Mr. Bakstansky, Mr. Lourie made a brief report on various messages brought by him from London.

1. The London Executive had discussed further the matter of the establishment of Jewish Force with Lord Moyne. They anticipated a negative response and had asked Dr. Weizmann to authorize them to issue a statement on the subject, if and when such a response was received.

2. On the question of arming of the civilian population of Palestine for purposes of self-defense, Dr. Weizmann had again seen Lord Halifax. The latter had been sympathetic and had said that he would transmit representations to his Government. Apparently he was prepared to add his own recommendation to the proposal.

In connection with the reply hitherto given by the British that no equipment was available, Mrs. Schoolman recommended that the United States Government be asked to arrange for the sending of arms to Palestine under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Bill.

Dr. Vise urged that in this connection the good offices of the members of the American Palestine Committee should be sought. This recommendation was accepted.

3. The London Executive had been informed that the term of the High Commissioner in Palestine was for five years and not three as had been believed, and therefore had another two years to run.

4. The Middle Eastern Department of The Ministry of Information in London had from the outset been anti-Zionist in its attitude. It was now learned that a pamphlet was being prepared by them demonstrating that England had fulfilled the pledge of the Balfour Declaration. The London Executive had indicated to the Government that the publication of such a pamphlet would have serious repercussions in England and in America. It was believed that the initiative for the publication of such a pamphlet had come from the Embassy here. It was decided to make further inquiries in this connection.

It was agreed that Dr. Goldstein ask the British War Relief Association to request from the British Ministry of Information films of Jewish units in action in Libya and in Greece to be used for publicity purposes.

5. The London Executive suggested that a committee be sent to England now, composed of one Zionist, one non-Zionist and one member of the American-Palestine Committee.

Dr. Vise recalled that a previous proposal to send a distinguished American Jew to London had not been favored by Dr. Weizmann.

Dr. Goldstein suggested that under the auspices of the Inter-Faith Committee a representative Jewish, Catholic and Protestant delegation might go to England.

The suggestion was welcomed and it was agreed that Dr. Goldstein explore the possibilities of such a plan.

ANSWER TO MR. SHATARA'S LETTER.

It was stated that Mr. Neumann's department was preparing an appropriate answer to the letter in the New York Times, Sunday, April 27, by Mr. Shatara, the leader of the Arab group in America. If possible the letter should be signed by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr.

TRANSMISSION OF FUNDS TO PALESTINE.

In view of the rapid advance of the Nazi troops in the Near East, the wisdom of transmitting funds to Palestine was discussed.

Mrs. Pool reported that the Hadassah Emergency Committee in Palestine had cabled a request for thirty thousand pounds to be deposited to their credit with Barclays Bank in New York to be drawn upon for emergency needs or for regular commitments, if it becomes impossible to cable regular remittances.

Despite possible results, it was recognized that the moral and psychological effect of withholding remittances from Palestine at this time would be ill-advised. It was therefore unanimously agreed that all fund-raising agencies transmit their regular remittances to Palestine.

MESSAGE TO AMERICAN ZIONISTS.

Mrs. Schoolman recommended that a message be sent immediately to all organized Zionists here. There was considerable discussion as to the content of such a message.

It was finally agreed that

- a. Dr. Weizmann, as President of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, issue a statement to American Jewry and
- b. Chief Rabbi Herzog, on the eve of his departure for Palestine also address a heartening and uplifting message to American Jewry. Both of these messages are to be issued under the aegis of the Emergency Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH PALESTINE.

The matter of communicating with Palestine in the event of invasion was discussed. Various proposals were set forth on steps to be taken to insure the maximum assistance to Palestine if there should be an invasion, and to insure communication if it is at all possible.

It was decided that Dr. Wise and Dr. Goldstein discuss with Mr. Clarence E. Pickett, Executive Secretary of the American Friends (Quakers), the possibility of sending a Quaker representative or representatives from this country to Palestine immediately.

REFUGEES IN PALESTINE.

It was decided to inquire as to the status of the last shipload of refugees in Palestine from the British Embassy here.

AMERICAN NATIONALS IN PALESTINE.

It was decided that the question of American citizens in Palestine, who were in danger of losing their American citizenship because they could not for obvious reasons return to renew it, should be taken up by the American-Palestine Committee with the State Department.

BUDGET.

A committee composed of Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Lipsky and Mr. Szold was asked to submit a report on the budget.

OFFICE SPACE.

Mrs. Pool reported that Hadassah had an option to renew its lease for five years at 1860 Broadway at a rental of \$1.00 per square foot. Hadassah was moving to larger quarters, but was prepared to take up the option at 1860 Broadway in order to give other Zionist organizations the benefit of the low rental. She recommended that the Archives, the Emergency Committee and Avukah, Masada and Young Judaea, rent office space at 1860 Broadway, so as to reduce their overhead.

No decision was taken.

NEXT MEETING.

A full meeting of the Emergency Committee is to be called Thursday, May 8, to which Chief Rabbi Herzog is to be invited.

al:et
5/5/51



Arthur Lourie

Emergency Committee For Zionist Affairs
41 East 42 Street
New York City.

May 6, 1941

THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The threat to the security of Palestine which has been developing during the past days naturally causes serious concern to Zionists and to all friends of Palestine in this country. It has become obvious, first, that maximum efforts must be made for the defense of the country, and secondly, that the Jewish community in Palestine may be exposed to special danger in certain eventualities, and that they should therefore be given every possibility to defend themselves, the country, and their honor.

2. For many months past the leaders of the Zionist movement and of the Jewish Community in Palestine have sought to secure from the British authorities the right to organize a Jewish military force to participate in the Near East in the war against Nazism. These efforts have received the full support here of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs and of the Zionist leadership generally.

3. The temporary withdrawal at any given moment of a large part of the British forces in Palestine for service elsewhere might be the occasion for subversive elements there, acting in concert with the Nazis to create disorder, riots or possibly worse. It is therefore of the utmost importance to the stability of the country that, apart from the question of the organization of a specific Jewish military force, the loyal population, of which the Jews constitute the core, be given the means of maintaining order and defending themselves. Within the last few days a cablegram has been dispatched to Prime Minister Winston Churchill urging the arming, in this critical moment, of the Jewish population of Palestine. To date, however, there is no information at hand as to whether such arming has in fact been undertaken.

4. It is important at this juncture of events to see the Palestine situation in proper perspective and to understand the forces at work. Without such a perception the whole picture becomes distorted.

It may be noted in the first place that the events now transpiring, whatever their ultimate consequences, have proved to the hilt one aspect of the Zionist

case. Not only Zionists but many far sighted Englishmen have maintained ever since the first world war that a strong Jewish Palestine was vitally important for strengthening and stabilizing the position in the Middle East and affording maximum protection to the Suez Canal. As long as the whole region continued weak, semi-desert, underpopulated and undeveloped, it could offer little resistance to enemy forces and would, on the contrary, attract them as easy prey to predatory design. The influx and settlement of millions of Jews in Palestine would, it was contended, introduce a virile element passionately attached to the land and the cause of freedom and democracy. The introduction by them of science, technical equipment and industrial development would vastly strengthen not only Palestine but the whole Middle East. That the development of the Jewish National Home in Palestine was not fostered by the Mandatory Power with greater vigor and determination is one of the major tragedies of our time, not merely from the point of view of the Jewish people but of the democratic world order as well.

5. The oppression of the Jews in Europe over increasingly wide areas offered an exceptional opportunity to carry out this promising program - an opportunity which was utilized to a limited extent. Unfortunately, the policy of appeasement in vogue before the war also led to an attempt drastically to curtail this process. Instead of accelerating the development of Palestine and thereby strengthening its powers of resistance, it was sought to secure Arab loyalty by sacrificing the natural expansion of the Jewish National Home. Zionism as an issue was first exaggerated beyond its natural importance by the pre-Churchill government, and then the liquidation of the Jewish National Home was dangled before the Arabs not only of Palestine but of neighboring countries as a bait to attract their support. In this way the most important pro-British factor in the Middle East was let down while dubious elements who had been in continuous flirtation with the Axis powers were rewarded and "appeased".

6. Despite the bitter disappointment caused in Jewish circles by this policy as promulgated in the MacDonald White Paper of 1939, the war found the Jews nevertheless resolved to stand by Great Britain unconditionally and to do their utmost to strengthen the position in the Middle East. The Jews of Palestine as well

as Europe are not only violently anti-Nazi; affirmatively, they are fanatically devoted to the democratic cause. This is more particularly the case in Palestine, where the core of the Jewish community and its dominating influence is the Federation of Labor, strongly progressive and democratic in spirit.

A brief rehearsal of Jewish efforts to play their part in the struggle is in place.

7. Before the outbreak of the war a proposal was put forward on the part of Jews to bring to Palestine from Eastern Europe a selected group of 100,000 young men of military age, on condition that they enter military training immediately on arrival, in order to have available a sizable army of the best human material and of high morale for the defense of the Middle East. In view of the policy of the MacDonald White Paper, this proposal had no prospect of being accepted by the British authorities.

8. Immediately upon the outbreak of the war, the responsible Jewish authorities in Palestine called on the Jewish community to register voluntarily for national service. One hundred thirty-six thousand men and women promptly responded to the call. The Palestine government expressed appreciation of this action, but availed itself of this offer only to a very limited extent.

9. As the war advanced and the problem of shipping arose, Jewish leaders put forward a proposal that a supply base for military purposes be created in Palestine and that all of the resources available in the country, including experienced management, manufacturing plants and equipment, technicians of all kinds, be mobilized for these purposes, that new factories be built if necessary, and that substantial stocks of raw materials and finished goods be accumulated and stored in the country. This proposal met with but a limited response.

10. For many months past the Jewish Community of Palestine and the leaders of the Zionist movement in England have pressed for the creation of a Jewish military force to aid in the prosecution of war against Hitler and for the defense of Palestine. This request has been given consideration but the program has not been implemented to the present day. Political reasons inherited from the era of appeasement have played their part in the failure to create this force. Only a

limited number of Palestinian Jews, whose number had nevertheless grown to about 10,000, have been accepted and incorporated into the British service. They have participated in the military operations in Libya, East Africa, Greece and elsewhere, and have given an admirable account of themselves. The gallantry and fighting value of the Palestine troops have been cited by Gen. Wavell in Egypt and Gen. Ball in Eritrea.

It will be recalled that Mr. Churchill has stated that only two allied divisions were available at any one time for active service in the operations which brought about the Italian defeat in Egypt and Libya. One may be permitted to speculate whether subsequent reverses might not have been avoided had that army been reinforced by the addition of a further two or three divisions of Palestinian Jews.

11. While the Jews were doing their utmost - under existing limitations - to make a maximum contribution to the war effort, the situation in the various countries of the Middle East has been steadily deteriorating. Egypt failed to declare war even after its territory was invaded. Syria came under the administration of the Vichy government. In Iraq the growth of pro-Nazi sentiment kept pace with successive German victories. Saudi Arabia has maintained an attitude of neutrality and reserve. Significantly Palestine is the only country in the Middle East which has been on the whole actively pro-British. It has been the only country in the Middle East which has gone so far as to supply volunteers to the British forces. It is the place in which King Peter of Yugoslavia and his Prime Minister and the Regent of Iraq have taken sanctuary and to which English women and children are now being evacuated from Baghdad. If Palestine occupies this unique position and represents a spot which the allies can regard as terra-firma, it is due largely to the presence of a strong, organized Jewish community of 550,000 of unquestioned reliability, whose loyalty is not merely formal and passive, but intense and dynamic. It represents a force which, if utilized to the full, can still play a vital part in that exceedingly important corner of the world.

12. From the point of view of wider strategy, the significance which attaches to the proximity of Palestine to the Suez Canal is obvious. Not merely is the Canal one of the world's great trade arteries, but its control is of vital

interest to Great Britain in the policing of the seven seas. But it can also, on the other hand, become a channel through which aggressor powers may send their warships, surface raiders and submarines to make their way to the South Seas, the Far East and the Western Hemisphere. Current developments emphasize what has been understood in the past by only a few far-visioned men. Now it can clearly be seen that it is in the interests of a stable and peaceful world order that this water-way linking East and West be flanked by nations that are strong, progressive and devoted to the principles which underlie our democratic civilization.

13. The assumption that antagonism to the Jews or Zionism is an important factor in the disaffection of parts of the Arab world is fallacious. Neither the people of Egypt nor of Iraq nor of other Arab speaking countries have any deep or sustained interest in the Palestine situation. They are on the whole engrossed in their own problems. Their attitude towards Britain and other western democracies is determined by their local interests, by the degree of effectiveness of Nazi agents, and by their own general outlook. The democratic tradition in these countries is young and weak, the people rather primitive, and the popular attitude one of admiration for force. Among some Arab groups the seed of Axis propaganda has therefore fallen on fruitful soil. Their attitude toward the Western democracies is bound to fluctuate with the fortunes of war. Democratic victories will insure their loyalty, while German successes will tend to produce the opposite effect.

14. That opposition to Jewish immigration into Palestine could not entail serious consequences in the Arab countries is borne out by the fact that events of far graver importance from the Arab point of view failed to produce serious repercussions. By way of illustration: a few years ago, an important province of Syria, the Sanjak of Alexandretta, including the important seaport of that name, was annexed to Turkey with the consent of the French Government. So momentous a step which was susceptible of interpretation as the beginning of the partition of Syria passed off with some local demonstrations in Syria but without protest on the part of neighboring Arab countries. Iraq, which appears so turbulent today, even refrained from sending a diplomatic note to Cairo or Paris. To assume therefore that the anti-British revolution in Iraq is motivated by resentment over the influx of Jewish

refugees in Palestine is fantastic. Such an interpretation can only be characterized as anti-Zionist propaganda.

It is a fact, however, that the former Mufti of Jerusalem, who was responsible for repeated riots and massacres in Palestine and who for years has been a tool of the Axis powers, encouraged and financed by them, has been living in Baghdad for some time, where he has continued to plot and intrigue against the British. The English press now recognizes him for what he has always been - an Arab Hitler in league with the enemy of democracy, imitating and emulating his master.

15. It is, of course, too late as far as the present war is concerned to change the situation radically in the Middle East and to stabilize it by the creation of a strong Jewish Palestine at this moment. It is not too late to make full use of the patriotism, determination, and fighting qualities of the Palestine Jews. The least that can be done is to place weapons in their hands so that they may defend their frontiers, their homes, and their honor in certain eventualities. It would be a great injustice to them to let them meet possible attacks with their bare hands, or to compel them to an attitude of non-resistance and abject submission. If the worst comes to the worst they have the right to go down fighting, if need be, like the Poles or the Greeks.

16. Our information is to the effect that large British and Empire forces are being concentrated in Egypt and other points in the Middle East. We have complete confidence in the heroism and capacity of these armies and their commanders and see no ground for panic. But assuming the worst, even a temporary withdrawal from the Eastern Mediterranean that does not spell the end of Zionism. The future of Zionism is bound up with the future of the democracies in whose ultimate triumph we have the deepest and most unshakable faith. Even if Palestine should be invaded and part of what has been created be destroyed, we shall, when the war is over, begin where we left off. The events of the past years in Europe have established beyond a doubt that the creation of the National Home is a desperate necessity, a matter of life and death for the Jewish people. The events of the war have also proved that a strong Jewish Palestine is an essential link in the chain of democratic defenses.

Above all the Jews have demonstrated their capacities to build in Palestine a modern commonwealth dedicated to the cause of freedom. Upon these foundations we shall continue to build.

MURRAY HILL 2-1160

Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs

41 EAST 42nd STREET
ROOM 1121
NEW YORK CITY

May 8, 1941

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

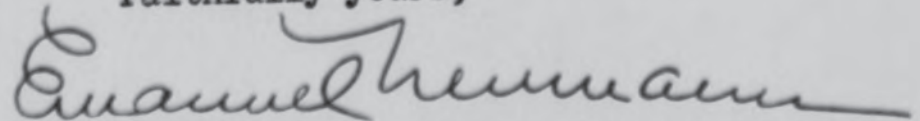
Dear Dr. Silver:

The steady course of events in the Middle East is bringing the war closer to Palestine and all Jews feel that the fullest opportunity for self-defense should be granted the Palestine Jewish community in this critical hour, a community built up with unparalleled toil and self-sacrifice by two generations of Jewish pioneers.

The leaders of this community, seconded by the responsible heads of the Zionist movement throughout the world, have on many occasions urged the establishment of a sizable Jewish military force to fight with Britain for the defense of Palestine and the Middle East. So far this natural desire for a dignified place on the front in the struggle for democracy has been recognized only to a limited extent. Now the Jews of Palestine press this demand with more urgency than ever, and they add the following: that they be enabled to organize an adequately equipped and armed Home Defense Guard to defend their frontiers, their families and their honor.

The Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, which embraces the principal Zionist bodies in America, including the Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah, Mizrachi and Poale Zion, begs to send you enclosed herewith a statement on the position of Palestine and the Middle East, and we respectfully suggest that you devote your forthcoming sermon to this question, emphasizing the paramount importance of self-defense for Palestine. We trust you will find the statement useful as furnishing background material, and your cooperation will be most helpful in crystallizing public sentiment for this all-important objective.

Faithfully yours,



Emanuel Neumann

FOR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

EN:jb
Encl.

P.S. Kindly return the enclosed card to enable us to give your sermon as much public notice as possible.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF OFFICE COMMITTEE

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

May 9, 1941

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Friday, May 9, 1941 at 4:30 p.m. at 41 E. 42nd St.

PRESENT: Mr. Szold, presiding; Mesdames Pool and Schoolman, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lewin-Epstein, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Emanuel Neumann.

TRANSMISSION OF FUNDS TO PALESTINE

Mrs. Pool reported receipt of a cable from the Hadassah Emergency Committee in Palestine asking that a fund of \$30,000 be credited to their account with the American Consul through the State Department. She sought the advice of the Emergency Committee as to procedure.

The chairman said that when it became impossible to transmit funds in the normal manner the cooperation of the State Department might be sought, but at the moment, he did not consider it necessary, and the regular procedure should be followed.

It was agreed that Mr. Szold investigate the matter further with Hadassah.

ARMING THE YISHUV

The chairman stated that the matter of arming the Yishuv against invasion was the most urgent facing American Zionists.

Mr. Neumann reported that he had discussed the current situation with officials in Washington, with newspaper columnists, radio commentators, etc. and enlisted their cooperation.

Dr. Goldmann requested that the question of the effectiveness of a public demonstration at this time, be discussed.

In this connection Dr. Wise recommended that Lord Halifax be told that there is irresistible pressure being brought to bear on Zionist leadership by its constituency "to move heaven and earth" to have Palestine adequately defended against invasion; that unless within the next few days there was every assurance that His Majesty's Government was prepared to arm the Jews in Palestine, it would become necessary to have public meetings with all their implications.

This proposal was welcomed in general, but the wisdom of using public demonstrations as a means of pressure aroused considerable discussion.

Mr. Szold said that it was important to decide whether, in the event that the British Government did not immediately proceed to arm Palestine. Jews, mass meetings would actually be held. He pointed out that a distinction

must be made between - a) mass meetings to stimulate our own people, and
b) mass meetings to bring pressure to bear on the British Government.

In view of the fact that the State Department had already indicated its willingness to cooperate and that Lord Halifax had submitted proposals along these lines with his recommendation, Mr. Szold did not consider the latter proposal wise.

Dr. Goldstein agreed but said that a meeting would be desirable to inform Zionists in America what its leadership was doing.

Dr. Goldmann suggested that no decision be taken until after Dr. Wise had seen Lord Halifax.

Dr. Wise moved and Mrs. Pool seconded the motion that the matter be discussed with Lord Halifax immediately, and that no further decision be taken until after the interview.

On the question of the line to be taken by the Zionist gatherings, it was agreed that the resolutions passed by the UPA at Columbus, Ohio might serve as a model.

It was further decided that the fact of the visit to Lord Halifax be given publicity in the press.

It was agreed that the reply to Lord Halifax's letter be delayed until after the interview with him.

DR. ALBALA'S PROPOSALS

Mr. Lourie reported the receipt of a letter from Dr. Albala, one of the attaches of the Yugoslavian Legation, making various recommendations for the safety of Palestine, including the evacuation of children.

It was decided that the letter be circulated and discussion thereof postponed until the next meeting.

MESSAGE TO ZIONISTS

It was decided that a message be issued by the Emergency Committee to Zionists throughout the country. The message is to be signed by Dr. Wise and the presidents of the four constituent organizations. Dr. Goldstein urged that the Keren Kayemeth be included among the signatories, but this was not accepted.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr. Neumann said that he did not believe that the budget of \$25,000 approved by the Jewish Agency was sufficient for the work of the Emergency Committee. He suggested that Dr. Weizmann's proposal for raising an additional fund of \$250,000 be given serious consideration. After some discussion it was agreed to accept in principle the proposal to attempt to raise such a fund for public relations, political action and other needs. In general it was felt to be unwise to approach non-Zionists in the raising of this fund.

It was decided to postpone further discussion of this question until after a meeting of the budget committee. Mr. Neumann was to bring in proposals on the method to be pursued in raising the funds.

Mrs. Pool recommended that she and Dr. Wise, as vice-chairmen of the Public Relations Committee, should in the absence of Dr. Solomon Goldman, constitute themselves as acting co-chairmen, and should activate the committee. It was decided that this matter be given consideration at the next meeting.

It was agreed that during the present emergency the office be opened on Sunday.

The time of the next meeting of the Office Committee was set for Monday, May 12, at 4:30 p.m.

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Arthur Lourie.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

May 12, 1941.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Monday, May 12, 1941 at 41 E. 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.

PRESENT: Mr. Lipsky, presiding; Mr. Gellman, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Pool, Mrs. Shulman, Mr. Szold, Dr. Wise, Mr. Wertheim.

Dr. N. Goldmann, Mr. Lewin-Epstein, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann.

MR. PERLZWEIG'S REQUEST

The question was raised as to Mr. Perlzweig's right to attend meetings of the Office Committee.

It was the view of most of those present that Mr. Perlzweig was not entitled as of right to be a member of the Office Committee. However, the Committee would welcome warmly any suggestions or recommendations which he might wish to make. He should also receive copies of the minutes and the committee would be happy to have him attend such meetings at which Dr. Wise might feel his presence would be specially useful.

AGENDA

Mr. Szold recommended that in view of the gravity of the situation, the agenda as prepared be dispensed with and the meeting devote itself to serious consideration of the following three aspects of the defense of Palestine:

- a) Self defense
- b) Evacuation
- c) Transmission of monies

On the question of evacuation Mr. Szold said that regardless of the inability of the Committee either to recommend evacuation or to effect it, nevertheless it was a problem which could not be dismissed and must be given deliberate consideration.

SELF DEFENSE

It was reported that a cable had been received from Palestine which urged the necessity for the abolition of the parity arrangement in enlisting Jews and Arabs in the army and the urgent necessity for the mobilization of Jewish battalions.

Mr. Neumann said that in his opinion the cable implied that what Palestine feared most was the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine, which would leave the Jews exposed to the Germans on the one hand and to the Arabs on the other. In his opinion it was doubtful whether the members of the American Palestine Committee could take any effective action in regard to the provision of arms for the Jewish population in Palestine.

Dr. Goldmann said that although much has been done at this end in pressing for the arming of Jews in Palestine, further steps were essential. He made the following specific proposals:

- 1) To try to get the highest quarters to interest themselves and to bring pressure to bear on Great Britain.
- 2) To get the State Department to take further action.
- 3) To try to have the Senators on the American Palestine Committee take whatever action is possible.
- 4) In line with these proposals ^{Dr. Wise} /should again speak with the Undersecretary of State and with Lord Halifax.

These proposals were accepted, and it was agreed that Dr. Wise and another member of the Committee proceed to Washington on the midnight train.

Dr. Goldstein proposed that this might be the time for someone to fly to London. Dr. Wise said that in view of the desperate urgency of the situation in Asia Minor and with London tragically pre-occupied, he believed that any pressure brought on London by the U.S. government would be more effective than anything the Zionists could do as such.

Mr. Szold said that since Palestine had requested that we bring pressure to bear for Jewish mobilization and war supplies, it might be well to find out the opinion of the War Department with reference to the practicability of having some of our own war materials consigned to Palestine. This action might not be possible, but the opinion of the War Department should be sought.

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

There was considerable discussion on the question of having a public demonstration the theme of which to be a Jewish demand for the right to arms for Palestine's Jews.

Dr. Wise said that such a demonstration was our last weapon and the discussion should be postponed until he returned from Washington. This was agreed.

EVACUATION

Mr. Szold said that there was an opinion on the part of certain influential persons here that it would be desirable to make arrangements to enable certain key people in Palestine to leave at short notice. He said that he did not want the question of evacuation dismissed lightly and that the possibility of saving lives must be seriously considered.

Dr. Goldmann said that the question of evacuation from cities had already been seriously considered in Palestine. If funds are needed for this purpose the call must come from Palestine. Evacuation on any important scale from Palestine abroad was, in his view, practically impossible. Dr. Goldmann reported that several requests had come for emergency visas for persons in Palestine. Emergency political visas are not available for persons in British mandated territory and special action would have to be taken. He had consulted with Dr. Wise and no action had been taken on these requests.

The committee endorsed this position.

TRANSMISSION OF FUNDS

There was considerable discussion on the question of remittances to Palestine. Mr. Szold pointed out that the problem was twofold:

- a) The transmission of the regular remittances which did not exceed \$100,000 monthly, and
- b) The transmission of large sums for reserve purposes.

In the matter of the transmission of large sums, Mr. Szold said that the risk was, on the one hand, the seizure of the money by the conqueror in case of invasion, and, on the other, the inability to transmit funds when they may be needed.

Mr. Szold reported that Mr. Lewin-Epstein had investigated the regulations of the Federal Reserve Bank on the transmission of monies abroad, and had learned that no funds could be sent to German-occupied territories. Mr. Szold believed it advisable to keep large sums of money here, since as long as communications are open the risk of seizure by the enemy is greater than the risk of not being able to send funds. If and when we should not be able to send funds normally, then a Treasury license could be applied for.

Mr. Szold recommended specifically that ordinary remittances be sent as usual; that if a request comes for additional funds up to the amount of one hundred or one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, it should be immediately sent; but if there is a request for exceptionally large amounts, then the suggestion should be made to Palestine that they make inquiries about borrowing internally.

Mr. Szold asked for authorization to discuss the matter of the transmission of funds with the State Department. He was so authorized.

Mr. Neumann reported that he had asked Mr. Istorik of the Anglo-Palestine Bank to get in touch with Mr. Szold on this subject.

Mr. Wertheim suggested that Mr. Szold set up a permanent committee which might discuss these problems and report back to the Office Committee.

A cable from Eliahu Epstein, who is in Istanbul, discussing the current situation, was reported.

Arthur Lourie.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS
BUDGET OF
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Note: During the five months, January to May inclusive, the total expenditure of this department is reported by the bookkeeper to have been \$10,985.76 i. e. at the rate of \$2,200 a month on the average.

The budget committee has considered favorably a proposed budget at the rate of \$3,140 monthly, but pending the expected appropriation of the additional sum of \$12,500 by the K. K. L. for this work it is proposed to operate for the present on a budget of \$2,430 a month as follows:

CURRENT (MODIFIED) BUDGET

I.	<u>Salaries (fixed)</u>	
	Director	500.00
	I. Goldberg	300.00
	O. Kritzer	
	@ \$45 a week ca.	190.00
	Miss Flatow	
	@ \$35 a week ca.	150.00
	2 stenographers ca.	<u>200.00</u>
		\$1,340.00
II.	<u>Rent (fixed)</u>	90.00
III.	<u>Publicity material, including (fluctuating)</u>	
	News releases	
	Memoranda	
	Pamphlets & Leaflets	
	Reprints	500.00
IV.	<u>Fees to outsiders for special articles (fluctuating)</u>	150.00
V.	<u>Telephone, telegraph & postage (fluctuating)</u>	150.00
VI.	<u>Political action (fluctuating) including travelling, hotels, etc.</u>	<u>200.00</u>
		<u>\$2,430.00</u>



EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
June 1, 1941

Cash in Bank, Jan. 1, 1941		\$2560.30	
Petty Cash, Jan. 1, 1941		<u>25.00</u>	
		\$2585.30	
<u>Cash Receipts:</u>			
U. P. A.	\$15000.00		
Loan Account repaid	3093.40		
Keren Hayesod	10000.00		
Refunds o/a cables	<u>25.64</u>	<u>28119.04</u>	\$30,704.34
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Undistributed			
Cables, telephone, postage	3131.83		
Printing & Supplies	486.62		
Rent & Equipment	1554.05		
Travelling Expense	<u>146.45</u>	5318.95	
Administrative			
Salaries	2366.05		
Other	<u>36.70</u>	2402.75	
Economic Department		2195.66	
Public Relations Department		10985.76	
Other expenses:			
Palcor	250.00		
President's Advisory Committee	2000.00		
Relief fund for Zionists	100.00		
Visas	<u>200.00</u>	<u>2550.00</u>	
		\$23453.14	
Accounts Receivable		<u>2414.08</u>	
(Expenditures which will be refunded)			
		\$25867.22	
Total expenditures incurred			
Less expenditures made through the Keren Hayesod			
instead of directly through cash disbursement		<u>2279.15</u>	
Total cash disbursement			<u>23,588.07</u>
Cash Balance - June 1, 1941			\$ 7,116.27
Composed as follows:			
Petty Cash - M. S. Raffel	50.00		
Petty Cash - P. R. D.	200.00		
Cash in Bank 6/1/41	<u>6866.27</u>		<u>\$ 7,116.27</u>

Report No. 136

From: Dr. M. Kahany, Geneva

To : Executive, Jerusalem
Executive, London
Emergency Committee, New York

Passages to Palestine

As already mentioned in my report No. 134 from July 22nd, I was busy to explore the possibilities of passage through Portugal - at least for the Palestinians who still remained here. I succeeded now to get for some of them all the necessary transit-visas (South-African, Indian, Iraqi, Portuguese, Spanish and French) and to-day (August 1st) two Palestinians, namely Zwi Schechter and Pinchos Ginsburg left Geneva for Lisbon by car, from where they will proceed through the Cape and Bombay to Basra and Palestine.

In connection with this departure, I cabled to-day to our London office as follows: OBTAINED NOW ALL NECESSARY VISAS FOR PALESTINIANS STILL HERE ENABLING TRIP VIA LISBON CAP EREZ STOP SCHECHTER GINSBURG LEFT TODAY THIS ROUTE SOME OTHERS LEAVING NEXT WEDNESDAY STOP HOPE ARRANGE SUCCESSIVELY FOR MORE PEOPLE SAME TRIP PLEASE CABLE SOUTHAFRICAN FEDERATION HELP SCHECHTER WHEN ARRIVING STOP SCHECHTER WILL CABLE THEM FROM LISBON DATE HIS PASSAGE CAP - (cables sent also to Jerusalem and New York).

It was of course not easy to get all these transit-visas and I had frequently to explain the case to the various consuls concerned. I now arranged with the consuls the visa facilities for nine of our officials here; it depends only for these officials to take advantage of this arrangement. The cost of the trip from Geneva to Erez (by car to Lisbon, by steamer 2nd class to Basra and by plane from Basra to Erez) will amount to approximately L. 140.-. per head (including one full month boarding on the steamers). There are also of course less expensive possibilities (for instance 3rd class steamer and railway instead of plane from Basra). The whole question of travel possibilities by this route will now be practically explored by Schechter who will remain in contact with me and will give me both from Lisbon and from Capetown all the necessary information.

A second group of Palestinians and Palestinian residents (Orenstein, Schwalb, Rubinstein, Dr. Weiss and Dr. Burg) will probably be ready to leave on Wednesday next. Some others are not yet decided and I am afraid that they will miss this opportunity if they continue to hesitate.

If the route from here via France and Spain to Portugal will remain as free as it is now, some of the Olim with Palestine visas who are still in Switzerland would perhaps be able to take the same way. I am watching this side of the problem too.

Correspondence with Palestine - Inquiries through the Red Cross

Correspondence by letter from here with Palestine is practically only possible through the intermediary of one of the Balkan countries. This way takes some 15 days in one direction.

The difficulties obstructed also the exchange of family messages between Palestine and the German occupied territories through the intermediary of the International Red Cross Committee. A new kind of inquiries important now for our Palestine people are those concerning Polish Jewish soldiers who fought in France and are now war prisoners, or interned in some neutral country.

I am in contact with the International Red Cross Committee and with our Executive in Jerusalem on this subject and I hope that this Red Cross correspondence service - which is for thousands of people in Palestine the only way to get some news from their relatives - will in a few weeks function again.

The Agony of the League of Nations

It is hardly necessary to report to you in detail about this problem, as you know it probably from the general news. There is still in Geneva something like a vestige of the L.o.N. - the magnificent buildings of the Secretariate of the L.o.N. and the International Labour Office - but the institution itself does no more exist in political reality. Some technical sections of the League of Nations (financial, economic and social problems) and some services of the I.L.O. are still continuing a kind of research work with a few officials of various nationalities. The Secretary-General of the League (Monsieur Avenol) has resigned and the Director of the I.L.O. returned to the U.S.A. More European countries have or will formally withdraw from this institution which still exists, theoretically only. A little staff - together perhaps some eighty persons - will however remain both in the Secretariate of the L.o.N. and the I.L.O. as long as a formal dissolution has not been pronounced.

Geneva, August 1st, 1940.

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

We desire, on behalf of large numbers of fellow Americans, to express our deep distress and indignation at the unprecedented action of the Palestine administration in deporting 1771 Jewish refugees from Palestine. We deeply regret further, the character of the official communique which seeks to justify the inhumanity of this action by alleging the necessity for safeguarding "the law of the country" and removing a "menace to British interests in the Middle East" - an explanation coupled with the gratuitous and vindictive assertion "that it is not proposed... that they should go to Palestine" after the war.

We register this protest with extreme reluctance. In common with the majority of the people of this land, we ardently desire to expedite to the utmost aid to Britain in her heroic struggle and to avoid any act or word which may add to her burdens. But our very concern for the integrity of the British cause and its ultimate triumph impels us to break our silence when the acts of British officials do violence to those principles of justice and international morality for which Britain has drawn the sword.

The official statement in defense of the deportation procedure, refers to "illegal" Jewish immigration to Palestine... We reject and resent the imputation of illegality as applied to Jewish refugees, fleeing from the horrors of Nazi brutality to the one spot on earth which they may call Home. The "Law of the land" which they have allegedly transgressed is the White Paper, issued before the outbreak of the war by the Chamberlain Government. It was designed to appease and buy off declared and avowed enemies of Great Britain in the Middle East who were encouraged and supported by Nazi and Fascist Agents. It undertook to liquidate the Balfour Declaration, violate treaty obligations and bolt the gates of Palestine to the Jewish people. It was disapproved by the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations and condemned by leading Englishmen including Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. Amery, Sir Archibald Sinclair, Mr. Duff Cooper, and Mr. Herbert Morrison.

To justify the deportation on the basis of the White Paper policy is merely an additional proof, that such policy is inhuman, unjust and calculated to injure the best interests of Great Britain.

Our fundamental attitude towards the war, and our will to extend maximum aid to Great Britain in its prosecution, remain unaltered. We face a common foe toward whom we feel the abhorrence shared by the vast majority of Americans. We share, too, their admiration and regard for the people of Great Britain in these hours of trial. We cannot believe that the British Government having had its attention drawn to this grievous injustice will permit its continuance.