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Zionist Organization of America, minutes, 1944-1945.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE Z.O.A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 16TH, 1944 AT THE METROPOLITAN
ZIONIST BUREAU, 41 EAST 42ND STREET - NEW YORK CITY

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PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, Presiding; Robert M. Bernstein, Samuel Berson, Maurice M. Boukstein, Sol Cohen, Jacob Fishman, Daniel Frisch, Abraham Goldstein, Abraham Goodman, Dr. Simon Greenberg, Dr. James G. Heller, Edmund I. Kaufmann, Rabbi Israel Levinthal, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Irving D. Lipkowitz, Louis Lipsky, Rabbi Irving Miller, Emanuel Neumann, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Louis E. Spiegler, Dewey D. Stone, Robert Szold, and Herman Weisman.

BY INVITATION: Sumner Alpert, Jason H. Korelitz, Avukah, Z. Paul Byne and Herzl Fishman, Masada; Morris Bernstein, Dr. Josef Cohen, Mendel N. Fisher, Benjamin R. Harris, Samuel F. Jacobson, Zvi Levavy, William Sylk, and Meyer W. Weisgal.

Dr. S. Bernstein, Dr. Shlomo Bardin, Hyman Getzoff, Oscar Leonard, and Saul S. Spiro.

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN opened the meeting by reporting that, in the absence of Mr. Shetzer, due to continued illness, his work has been taken over by Messrs. Barbarash and Spiro. Dr. Goldstein extended welcome to the meeting's special guests, Sgt. Robert Eisenbach (who has been extremely helpful in the preparation of a series of radio scripts), Mr. Samuel Jacobson, newly elected President of the Chicago Zionists, Mr. Benjamin Harris of Chicago; Mr. Edmund I. Kaufmann, newly elected Chairman of the War Bond Drive; and William Sylk.

I. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: - - - Mr. Saul S. Spiro

DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The last month saw an unprecedented upsurge in Z.O.A. activities and achievements, not only in continued membership enrollment but also in the fields of public relations, propaganda and other major functions.

The growth of membership is a reflection and direct result of the extent to which the Z.O.A. efforts have penetrated into the remotest communities in the country. As of May 16th, the Z.O.A. membership total for the current year reached 111,304, representing an increase of 43,349 over the total membership on September 30, 1943, the end of our last fiscal year when our membership totaled 67,621. Our present figure represents an increase of 34% over the entire last year's membership. Of the 90,486 members who remitted their dues for 1944 as of May 16th, 44,683 were new recruits who never heretofore belonged to a Zionist organization. These are

still 21,878 members whose dues are renewable before the expiration of the current year. Bills were mailed to most of the delinquent members and we have good reason to believe that the number of delinquents for 1944 will be one of the smallest in Zionist history.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Responding to Dr. Goldstein's communication setting forth the immediate tasks of American Zionists in the present hour, Z.O.A. District officers have set the stage for a renewed effort along a broad front. These activities embrace the following objectives, outlined by Dr. Goldstein in the light of the latest developments.

- a. Maintaining the closest contact with and representation on local Zionist Emergency Councils and assuming the lead in mobilizing community-wide support for Zionist projects in line with the directives received from the American Zionist Emergency Council and the Z.O.A.
- b. To elicit commitments from congressmen and senators to support the Palestine Resolution.
- c. To devote the months of May and June to the re-enrollment of members in arrear and to the enlistment of the largest possible number of new recruits. To combat the activities of the American Council for Judaism through the medium of literature and the platform.
- d. The need of educating the non-Jewish public to the problems of our people through the dissemination of the newly published Zionist books.

In the fight against the White Paper our Districts are continuing to take the lead in the activities of the local Emergency Councils. Reports reaching us indicate that the representatives who will attend the Washington Conference on May 23rd and 24th will comprise a majority of active Z.O.A. District leaders. Our national office has been channelizing a great deal of the Zionist Emergency Council material. Our field directors have been working in closest cooperation with the Emergency Councils in mobilizing public support.

Our efforts to combat and counteract the propaganda activities of the so-called American Council for Judaism have in recent months been intensified. The degree to which we have applied ourselves to this task may be gauged by the fact that in the past few weeks the available supply of all our pamphlets aimed at answering the Council's propaganda have been exhausted, due to the large numbers of orders which we filled. These pamphlets include:

1. "American Council For Judaism" by Jacob J. Weinstein
2. "The Answer" by Rabbi James G. Heller
3. "Pathological Jews" by Dr. Israel Goldstein

In addition to reprinting these pamphlets, we are also now planning to publish a series of new pamphlets, which we believe will serve as effective media in combating the Council propaganda. These will include pamphlets from our friends Daniel Frisch, Maurice Samuel, and others. Particular credit for the successful and effective fight that is being waged is due to the diligent and able services of our field

staff, especially in the territories in which the Council is active. Thus on the Pacific Coast a magnificent job is being done by Maurice Kesner, (himself an experienced newspaper and public relations man.) The same applies to the Southeast and Southwest, of which Adalbert Freedman and Julius Israel are in charge respectively.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

In the general field of public relations the past month saw the publications of new pamphlets and other material designed to stimulate Zionist sentiment and Z.O.A. organizational activities. The newly published material includes an illustrated broadside "D Day is Here"; a reprint of the Collier's article by Gervasi entitled "The Jew as a Soldier"; a collection of articles from the N.P. dealing with the Jewish Commonwealth, entitled "Our Contribution to a Better World." Additional pamphlets are now in preparation. The total number of Z.O.A. pamphlets distributed upon request through N.H.Q. during the past month exceeded 100,000, bringing up the total of such pamphlets distributed since the Convention to close to one million copies.

The May issue of the News Reporter is now in press. It has been converted into an eight page tabloid format, and should be in your hands before the end of this week. You will be interested to learn that two separate divisions of the State Department have specifically requested that they be placed on the mailing list of the bulletin "Inside Palestine", issued by Ernest E. Barbarash. During the past month Z.O.A. publicity items have received wide space in the general press, particularly the item on the manifesto issued by the Administrative Council - and the launching of the War Bond Campaign.

WAR BOND

As you are aware Mr. E. I. Kaufmann has accepted our invitation to serve as chairman of the War Bond Campaign this year. Although a minimum quota of 25 millions has been announced, it is expected that the sum raised will reach 50 millions in view of the fact that our membership has doubled. In spite of the fact that our Executive personnel is working under great strain and handicaps due to the increased responsibilities and manpower shortage, each one of us, nevertheless, has thrown himself into this work to help insure the success of the Campaign. Mr. E. Barbarash and myself have constituted ourselves as a sort of "secretariat" in this War Bond Campaign, in order to extend to Mr. Kaufmann every measure of cooperation.

PLANS FOR SUMMER

Paradoxical as it may sound, the hot summer months have in the past few years been marked by unrelenting activities by our Districts. With our Conventions usually held in the Fall, the summer months were utilized for preparatory efforts for the coming year. The present political situation makes the forthcoming summer months of special value and importance in terms of marshalling greater strength for our cause.

Accordingly we in N.H.Q. are devoting our attention for formulating plans for a productive summer season. These plans provide for a nation-wide observance of the 40th anniversary of the death of Theodor Herzl, which occurs on July 11, 1944. The Z.O.A. also plans, in conjunction with the Zionist Emergency Council, to mark with

appropriate observance the 22nd anniversary of the passage of the Palestine Resolution in both Houses of Congress in 1922. Manuals and programs for these occasions are now in preparation.

At the last meetings of the Executive and Administrative Dr. Goldstein was authorized to go ahead with the Convention arrangements. Mr. Daniel Frisch was named by him as Convention Chairman. The tentative date of the Convention has been set for October 14-15-16 and will be held in the Commodore Hotel in New York. We hardly had any choice as to the date and location of the Convention. Mr. Frisch will, no doubt, report to you in more detail on this subject.

I cannot conclude this report without an expression of thanks to Mr. Berson, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Mr. A. Goodman, our Treasurer, for the generous and sacrificial manner in which they are serving the organization. At the expense of their own time they are devoting countless hours and energy to the task of supervising the financial aspects of our growing organization.

Before I sit down I want to report that the Z.O.A. as such is taking cognizance of the 25th anniversary of Dr. Goldstein's public service as spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, which is being marked by the Congregation with a dinner on Tuesday evening, May 23. On behalf of the entire Executive staff of the Z.O.A., I am happy to convey to Dr. Goldstein our sincerest felicitations and warmest good wishes on this auspicious occasion.

The Report approved.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. A cable received from the Union of the Sons of the Yishuv on the 25th Anniversary of the death of Aaron Aronson, requesting that the ZOA commemorate the occasion on a nationwide scale, was read by Dr. Goldstein. A discussion on the nature of the Organization ensued in which Messrs. Boukstein, Szold and Dr. Goldstein participated. Dr. Simon Greenberg moved that the event be noted in The New Palestine, and that the ZOA send greetings through the Vaad Leumi in Palestine.

The motion was seconded and carried.

B. Dr. Goldstein called attention to the request of I.R. Goodman of the St. Louis District that notice be taken by the Executive Committee that 1,000 members had been enrolled single-handed in the St. Louis District by Mr. Louis Collin. The following resolution was adopted:

R E S O L U T I O N

The National Executive Committee of the Zionist Organization of America, meeting on Tuesday, May 16th, 1944, in New York City, under the chairmanship of Dr. Israel Goldstein, president, records its sense of pride and gratification at the outstanding and unique achievements of Mr. Louis Collin of St. Louis, Mo., in having single-handed, over a comparatively short period, enrolled one thousand members in the Zionist Organization of America.

The National Z.O.A. Executive joins the Zionists and the entire Jewish community of St. Louis in extending to Mr. Louis Collin a warm tribute and testimonial in

recognition of his exemplary record of service to the cause of his people and the upbuilding of Jewish Palestine. It is indeed indicative of Mr. Collin's broadness of vision and wide range of activity that parallel with his abiding interest in the numerical growth of the Zionist Organization of America he had given of his time, energy and possessions to the furtherance of Jewish cultural values and the strengthening of Jewish education. The establishment by him of the Collin-Berwitz Scholarship Fund which has financed the transportation, maintenance and tuition of many students in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, his initiation of some fifty additional study groups throughout St. Louis on the history and philosophy of Zionism, Judaism and Jewish contemporary and post-war problems, as well as his vital contributions towards the educational integration of the Zionist rank-and-file - all these and many other accomplishments truly constitute an enviable record of productive achievements for the welfare of the community and the preservation of our sacred heritage.

On this occasion of the testimonial being tendered to Mr. Louis Collin we say to him: CHAZAK VE-AMATZ!

III. AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM:

Dr. Heller reported that the Extension Fund is now over \$48,000. The following report prepared by Oscar Leonard:

REPORT OF UNITY COMMITTEE

Funds

"Over \$46,000.00 has been collected from a select group of Zionists. All work for collecting this fund was done from the President's office, under Dr. Heller, Chairman of the Committee, and with the assistance of Mr. Oscar Leonard. As of May 5, 1944, the Committee has 467 contributors; total contributions of \$45,168.00; and pledges of approximately \$30,000.00.

Other Activities

"In addition to more than 3000 pieces of mail circulated regarding the collection of funds, the Office has corresponded with all 20 Districts and secretaries regarding the menace of the Council of Zionism, requests for co-operation and suggestions, requests for lists of persons in their communities to be sent counter-active literature, and requests to Zionists able to contribute funds to this work. District Presidents have been asked to appoint 5 members each for the Committee on Unity For Palestine. There has been a 40% response to this request, --- which has also been valuable in indicating the Council's strength or weakness in various sections of the Country.

"A list of members of the Council was obtained and several hundred copies of Rabbi Weinstein's pamphlet have been sent to them, as was Dr. Heller's "An Answer." Presidents of all Reform Temples have all received copies of Dr. Lowdermilk's book, and have been asked for comments. An article from the American Mercury, "Jews Who Fight Zionism", by Maurice Samuel, has been reprinted for distribution.

"Several hundred names and addresses have been obtained from our 467 contributors, and publications have been sent to these parties.

"The Committee feels that all areas in the U.S. are not equally affected by the work of the Council. The West Coast is particularly affected and the Committee is carrying on a special program in this area. The program is being observed carefully to determine what part of its activities can be applied to other communities. Dr. Heller is spending the Summer in California, and will work with our Committee there. Local methods are being evolved to deal with the special problems raised in Houston. The Council has recently attempted to organize in Atlanta, Georgia. The Committee, in co-operation with the Zionist office there, has sent literature and is rendering such service as is needed.

B. B. Debates

"In order to observe the efforts of the Council to establish itself in various communities, the Committee has gleaned information through the Anglo-Jewish Press; and has contacted Zionist leaders to keep us informed as to the nature of the meetings and activities of the Council. Addresses were delivered in various communities by Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Heller, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Rev. Evans, Rabbi Lelyveld, Judge Levinthal, Maurice Samuel, and Oscar Leonard. In connection with this counteractive work, Mr. Leonard visited 5 different communities. His latest visit was to Boston to confer with Rabbi Joshua Liebman and others, in view of the Council's activities there. Plans are being made that will counteract the work, not only in New England, but nationally.

"A study is being made of the geographic distribution of Council membership and the relation of such membership to anti-Zionist Rabbis in various communities. Contact with Zionist groups all over the country has convinced the Committee that, in addition to the national phase of counteracting the Council, there are local situations which require specific, local treatment, such as the Mass Meeting sponsored by the local Committee on Unity for Palestine, in Cincinnati, May 21st. The same type of thing may be developed in other communities.

"The Committee feels that the work is still in an experimental stage, and knowledge of how to operate in various affected areas will be much increased after Rabbi Lelyveld and Rabbi Weinstein return from their field work during the summer. It will then be possible to intensify activities, particularly if the funds are available."

Dr. Heller disclosed that he received a request from the Houston, Texas Zionist Organization, requesting him to come to that city, which he will do. The speaker added that the reports received indicate that the American Council for Judaism has intensified its activities considerably in the past few months, particularly in Cincinnati. The Committee on Unity for Palestine established by the Z.O.A. has to counteract this by letters to Welfare Fund subscribers and through advertisements in Jewish newspapers. A communication, circulated by the American Council for Judaism among its friends, appealing for funds and attacking the ZOA, was read. (Letter on file)

Discussion followed on the necessity for an enlarged program of activity to combat the American Council for Judaism.

A letter by Dr. Heller was submitted rendering his resignation as chairman of the Unity Committee. He stated he was unable to do justice to the chairmanship of the Committee because of his multiple responsibilities as Chairman of the U.P.A.

In the course of the discussion that followed in which Messrs. Kaufmann, Berson, Frisch spoke, Mr. Heller expressed his regrets at his inability to reconsider his decision, emphasizing the need for redoubled efforts via literature, speakers, and a general concerted drive to combat the Council.

Dr. Heller's resignation was accepted, with the provision that he continue as Chairman pending the appointment of a successor.

IV. AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL:

Dr. Goldstein, in the absence of Dr. Silver, gave a brief summary of the committee's discussions with Ickes, Hull, Stettinius and two Government experts. Dr. Goldstein's impression of these reports is that assurances were given the Committee that nothing in these projects is to jeopardize the interests of the Jewish National Home. (Report on file)

Discussion of the political scene followed. (Remarks on file)

V. 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - DR. GOLDSTEIN - B'NAI JESHURUN:

A motion was made by Judge Levinthal that the Committee adopt a resolution to mark the 25th Anniversary of Dr. Goldstein's leadership of B'nai Jeshurun, and that a Committee be appointed to partake in the celebration. Motion unanimously approved.

VI. PUBLICATIONS:

Judge Levinthal, Chairman of Committee on Publication, reported that Maurice Samuel's "Harvest in the Desert", 25,000 copies of which are being issued by the Jewish Publication Society of America, will appear shortly. The book, published by Knopf and the Jewish Publication Society, will sell for \$3.00. The Z.O.A. will receive copies at a special price of \$1.00.

Judge Levinthal also reported that the Biography of David Wolfson by Dr. Emil Bernard Cohn will be published shortly by the Z.O.A. Rabbi Mortimer J. Cohen has already translated the first 12 chapters of the Biography. He also reported that Carl Alpert's article "Palestine Between Two Wars", which appeared in the Jewish Encyclopedia is now being rewritten by Mr. Alpert and will be published in pamphlet form by the Z.O.A.

VII. AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

Discussion of the impending second session of the American Jewish Conference on September 2nd in Chicago, was led by Dr. Goldstein. Mr. Lipsky felt that the Conference, due to internal conflicts and classes of interests, had been a failure to date, with objectives undefined and a general lack of purpose and harmony. He felt that Zionists should honestly face the issue of whether or not the continuation of the Conference was of any value.

Dr. Heller, agreeing with Mr. Lipsky, felt that the shortcoming of the first Conference was due to lack of clarity in outlining its proper functions, and that an unofficial meeting of all Zionist groups to discuss the whole problem of the conference and its essential policies, should be held. Dr. Goldstein stated that there had been two sessions of such a meeting composed of members of the Interim

Committees, which he believed would continue to meet. Mr. Frisch felt that the degeneration of the Conference had been due to the opposition of the Zionists, and that Zionists could hardly propose its continuation. Rabbi Miller, however, felt that the dissolution of the Conference on the part of American Jewry would deprive Zionism of much valuable support. He endorsed Dr. Heller's suggestion that a meeting of Zionist Executive bodies be called prior to the second conference.

Maurice Boukstein and Meyer Weisgal, Robert Bernstein and E. I. Kaufmann participated in the discussion. (Remarks on file)

Dr. Heller's motion for the convening of a meeting of executive bodies of Zionist organizations in advance of the second meeting of the American Jewish Conference was brought to a vote and carried.

VIII. RADIO SERIES:

The Committee heard a radio transcription of one of a series of programs entitled "Palestine Speaks", starring Joseph Shilkraut. The transcription was presented as a sample of the type of program the Radio Committee plans to present. The series are to be 15-minute programs, in transcribed form, featuring such artists as Gene Kelly, Edward G. Robinson, Jane Cowl, Anne Seymour, Victor Jory, Cornelia Otis Skinner, etc. In the absence of Joshua Epstein, Chairman of the Radio Committee, Mr. Getzoff explained; that the series is to present, in dramatic form, the people of Palestine, working, fighting, dying. It is anticipated that the series will be of untold benefit for the ZOA and for Palestine. The commercial at the end of each program will highlight various aspects of Zionist ideology. Virtually every radio station approached has offered free time to the series, he reported.

Mr. Berson who has been assisting with the series, stated that the cost of the recording would be \$600.00 each. Twenty-six such recordings are planned, to be distributed throughout the country with accompanying instructions to each community as to the best approach to local radio stations. Six thousand dollars had already been loaned towards the production of the recordings--but the committee will go out and obtain contributions to finance the project, and Mr. Berson believes that the project will cost the ZOA nothing. It is planned to give the recording to small communities gratis, in view of the expense involved for the communities. The committee desires authority to proceed in the name of the Z.O.A. and raise funds for the project. Six hundred dollars per program is to be paid to the corporation for the production of the recording.

A motion was made and carried that the President be authorized to continue these programs under his direction, and a committee be appointed to work out the details of implementing the series.

The motion was seconded and carried.

X. ZIONIST PETITION:

Dr. Goldstein raised the question of whether the ZOA ought to undertake a mass petition of Jews and non-Jews to assure the American support of Palestine. After discussion of the question by Messrs Fishman, Spiro, Stone, Dr. Greenberg, and Weisgal, the consensus of opinion was that such a petition should be handled by the Emergency Committee. Mr. Stone moved that the ZOA go on record as opposed to such

a petition for the present. Mr. Bouketein added the amendment that there should be no decision on the petition by the Emergency Council until this body decides to take it up again, nor until it was discussed again at a meeting of the Emergency Council.

The motion, with this amendment, seconded was carried.

Due to the lateness of the hour, a motion was adopted to convene a Special meeting of the Executive on May 25th to complete unfinished business.

Respectfully submitted

Saul S. Spiro



MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE METROPOLITAN ZIONIST BUREAU
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1944
NEW YORK CITY

PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, presiding. Samuel Berson, Maurice M. Boukstein, Jacob Fishman, Abraham Goldstein, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Louis Lipsky, Rabbi Irving Miller, Emanuel Neumann, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Herman Shulman, Louis E. Spiegler, Elihu D. Stone, Herman L. Weisman.

Dr. Salomo Bardin, Paul Beyne, Dr. Josef Cohen, Mendel M. Fisher, Herzl Fishman, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, I.L. Kenen, Meyer Weisgal.

Ernest Barbarash, Dr. S. Bernstein, Herman J. Getzoff, Oscar Leonard, Dr. Ludwig Lewisochn, Sidney Marks, Saul S. Spiro, Benjamin Weingart.

I. KEREN HAYESOD.

The meeting opened with discussion of the American Keren Hayesod's suspension of its monthly allotments to the New York Bureau of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Dr. Goldmann felt that the work done by the Jewish Agency Bureau in Latin America, New Zealand, Australia, and other countries, thoroughly justified such regular payment of funds. Mr. Lipsky and Mr. Weisgal maintained that the suspension of the regular payments by the American Keren Hayesod was violation of its authority inasmuch as it was contrary to the instructions of the Jewish Agency Executive at Jerusalem.

A motion was made and carried unanimously: That, in the opinion of the ZOA, representatives of Keren Hayesod should respect the decision of the World Jewish Agency Executive, and resume its monthly regular payments to the American Bureau of the Jewish Agency.

II. LEAGUE FOR PALESTINE.

Dr. Goldstein brought up for discussion the activities of the brand new groups "League for a free Palestine" and "Hebrew Committee of National Liberation," which were organized by the so-called Bergson Group as an addition to the half a dozen other front organizations established by the same person. He referred to the opening of the so-called "Hebrew Embassy" in Washington which was sharply condemned by all responsible Jewish and Zionist bodies in U.S.A. and Palestine.

Dr. Goldmann assured the committee that he had been told that neither the State Department nor the official British Authorities will extend any recognition whatsoever to the Group's activities or delegation. Feeling that many people had lent their names to the Group under a misconception of its history and nature, Dr. Goldmann contacted various legations in Washington with reference thereto. Mr. Shulman informed the meeting that Senator Wagner

had sent a letter of denunciation to the Group, which letter will be circularized to the members of the American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council for Palestine. He felt that the task should be synchronized through the Emergency Committee. Mr. Weisman felt that the Group must be dealt with in a drastic manner, particularly because it has begun to organize the youth. Mr. Shulman agreed with Mr. Weisman and noted that the statement made by the Bergson Group stressed not only the fact that it intends to use the youth in political decisions, but also that it does not intend to fight the White Paper.

Dr. Goldstein summarized the discussion: (1) That the ZOA, having the greatest stake in the problem, must take all possible steps to counteract the activities of the Group. (2) That local districts be communicated with, and the situation outlined to them, and that those who lent their names to the Group be made acquainted with the real facts; (3) That the field staff be made aware of the problem, and that public opinion be hammered away at persistently.

III. "NEW" ZIONIST ORGANIZATION:

The problem of confusion arising from the similarity of the New Zionist Organization, which was assumed by the Revisionists, was breached by Dr. Goldstein. This error in identification has led people to contribute to the Revisionists, under the impression that they were dealing with the Z.O.A.

Mr. Boukstein moved that a committee of lawyers be appointed to study every aspect of the case, and bring a definite recommendation to the next meeting of the Executive Committee. Motion seconded and unanimously adopted.

IV. THE "NEW PALESTINE."

Dr. Goldstein reported on the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the present New Palestine be converted into a monthly magazine devoted to literary, educational and political features, and that the ZOA News Reporter, formerly circulated to District officers and key people, be made into a house organ to be sent to the entire membership. Mr. Ludwig Lewisohn said that the job of improvement of the present New Palestine is a long range one, and asked that no judgment be passed on the New Palestine magazine until a later period when the newly planned improvement will have taken shape.

Mr. Lipsky felt that the ZOA should wait until September to resolve the question of type of publications. Mr. Neumann suggested that, due to the manifold phases in the education of Zionists, two publications are necessary-- one in a popular vein; and another, a more serious publication of a literary nature.

V. AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE.

Mr. Lipsky felt that the ZOA had a grave responsibility in reference to the conference, and that the delegates should face the possibility of "healthy" dissonances of opinion. He also said that the ZOA must have something concrete to submit as to what is necessary to complete the conference.

Mr. Shulman, too, felt that the basic question was that of the position of Zionists toward the conference. He felt that the second session should be largely devoted to a review of Zionist aims, and the rights and status of the Jews in Europe. It should be no occasion for subjecting the Palestine Resolution to another vote.

Motion made by Mr. Lipsky: That the Officers of the ZOA communicate immediately with all Zionist delegates elected to the Conference, and urge them, on receiving the official Conference invitation, to send notice of their intention to be present at the Conference.

VI. AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL.

Rabbi Miller reported on the conference of the Zionist Emergency Council Contact Chairmen, held in Washington and attended by 190 delegates representing 130 cities in 39 states. Items discussed were: the political situation surrounding the Palestine Resolution in Congress, the strengthening of the American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council on Palestine, and the intensification of general public relations programs in communities through press and radio. The conference was most fruitful and reports given by delegates have shown that tremendous activity has spread Zionist propaganda to hitherto unpenetrated areas. Sentiment in Congress has been so aroused that it can be said that but for military interference, the Resolution would have passed overwhelmingly.

VII. POLITICAL PROSPECTS.

The political situation was discussed by Dr. Goldstein. He reported on conversations with Mr. Stettinius, who just returned from London. It was the impression that Mr. Churchill was deeply concerned with the Palestine problem.

VIII. LOWE DER MILK DINNER.

Mr. Neumann reported that the dinner was an overwhelming success, especially in regard to the response it elicited from government officials.

IX. YOUTH COMMISSION.

Mr. Weisman reported on the achievements of the American Zionist Youth Commission, and its plans for the future. Local Youth Commissions are active in 147 communities and are doing an effective job in serving Zionist youth needs in these communities. The Brandeis Camp has to its credit a total 300 trained youth who have taken up leadership and intensified Zionist activities in their communities. The budget, however, has been found insufficient to accommodate field workers, Mr. Weisman said.

There has been a doubling in the membership of Young Judaea for this year in New England. Masada too has intensified its work, and is functioning despite the fact that many of its members are in the Armed Forces. The speaker further reported that training of youth leaders progresses through study groups, week-end Institutes, and the Brandeis Camp. The Camp Institute has been found most effective, and this year a much larger group is expected. Scholarships to the camp will be presented to 35 or 40 campus leaders, to increase youth activity on the campuses. Hillel hopes to have chapters of an Intercollegiate Federation.

Dr. Bardin attributed the upward trend in youth groups not only to the general interest in Zionist ideology, but to the cumulative effect of the Youth work. Young Judaea has shown an increase of 40--50%. Dr. Bardin also felt that it is essential to educate a nucleus of people who will understand and clarify Zionism for others. He feels that the Brandeis Camp is the best means for training Zionist leaders.

Mr. Byne, reporting for Masada, urged a larger financial assistance for his organization. He asked that the importance of Masada as a source of future leadership should be considered by the Executive Committee.

Dr. Goldstein announced that the August meeting of the ZOA Executive Committee will be held at the Brandeis Camp.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Saul S. Spiro



MINUTES OF THE ZOA ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON JULY 9TH, 1944
AT THE HOTEL RITZ CARLTON, PHILADELPHIA, PENN.

PRESENT: Judge Louis E. Levinthal, (presiding); Oscar Altshuler, Dr. Ilie Berger, Robert M. Bernstein, Samuel Berson, Rabbi Maurice J. Bloom, Frank Brown, Dr. Aaron Burman, Z. Paul Byne, Sol Cohen, David J. Dean, Joshua S. Epstein, Mendel N. Fisher, Ernest Freudenheim, Buffalo, N. Y. (guest), Daniel Frisch, Joseph Goldberg, Rabbi I. M. Goldman, Reuben Goldman, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Abraham Goodman, Israel R. Goodman, Rabbi Simon Greenberg, Rabbi William Greenfield, Michael Hanin, Leon A. Kohn, Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, Joseph H. Lerner, Aaron Metchik, (guest), Max Nigrosh, Rabbi Isidore Passow, Leo J. Rosen, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Hon. Albert D. Schanzer, Bernard Skulman, Joseph W. Spector, Louis E. Spiegler, Dewey D. Stone, William H. Sytk, Dr. David Tannenbaum, Abraham I. Uslander, and Herman L. Weisman. (Incomplete - failed to register).

Ernest E. Barbarash, Isidore Cooperman, Yale Goldberg, Oscar Leonard, Dr. Sidney Marks, Harry L. Shapiro, Saul S. Spiro.

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Judge Levinthal presided in the absence of Dr. James G. Heller. Mr. Saul S. Spiro, Acting Secretary, reported.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

"With activities keyed to the global needs arising from world liberation, the Zionist Organization of America has, in the past three months, put into effect an enlarged nationwide program of dynamic effort in every field of Zionist and general endeavor. Never in the annals of our organization - I dare say, even including the period of the first world war - have our manifold activities been marked by such tempo, vitality and productiveness. The response on the part of our Zionist constituency - both officers and rank and file - to this program was beyond expectation.

"The objective set by our President, Dr. Israel Goldstein to make the Zionist Organization of America the largest Jewish organization in the world in terms of membership, has been achieved.

"This phenomenal achievement, as well as the extraordinary accomplishments in other fields are, of course, attributable primarily to the tireless and devoted efforts of our Regional and District officers and key people who have applied themselves with energy and enthusiasm to carry out the plans that have been mapped by the ZOA and constituent organizations.

"While forming a major portion of district activities, membership enrollment in the past three months was accompanied by an equally large measure of educational, youth and public relations activities. The growing concern of our membership with the world Jewish situation has also been reflected in the degree of support extended to the United Palestine Appeal and Jewish National Fund drives in terms of larger contributions for rescue and Palestine rehabilitation. The dominant role of the ZOA District's activities is also powerful evident in the spirit and accomplishments of the local Zionist Emergency Council. This was strikingly demonstrated by the recent conference of American Zionist

Emergency contact chairman held in Washington, when the overwhelming majority of delegates were ZOA officers and key people.

"The month of June will go down in Zionist history as a period of unprecedented achievements in patriotic endeavor. I refer to the great success of the Zionist War Bond Drive under the chairmanship of Mr. Michael I. Kaufmann, concerning which my colleague Mr. Barbarash, secretary of the War Effort Committee, will give you a more detailed report. Thus, in membership, in culture, in education, public relations, publications, in the fight against the American Council for Judaism and in all other fields of major patriotic effort, the past three months were truly a banner period of unprecedented and historic achievements.

Membership

"As of June 7, 1944, the ZOA membership for the current year reached 118,952 representing an increase of 51,331 over the total membership on September 30, 1943, the end of our last fiscal year, when membership totaled 67,621. The present total is exclusive of the close to 4,000 members of our affiliated fraternal organization, Order Sons of Zion. Thus, our present figure indicates an increase of 85% over the entire last year's membership and almost double the membership of the same period last year. Of the 103,200 members who paid their dues for the current year as of June 7, the membership total of 51,331 were new recruits who have never belonged to a Zionist organization. Although there are still some 15,752 members whose dues are renewable before the expiration of the current year, we have every reason to believe that the majority of these will be restored to our rolls.

"A word of appreciation is due to Mr. William Sylk, general chairman of our membership committee, who despite illness, resumed with unabated vigor his tireless efforts. Mention should be made of the unexcelled efforts of Mr. Dewey D. Stone, as chairman of the Life Membership committee. He has single-handedly enrolled 200 Life members and, if to date we have brought up the total to 815 Life Members, it is due in large measure to him and his co-chairman, Mr. Jacob Sincoff. I would be remiss in my duty if I failed to mention the many other Zionists who have rendered yeoman service in this important phase of activities. You have seen their names in the Honor List that has been published in the ZOA News Reporter.

"The key note was sounded in the call which our President issued to American Zionists immediately following the invasion of France in which he stressed the need for the Jews of America to speak with one tremendous force - through the Zionist Organization of America.

Literature

"In line with our policy to keep Z.O.A. Districts fully and constantly informed of all developments and to furnish them with adequate material, the national Z.O.A. headquarters in the past three months has mailed to the districts pamphlets, reprints and directives dealing with various aspects of the movement. Rabbi Arthur J. Elyvold has kindly consented to devote the summer months to direct the work of the Committee on Unity for Palestine. In addition to the pamphlets specifically aimed against the propaganda of the so called American Council for Judaism, such as those excellent pamphlets by Dr. James G. Heller, Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, Dr. Israel Goldstein and reprints now in press by Daniel Frisch and others, our Public Relations and Publications Department has

published 10 other valuable pamphlets on Palestine and Zionism. In addition to sponsoring a distribution of books including "Breathe Upon These" by Ludwig Lewisohn, "Harvest In The Desert" by Maurice Samuel, "Palestine - Land of Promise" by Walter C. Lowdermilk and "Testament To Democracy" by the late Lord Wedgwood, the Z.O.A. Book Department, under the direction of Isidoro Cooperman, has undertaken the establishment of Zionist libraries and in arranging for exhibits of book programs on behalf of Zionist Districts.

Speakers Bureau

"The Z.O.A. speakers bureau under the direction of Yale Goldberg has in the period under review furnished speakers for 1800 meetings. It has prepared extensive plans for expanded activities in the fall. Arrangements are now under way to secure the acceptance by various outstanding lecturers of speaking tours in behalf of the Zionist Organization. We earnestly solicit the cooperation of all members of the Executive and Administrative Council, as we feel that many of the difficulties confronting the bureau can be overcome by their increased acceptance of speaking engagements through the various regions.

The New Palestine

"One of the most effective instruments of education and propaganda is The New Palestine. To meet the needs of a growing and varied membership, it was decided to transform the present New Palestine into a monthly magazine devoted to political, literary, and editorial features. The Z.O.A. News Reporter, which originally appeared as a campaign publication and circulated among District officers and key people only, has been converted into a house-organ to be mailed alternately to the entire membership. Editor of the house-organ is Ernest E. Barbarash, our Public Relations Director, who has been responsible for the publication of the original Z.O.A. News Reporter. Each one of you have undoubtedly received the first issue of The New Palestine in its new dress. I am sure that the issue meets with your approval.

"Those entrusted with the responsibility for The New Palestine magazine are endeavoring to carry out what they conceive to be the intention of the President and the Z.O.A. Executive. Isidoro Cooperman continues to carry out his functions as managing editor while Dr. Ludwig Lewisohn, in addition to acting as editorial writer, is assuming a broader responsibility for the literary quality of the contributions. The improvements must of necessity take some time to manifest themselves. If the July 14 issue of The New Palestine magazine shows any trace of such improvements, then it is certain that a continuance of the efforts now exerted will before long produce a magazine which will be a source of satisfaction to us all.

Convention

"The 47th Annual Convention of the Z.O.A. has been set for October 14 through 17. The Convention Committee headed by Mr. Daniel Frisch, taking into account our enlarged membership and war-time transportation difficulties, has decided to recommend to this body an important change in the election rules designed to reduce the representation to the Convention.

Budget

"The comptroller's office, under the direction of Mr. Benjamin Weingart, reports that the financial status of the Zionist Organization is in a sound condition.

"Effective improvements have been instituted in the procedure and administration of the comptroller's office which are satisfactorily meeting the tremendous impact of the vastly increased membership and demands for financing of activities.

"District and Regional offices everywhere are showing a fine spirit of helpful understanding of the problems of administration created by shortage of manpower and equipment. But steps are being taken to offset these handicaps and to improve all services.

Book Department

"In recent months the Book Department under the direction of Isidore Cooperman has shown remarkable progress. A study of the statistics shows that in the first nine months of this season (October through June) the Book Department sold 8,555 books, whereas in the same period last year 3,018 books were sold.

"For the first time there is now available an active mailing list of individuals, organizations and libraries which have purchased material from the Book Department within in the last four years.

"A great stimulus to the sale of literature was the publication of the Catalogue of Books and Pamphlets on Palestine and Zionism in May. The accelerated pace is revealed in the sale of 1,800 books in the month of June.

"The Department has contacted all Jewish chaplains and Jewish Community Centers and has received many requests for pamphlets material and books.

"The Book Department also is in charge of mailing out Z.O.A. educational pamphlet material. In May, 24,000 pieces of such literature were mailed. In June the figure leaped to 48,500.

"The Book Department is now preparing a manual for Districts on the observance of Jewish Book Month. It is also working out the details of a plan to have books and pamphlets at every District and Regional meeting. It is also working on a campaign whereby Districts will make available to local libraries a Jewish Book Shop.

"The Book Department, also handles the technical details of the printing and distribution of new Z.O.A. educational pamphlets and books which are approved by the Publications Committee, of which Judge Louis E. Levinthal is chairman

Publicity and Public Relations

"Ernest E. Barbarash, director of the Publicity and Public Relations Department, reports that during the past 10 weeks since the last meeting of the Administrative Council, an estimated total of 375 columns of Z.O.A. items, including news stories, feature articles and Palestine despatches, were published

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in the Anglo-Jewish, Yiddish and general press of the country. This brings up the total of Z.O.A. news releases published in the press since the last annual Convention to over 2,225 columns. Some 10% of these items were published in the daily English press. Major items that were prominently featured in the general press and put on the wires of the large news agencies such as the Associated Press, United Press, and International News Service include the manifestos issued by Dr. Goldstein calling for the immediate abrogation of the White Paper and the observance of a day of mourning for the Ghetto dead, the denunciation of the activities of the so called Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and the designation of June as Zionist War Bond month by the U. S. Treasury.

"During the period under review, material published by the Publicity and Public Relations Department included the manual "Two Generations of Zionism" with background and program material on the 22nd Anniversary of the passage of the Palestine Resolution and the 40th anniversary of the death of Theodor Herzl, the pamphlet "D-Day Is Here" and the War Effort pamphlet "We Zionists Can Do It".

"One of the most effective mediums for the dissemination of factual items on the latest developments on Palestine is the bulletin Inside Palestine which continues to be in greater demand than ever. The bulletin is sent upon specific request to hundreds of libraries including the U. S. Library of Congress educational institutions, newspaper columnists and research workers.

"Since the last meeting of the Administrative Council two additional issues of the original Z.O.A. News Reporter have appeared under the editorship of Mr. Barbarash. This publication which was circulated to District presidents, secretaries and membership workers, proved its merit and effectiveness to such an extent that it was decided to convert the publication, in an improved and revised form into the regular house organ of the organization. This house organ which will be known as The News Reporter issue of The New Palestine will alternate with the monthly magazine section of The New Palestine.

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At the suggestion of Dr. Goldstein, the meeting observed a minute's silence in tribute to the memories of General Wingate, Lord Davis, and Mr. Archibald Freiman.

Dr. Goldstein, in his survey of the current situation dwelt on various problems which had been dealt with by the Z.O.A. since the last meeting of the Council. He reported on the political situation and commented on events leading to the adoption of the Palestine platform by the Republican party. (Remarks on file). Dr. Goldstein felt that the chances of the Palestine Resolution now pending in Congress to be accepted will be measurably increased as a result of Palestine planks in the platforms of the major parties and he urged all Zionists to continue their contacts with their congressmen.

Dr. Goldstein stated that the Z.O.A. has taken the initiative in strengthening the administrative machinery of the American Jewish Conference which was entrusted greater functions to the Administrative Committee and by persuading Mr. Lipsky to accept the chairmanship of the Administrative Committee.

Referring to the activities of the so-called Hebrew Committee for National Liberation and its associated group, the League for Free Palestine, Dr. Goldstein reported that assurances have been given by the State Department and by the British Embassy that these groups will not be recognized. He urged, however, all Zionist Districts to continue to keep the public informed as to the nature and activities of these groups.

Reporting on the Committee for Unity for Palestine, Dr. Goldstein announced that Rabbi Felix Levy has assumed the chairmanship of the committee.

Dr. Goldstein gave an interesting and informative report on his recent visit to Mexico on a mission connected with Palestine land redemption and general Jewish matters. He reported that the Mexican Jews, a community of 20,000, have undertaken a quota of \$140,000 for the J.N.F. — \$7 per capita. The Mexican Jews are ardently Zionist and look to us to help them with their work by sending them some of our speakers and organizers. Dr. Goldstein also reported on conversations he had with the Ministers of Interior and Foreign Affairs, and other members of the cabinet, who have expressed great sympathy for Zionist aims.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Daniel Frisch, chairman of the Convention Committee, announced that in order to meet the wartime requirements a change in the basis of representation had been recommended by the Committee. Rather than the former basis of one delegate for each 50 members, the Committee suggested one delegate for the first 50 members, and beyond that one delegate for each 100 additional members. However, in order to comply with the request of the Office of Defense Transportation, he felt that the basis of representation should be increased as follows: one delegate for the first 50 members and thereafter one delegate for every 300 members.

Following a comprehensive discussion in which Judge Levinthal, Eugene Kohn, Dr. Ilie Berger, Sol Cohen, Dr. Greenberg, Herman Weisman, Daniel Frisch, Leon Savage, Samuel Berson and others participated, the following motion was adopted:

"Representation for the National Convention shall be elected on the basis of one delegate for the first 50 members and one additional delegate for each additional 300 members or major fraction thereof."

A second motion adopted authorized the President to appoint a committee with full power to confer with representatives of the ODT, and to decide when and if the Convention shall be held, in the light of that conference

REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE:

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Omaha, vice-chairman of the Committee on Unity for Palestine, reported for the committee in the absence of Dr. Felix Levy, who sent his regrets from Mexico City.

Rabbi Lelyveld declared that in the six months which had elapsed since the last report of the committee, the committee's program had been clarified and the groundwork had been laid for active counter-propaganda designed to render ineffective the work of the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism.

Rabbi Lolyvold was able to report that despite the handicap of being without a full time executive director, the committee had organized local committees on Unity for Palestine in 112 communities throughout the country; that (2) a complete dossier of the Council for Judaism's activities has been kept as a source of helpful information to local Zionist districts faced with the problem of Council organization in their communities; and (3) literature had been distributed through local committees and through local Zionist Districts in an attempt to meet the Council in those localities in which it has been most active. Rabbi Lolyvold paid tribute to the work done by Mr. Oscar Leonard, the assistant to the president, who in the midst of his manifold other duties had carefully documented the Council's activities and had built up in our New York office a complete file of the membership of the Council for Judaism, as well as a complete mailing list of these local leaders who can be depended upon to aid us in our battle against the Council.

Two important policy-making meetings were held by the committee -- one in Chicago on February 6th, attended by over 100 interested Zionists representing many sections of the country; and another in Cincinnati on June 22nd, attended by more than 30. Reform rabbis. "Out of these meetings", Rabbi Lolyvold said, "there has come a clearer conception of our task and a conviction that the positive approach to the work of counter-acting the Council, outlined at the meeting of the Administrative Council six months previous, is the approach which promises to be most effective in achieving the committee's ends."

The committee's vice-chairman pointed out that the menace of the Council had in no way diminished, but that it had become more clearly defined. He said that the Council's membership, according to their own published lists, still stood at less than 2,000 members and that the Council did not promise in any way to become a mass membership organization. "However," he said, "its danger lies in the fact that it has mobilized wealth and influence behind its small membership, and that both on the national level and in local communities it has shown seeds of confusion in the minds of our non-Jewish friends." He cited the case of Atlanta, Georgia, where, although the Council had only 12 members, its activity had damaged to an unprecedented extent the public relations work of the Atlanta Zionist District.

On the brighter side he cited a number of letters from local Zionist leaders and from several communities in which the statement was made "our community is 100% Zionist - we need no Committee on Unity for Palestine." "These letters," he said, "indicated that there is greater unity of purpose and unity of action behind the Zionist cause today than there has ever been in the history of the American Jewish community."

"The task of the Committee on Unity for Palestine", he said, "is a two-fold task. In the first place it is necessary to work cooperatively with the local committees in meeting the Council's threat on the local level. This requires the devising of public relations techniques suitable to each community, for," he said, "what may prove to be effective in one community might very well be wholly inadvisable in another community."

"In the second place," he said, "we must devise a public relations program which will cut off the hope of expansion of the present membership of the Council for Judaism." He pointed out that that hope of expansion lies almost wholly within the camp of American Reform Judaism, and that for this

reason we must direct our attention to the problem of selling Zionism to that segment of the American Jewish community which has hitherto been non-Zionist. This public relations program must take into account the prejudices of the Reform group and meet those prejudices in accurate and temperate and popular terms. He reported that a series of leaflets was already in preparation, each of which was designed to cut the ground from under one of the arguments of the Council for Judaism. The leaflets will bear such titles as "American Jews and Palestine", "Zionism and Our Non-Jewish Neighbors", "Palestine's Arabs", "What Do We Mean By A Jewish Commonwealth", "Zionism and Reform Judaism", etc.

He reported on the development of a speaking program and the enrollment of more than thirty volunteer speakers of the type who would be able to appeal to the segment of the community in which the Council has been most active. These speakers will be mobilized and will be sent into those communities where they are most needed during the fall and winter months.

Rabbi Lelyveld concluded by analyzing the current propaganda line of the Council for Judaism and warning that as the Zionist movement came closer to its great goal, the Council would become more and more frantic in its appeals to non-Jews and in an effort to sabotage the Zionist program.

SECOND SESSION

ANNIVERSARIES OF PALESTINE RESOLUTION AND DEATH OF HERZL:

Dr. Goldstein opened the session with a statement that this year marked the 22nd anniversary of the passage of the Palestine Resolution by the United States Congress favoring the establishment of a Jewish National Homeland, and the 40th anniversary of the death of Theodor Herzl. He delivered an address dealing chiefly with the 22nd anniversary of the passage of the Palestine Resolution.

The following resolution presented by Judge Louis E. Levinthal was then unanimously adopted.

Congress Resolution Anniversary

The fearful suspense of D-Day has passed. Before the onslaught of Allied arms in France Hitler's troops are breaking. In the East the Russians are rolling back the Nazi lines. In Italy the forces of the United Nations are pressing hard on the heels of the retreating Nazi hordes.

Within the ever-shrinking limits of the captive lands are millions of our Jewish brethren, helpless victims of Nazi wrath and revenge. Upon them falls the concentrated fury of a monster cheated of his prey. We alone can save them.

And while we bend our every effort toward their rescue, we must redouble the fight to establish Palestine as the Jewish Commonwealth, to provide a place where the surviving remnants of our people in Europe may mend their broken lives, and live in security and freedom in their own land. Never again must they know the terror of Homelessness and persecution. Palestine, their ancestral homeland, must be opened to them.

In June, 1922, the United States Government gave official expression to the long well-known American sympathy with Jewish aims and aspirations in Palestine. We entered upon the task of reclaiming the land and founding the modern Palestine with the sympathy of the United States officially embodied in its official legislation.

Today, with the hour of victory at hand in this second great war in defense of the rights of man against the forces of despotism and tyranny, we ask that the United States Government reaffirm its traditional stand on the side of justice for the Jewish people. By the sweat and toil of our Jewish brethren, the framework of the Commonwealth has been erected. It awaits only recognition.

Now is the propitious moment. The demands of military expediency no longer militate against such recognition. Though the final battle be prolonged, Hitler's armies no longer threaten. They retreat, to stand momentarily and retreat again. The menace now is only to those innocent and helpless one caught behind the Nazi lines.

We of the Administrative Council call upon the members of the ZOA to realize that our organization must lead in the effort to secure the passage of the new Palestine Resolution at the earliest time when "it will not be prejudicial in the prosecution of the war." We feel that that time has come. With the support of this, the greatest of the democratic nations, we shall be able to assure to our rescued fellow Jews a safe and permanent haven. The promise of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate shall have blossomed into complete fulfillment in the free Commonwealth in Palestine, the land of our fathers.

Judge Louis E. Levinthal, who presided at the session, pointed out that the passage of the Palestine Resolution in 1922 by both Houses of the U.S. Congress was of transcendent significance inasmuch as this was an act by a legislative body, whereas even the Balfour Declaration was an act by a cabinet.

Dr. Goldstein then presented Dr. Nahum Goldmann for the Herzl memorial address. Dr. Goldmann said: "Today at the most decisive moment in its history, Zionism is returning to the original concept of the teachings expounded by Herzl. These concepts, he said, were based on three basic principles:

- "1. That the source of the Jewish problem is the homelessness of the Jewish people.
2. The Jewish problem can only be solved by international action. Herzl from the very beginning maintained that a real Jewish homeland means a Jewish State.
3. Immigration into Palestine must be on a mass scale and take place within a given period. Jewish immigration into Palestine after the war cannot be considered in terms of a long drawn out process of yearly immigration, but rather in terms of a transfer of hundreds of thousands within a period of 1 to 3 years."

Speaking at the afternoon session on the 22nd anniversary of the Congressional Resolution on Palestine, Dr. Israel Goldstein said that "the Resolution adopted in June 1922 by both Houses of Congress favoring the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish National Homeland placed the American Government and people on official record as vitally interested in the restoration of Palestine. We entered upon the task of reclaiming the land and founding the modern Palestine with the sympathy of the United States officially embodied in its official legislation.

"Today, with the hour of victory at hand in this second great war in defense of the rights of man against the forces of despotism and tyranny, we ask that the U. S. Government reaffirm its traditional stand on the side of justice for the Jewish people. By the sweat and toil of our Jewish brethren, the framework of the Commonwealth has been erected. It awaits only recognition.

Stressing the need of large scale immigration within a three year period immediately following the war, Dr. Nahum Goldmann declared that "only by this method can we meet the problem of post-war European Jewry and the rapid establishment of a Jewish majority in Palestine which is the requisite for the creation of the Jewish Commonwealth.

"There is no greater compliment -- Dr. Goldmann said -- to the genius and vision of Theodor Herzl than that after the elapse of 40 years after his death, Zionism returns in its main political and practical demands to the original teachings and vision of Theodor Herzl. There is every possibility that the 50th anniversary of his death will be observed as a great historical date in a fully established Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine."

WAR BOND CAMPAIGN:

Ernest E. Barbarash, Secretary of the ZOA National War Bond Committee, reported that during the month of June members of the ZOA had purchased and sold War Bonds totalling \$42,620,804. These figures are incomplete since several hundred communities have not yet sent in results of their campaign.

In response to calls issued late in May by President Goldstein and Mr. Edmund I. Kaufmann, ZOA War Bond Chairman, War Effort Committees were organized in 215 communities by ZOA regions and districts. No response was received from some 250 districts, despite repeated communications addressed to them.

Immediately following the invasion of France, our national quota was increased to \$50,000,000. On the basis of preliminary reports at hand, most of the communities have not only reached their quotas, but doubled and trebled them. Atlanta, Georgia, which had an original quota of \$1,000,000, raised \$4,000,000 and is still going strong. The Bronx and Upper Manhattan Region, under Arthur Lobenson and Mr. Fortig raised \$2,250,000; Rhode Island, under Dr. Ilie Berger, raised over \$3,100,000 -- of this, Dr. Berger himself raised \$1,000,000; Brooklyn, under Mr. Leo Marder and Mr. Schanzer scored close to \$2,000,000; the Manhattan District #7, under Dr. S. S. Gross has already attained their quota of \$1,500,000; Dallas, Texas, which set a quota of \$1,000,000, raised \$3,000,000, and is still surging ahead. The latest figures for Philadelphia are \$1,500,000.

Mr. Deway D. Stone, the Committee is happy to report, has sold \$5,000,000 in War Bonds to Mr. Abraham List of Cleveland. Half of this amount has been credited to the Cleveland District, and half to the Zionist District of Fall River, Mass., Mr. List's hometown. Mr. Stone has also sold \$500,000 in bonds to be credited to the Brockton Zionist District. Dr. Goldstein sold close to \$1,000,000 in bonds to members of his congregation and other individuals. \$1,000,000 in War Bonds was sold and credited to the ZOA by the employees of the Kay Department Stores with which our War Bond chairman, Mr. Kaufmann, is associated.

Additional districts which have reported sales of over \$500,000 in War Bonds include Washington Heights, \$860,000; Chelsea, Mass., \$500,000; Providence, \$1,400,000; Washington, D. C., \$600,000; Milwaukee, \$1,000,000; Los Angeles, \$750,000.

The War Bond returns take on special significance considering the fact that the present totals are based on incomplete reports and that half of the Districts have not reported at all. There is no doubt whatsoever that were we

to receive complete reports, particularly from some of the larger communities like Chicago, Detroit, etc., the totals reported as raised in the month of June would have exceeded \$100,000,000.

In line with the 5th War Loan Drive, our campaign will be continued through the middle and even to the end of July. It is also noted that the ZOA staff in the Washington and New York offices have purchased the amount of \$6,000 during the Zionist War Bond month. \$10,000 in bonds have been purchased by employees of the Jewish National Fund Headquarters.

Mention should also be made of the wonderful public relations campaign that has been conducted by many districts in behalf of the ZOA in connection with Zionist War Bond month. Full page ads were published in the Jewish and general press, paid for by individuals and firms, in New York, Chelsea, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Memphis, Providence, Dallas, Texas, and other cities. Our War Bond Campaign may be termed an overwhelming success, thanks to Zionist efforts throughout the country.

Dr. Goldstein complimented Mr. Barbarash on the work of the War Bond Committee. After discussion, the following resolution was read and unanimously adopted:

"The wrath of a peace-loving people has been hurled against the vaunted armies of the tyrant, and in dismay the holot legions reel over backward. All the ingenuity and resources of a free nation have been thrown into the fight. The flower of our youth is in the battle line. Behind them stretches a mighty stream of supply -- the guns, the food, the whole armor of democracy. For those left at home are devoting their time, their labor and their funds to the cause of freedom.

"We of the ZOA are proud to say that the response of our membership to the War Bond Drive has already passed the original \$25,000,000 mark in the current campaign and is now more than \$40,000,000.

"We have set ourselves a goal of \$50,000,000. We are confident of the continued response of our members. Every bond added to the total means more equipment for our loved ones who bear the brunt of the fight. Every bit of added equipment shortens the road to victory, and reduces the casualty lists.

"With complete consecration of all the resources of the home front toward the achievement of the final victory, we shall drown forever the old cry of 'Too little and too late' in the battle cry: 'Enough -- and more -- whenever and wherever it is needed!'

"WE of the Administrative Council call upon the membership of the ZOA to devote their time and energy toward the attainment of the redoubled goal of \$50,000,000 we have set for ourselves, and prove once more the maxim that 'A Good Zionist Makes A Better American.'"

RADIO COMMITTEE:

Mr. Joshua Epstein, Chairman, reported on the activities of the Radio Committee. Nine radio programs have already been completed, with many nationally known stars in the cast. Local Radio Committees are to obtain permission from their local radio stations to put the programs on as sustained features. Such arrangements have already been made in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. A limited budget will be allotted to each community to pay for its share of the recordings.

Special mention was made of the work of Messrs. Berson, Sylk, Spiro, Barberash and the organizing talent of Herman Getzoff of the New York Metropolitan Bureau. The Committee asks each District to appoint a radio chairman to confer with the Committee. Next, contact should be made with the local radio station, and a small sum raised for each share of the recording.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL:

Mr. Harry Shapiro, Director of the New York Office of the Emergency Council reported.

Mr. Shapiro pointed out that with the Organization of the American Jewish Trade Union Committee for Palestine, innumerable Commonwealth resolutions have been adopted by large labor groups. The Committee was initiated by Max Zaritsky, President of the United Hatters Cap and Millinery Workers Union.

He further reported that local Emergency Committee members have visited their congressmen and have found a great many of them in favor of the Palestine Resolution. Two large Christian bodies, comprising 2,900,000 members, have given their support to the Resolution. Increasing emphasis is being placed on the enlistment of church groups to support Jewish claims in Palestine.

Discussion took place regarding the radio programs of the ZOA and the Emergency Council. Messrs. Berson, Sylk, Kohn, Rabbi Greenfield, Schanzer, Epstein, Dr. Goldstein and Judge Rosenblatt participated in the discussion on this matter. A motion was presented, seconded and passed that the representatives of the ZOA on the Emergency Council be instructed to bring up the question of the Emergency Council radio program for reconsideration.

AMERICAN ZIONIST YOUTH COMMISSION:

Herman Weisman, Chairman of the American Zionist Youth Commission reported that three years had elapsed since his group was organized by ZOA and Hadassah jointly to coordinate the efforts of Zionist Youth groups. In the past year local commissions were set up in 47 communities in 17 states, supported primarily by ZOA. Leadership training courses and week-end institutes were established. The work of the Youth Commission has greatly encouraged the formation of new Young Judaea, Masada and other Youth groups. Mr. Weisman also discussed the Brandeis Summer Institute Camp.

KEREN HAYESOD:

Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt submitted a report on the activities of the Keren Hayesod. \$2,750,000 has been forwarded to Palestine since the beginning of the year; \$1,000,000 of which was sent within the past fortnight. The organization plans increased future activity. A committee has been appointed to undertake the study of various projects, including a seminar for Latin-American students and to arrange for an economic conference in the fall. A second committee appointed by the Board of Directors of Keren Hayesod is to study the activities and expenditures of institutions receiving subventions, including the Emergency Council, Jewish Agency and the Commission on Palestine Surveys.

ZIONIST EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Simon Greenberg, chairman of the Education Committee reported that his group has been holding regular meetings and its survey of the whole field of Zionist education is progressing in a satisfactory manner.

Dr. Samuel Dinin has been in charge of the survey and associated with him on a professional basis is Dr. Mardi. A thorough study has been made of the previous educational activities of the Zionist Organization, and a very clear picture of the present situation is also included in the Survey. Recommendations for the creation of an education department which will be comprehensive in its scope and will reduce to a minimum the overlapping educational activities of the Zionist agencies as well as a program for bringing the Zionist message to the adult, the adolescent and the youth in our country on a long-range basis will all be a part of the completed survey, which will be presented at the forthcoming meeting of the National Executive Committee on August 13.

ZOA COMMITTEE ON J.N.F.:

Leo Guzik, chairman of the ZOA Committee for JNF activities was unable to attend the meeting in person. He submitted a report indicating that from October 1, 1943 to May 31, 1944 the ZOA collected or procured on behalf of the JNF \$269,039.59. In the corresponding period of the previous year \$93,174.33 was collected or procured, indicating that the ZOA has almost trebled the proceeds of its collections on behalf of the JNF.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND:

Judge Morris Rothenberg, President of the Jewish National Fund of America reported that the total income of the Fund for the eight month period from October 1, 1943 to May 31, 1944 was \$3,030,569.81. Of this sum, the income from the traditional sources of the Jewish National Fund including Nachloth, Golden Beek, Flag Day, Flower Day, etc., a total of \$1,374,917.47 was reported for this period, the largest sum ever recorded in the history of the Fund. This compares with \$785,028.61 for the eight month period of 1942-43. The Jewish National Fund share

of the United Palestine Appeal for the same period was \$1,655,652.34, compared with \$1,158,488.73 for the same period of the previous year. \$2,867,862.22 was cabled to Palestine for the period under review, including the sum of \$415,000.00 representing the income from our 2½ million dollar Note Issue. Since May 31, 1944 we have cabled an additional sum of \$600,000.00 to Palestine making a total of \$3,467,862.22 which has been transmitted to Jerusalem for new land purchases from the U.S. for the period of October 1, 1943 to date.

The Zionist Organization of America, through its Jewish National Fund Committee, of which Mr. Leo Guzik is National Chairman, has raised for the period under review the sum of \$269,039.59, compared with \$93,174.33 for the same period last year. With the growth of the membership of the Zionist Organization of America, there has been increased participation on the part of organized Zionists in this country in the work for the Jewish National Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 P.M.



Respectfully submitted

Saul S. Spiro
Acting Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.O.A. HELD SATURDAY
EVENING, AUGUST 12, 1944, AT 9:00 P.M., AT BRANDEIS CAMP INSTITUTE, HANCOCK, N.Y.

FIRST SESSION

PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, presiding; Maurice M. Boukstein, Paul Dym, Sol Cohen, Harry P. Fierst, Mendel N. Fisher, Daniel Frisch, Rabbi Simon Greenberg, Oscar Leonard, Dr. Ludwig Lewisochn, Judge Bernard Rosenblatt, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Ezra Z. Shapiro, Saul S. Spiro, Elihu D. Stone, and Herman L. Weisman.

GUESTS: Naomi Chertoff, Joshua S. Epstein, and Louis Levine.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter was received from Mr. Rubiner which discussed the health of Mr. Simon Shetzer and requested that a leave of absence be granted to the latter.

Upon a motion duly made, and seconded it was unanimously voted that leave of absence be granted to Simon Shetzer until the new year. The Finance Committee is to make the necessary financial arrangements in this matter.

2. A letter from Dr. Stephen S. Wise was read in which he expressed regret at his inability to attend the meeting and complimented Dr. Goldstein and the other members of the Committee for their help in securing a Palestine plank at the Democratic Convention in Chicago. Maurice Boukstein moved that a vote of thanks be given to the entire committee for their splendid work and also to Dr. Silver and those who with him had secured a Palestine plank at the Republican Convention.

3. A communication was received from the American Jewish Conference requesting that the ZOA participate to the extent of \$500 in the expenses arising out of the Madison Square Park Rally. It was pointed out that contributions by ZOA members have already been made to the Conference. It was further emphasized that various districts in the country had raised money for the American Jewish Conference. Upon motion by Mr. Frisch, duly seconded and unanimously adopted, it was decided that: Full power be given to the president to act in this matter.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY - Submitted by Saul S. Spiro

Stressing the growing Zionist consciousness throughout the country, the speaker reported that in the short space of nine months the Z.O.A. membership has almost doubled. He pointed out that this was not a mere paper increase. An enormous portion of the more than 600 Districts are constantly and actively functioning in all spheres of Zionist endeavors.

Zionist Districts have been in the forefront of every Jewish communal undertaking. Intensified support has been extended to the UPA and JNF drives; with articulate participation in the work and accomplishments of the local Emergency Councils, and singular contributions to the War Effort of our country, particularly in the recent Z.O.A. War Bond Campaign. In addition, the Districts have proved powerful centers of resistance against anti-Zionist propaganda.

1. Membership

As of August 10, 1944, the membership total for the current year was 121,842, representing an increase of 54,236 over the membership as of September 30, 1943, the end of our last fiscal year. This does not include the 4,000 members of our affiliated fraternal organization B'nai Zion. Our present total represents an increase of 80% over last year. Of the 106,552 members who had paid their dues for the current year as of August 10th, 53,380 never previously belonged to a Zionist Organization. An energetic campaign is now in progress to re-enroll the 12,000 members whose dues are renewable before the expiration of the current year. Mr. William Sytk, general chairman of our Membership Committee, and Messrs. Dewey D. Stone and Jacob Sincoff, co-chairmen of the Life Membership Committee are to be particularly commended for the results achieved, and the various district and regional officers and committees have given unstinted support in the membership drive.

2. War Bond

"Under the chairmanship of Edmund I. Kaufmann, the Z.O.A. War Bond Month proved an unusual success. The original quota of \$25,000,000 was attained in the first week; the quota was doubled and at the end of the campaign over \$65,000,000 in War Bonds had been sold and credit given to our organization. The drive was made under the direct supervision of Ernest Barbarash. On August 29th, Mr. FitzGibbon, on behalf of Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, presented to the Z.O.A. the highest citation for services rendered. The award was accepted by Dr. Israel Goldstein at impressive ceremonies held at national headquarters in Washington.

3. Palestine plank

"Both the Democratic and Republican parties have included a plank regarding Palestine in their platforms, an accomplishment of great importance to the prestige and furtherance of the movement in this country. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Judge Fisher, Judge Levinthal, and Messrs. Shulman and Elihu Stone appeared before the Democratic committee; and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver with a number of colleagues represented the cause of Zionism before the Republicans.

4. Public Relations

"The Public Relations and Publications Department of which Mr. Ernest E. Barbarash is Director, has published about 15 pamphlets and several manuals on Palestine and Zionism, and its releases have appeared in the Anglo-Jewish, Yiddish and general press. Since the last convention, over 2500 columns have been published, of which 10% appeared in the daily English Press. "Inside Palestine" continues as a regularly published bulletin containing Palestine news.

5. Book Department

"The Book Department under the direction of Isidore Cooperman has shown marked progress. From October 1943 to August 1944 about 9000 books were sold, as compared with 3031 sold over a similar period the previous year.

6. Speakers Bureau

"The Speakers Bureau under the direction of Mr. Yale Goldberg has in the period under review furnished speakers for 1800 meetings, and has under consideration extensive plans for expanded activities in the fall.

7. Convention

"The 47th Annual Convention of the Z.O.A. has been set for Oct. 14, 15, 16, 17, at Atlantic City. Sessions will be held at both the Breakers and the Hotel St. Charles.

8. Committee on Unity for Palestine

"Under the direction of Dr. Felix Levy and Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyvold, with Oscar Leonard as Secretary, the Committee on Unity for Palestine has organized local groups in more than 120 communities. The Committee is sponsoring meetings, distributing literature, and cooperating with Rabbis, Zionist leaders and Christian ministers. Rabbi Lelyvold is making a tour of the Southwest and the Pacific Coast on behalf of the committee.

9. Palestine Bureau

"The Palestine Bureau under the direction of Dr. S. Bornstein reports that during the period between April 1, 1944 and August 15, 1944, 5000 Immigration Certificates to Palestine were granted to Jews in Hungary. The Bureau was active on behalf of American relatives of these immigrants and it was mainly through its efforts that the certificates were allotted.

In addition to direct immigration assistance the Bureau in the past 18 months has located about 7,000 American relatives sought by refugees in Europe.

10. Metropolitan Bureau

"This past year the Metropolitan Bureau reorganized by the national office of the Zionist Organization of America for the purpose of coordinating and consolidating the work of the individual regions which comprise the bureau. Whereas at the end of September 30, 1943 the five regions had a total membership of 12,994, the membership in the Metropolitan area was increased as of July 31, 1944 to 25,899. The staff includes Mr. Herman J. Getzoff, director of the Bureau; Samuel Sloan, director for Brooklyn; Max Cohen, director for Bronx; Manuel Pasy, director for Manhattan and Westchester; and Miss Jeanette Steinberg office Manager.

Brooklyn became the first region to reach 10,000 members in the history of Zionist Regional Membership in the country.

The Bureau for 1944-45 has been reorganized to include only the four regions of Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, and Westchester. Long Island Region has

decided to carry on its activities apart from the Metropolitan Bureau.

For the year 1944-45 these four regions have set for themselves a definite membership goal of 43,500, and plan to establish 36 new districts.

The Bureau has set up a Metropolitan Zionist Fund Committee with Hon. Albert D. Schanzer as its chairman, for the purpose of raising a \$100,000 Fund to take care of all National, Metropolitan, and Regional needs, exclusive of the normal budgetary allocations made by the ZOA.

RADIO PROJECT:

A report given by Joshua S. Epstein, chairman of the Radio Committee, on the activities of that committee was received and favorably commented upon. (Remarks on File). Dr. Goldstein praised Joshua Epstein for his work.

The radio project of the American Zionist Emergency Council has been so delayed that it might conflict in time with program contemplated by the Z.O.A. It was suggested that ZOA members serving on the Executive of the AZEC bring this matter up at its next meeting in order to clarify the situation.

Participating in the discussion were Louis Levine, Ezra Shapiro, Dr. Goldstein, Maurice Boukstein, Rabbi Greenberg, and Herman Weisman.

THE NEW PALESTINE:

Dr. Goldstein called to the attention of the Executive Committee that The New Palestine is being operated on a new basis. Dr. Lewishin is now the editor of the publication and assumes entire supervision of its literary content. Mr. Cooperman will continue as Managing editor.

Mr. Ernest Barbarash, in turn assumes responsibility for The News Reporter Issue of The New Palestine, which appears alternately with The New Palestine magazine section.

A discussion followed during which Sol Cohen suggested that arrangements be made with the Jewish Welfare Board to list The New Palestine on the bulletin boards of all USO Clubs. Paul Byne suggested that similar plans be made for the distribution of The New Palestine and Masada News to army camps. Rabbi Greenberg agreed with Mr. Byne that such action would encourage membership in Masada and the ZOA after the war.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President reported on the following matters.

1. Extension Fund

There is now approximately \$50,000 earmarked for the Committee on Unity for Palestine and other educational purposes. He commended Oscar Leonard and Rabbi Lelyveld for their splendid work. Mr. Leonard is to act as full time secretary of the Committee, of which Rabbi Felix Levy is chairman. Rabbi Lelyveld devoted the summer months to this work.

2. Plans to organize among Z.O.A. members a greater interest in Palestine's economic needs and opportunities. This phase of activity will assume increasing importance after the war. The ZOA as a mass movement with a large membership including many businessmen is in an excellent position to render a great service to Palestine in the economic field. He reported that he has discussed this matter with members of the Finance Committee who think well of the proposal and that he is taking steps toward its implementation.

3. David Wolfsohn's biography will be ready in time for the Convention. The expense of the publication will be defrayed by the Extension Fund.

4. He has encouraged the project of a Hebrew Theatre and Allied Arts by promising a subsidy of \$1,000 a month from the Extension Fund for the period of one year as soon as a budget is worked out and presented indicating that the project is feasible and will not entail a deficit. It will be ZOA project conducted through the Histadruth Ivrit group. Rabbi Greenberg has been appointed by Dr. Goldstein as Chairman of the Committee. Rabbi Greenberg stressed the importance of this project and stated that the group would have the benefit of professional guidance.

Upon motion by Elihu D. Stone seconded by Daniel Frisch, it was unanimously voted to approve Dr. Goldstein's commitments to the Hebrew Theatre and Allied Arts project.

CONVENTION:

Daniel Frisch, chairman of the Convention Committee, reported that out of 225 letters sent out to Zionist key-men asking for program suggestion 200 replies had been received. About 80% of the replies suggested that more time should be devoted to active participation by the delegates. Mr. Frisch stated that the plans for the convention were still in process of formation, and submitted a tentative outline.

EDUCATION:

Rabbi Greenberg reported on the survey conducted by Dr. Samuel Dinin and Dr. Noah Nardi, for which the ZOA Executive has appropriated \$5,000/

Rabbi Greenberg pointed out that numerous groups in the country were engaged in educational work such as Hadassah, Mizrach, Peale Zion, B'nai B'rith, Jewish Welfare Board, and Council of Jewish Women. It was necessary to survey the activities of these organizations in order to have a proper evaluation of their work. The survey suggested that the work of these organizations overlapped considerably and the educational program of the ZOA should not conflict with existing activities.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Survey and recommendations of Drs. Dinin and Nardi are to be considered by the members of the Educational Committee, who will prepare a summary of the report and then make recommendations to the Convention. Dr. Goldstein thanked Dr. Greenberg for his excellent guidance of the Survey and for Dr. Dinin's splendid survey.

Messrs. Shapiro, Frisch, Weisman, Boukstein, Fisher, and Judge Bothenberg participated in a discussion relating to the publication and distribution of the recommendations of the Educational Committee with regard to the survey.

Rabbi Greenberg emphasized the need for a Z.O.A. Department on Education, recommended the coordination and expansion of educational projects, and suggested that such a department may entail an expenditure of \$60,000 to \$100,000 a year. Judge Rothenberg, Saul S. Spiro, and Dr. Bardin took part in the discussion. Upon motion made by Maurice Boukstein, duly seconded and unanimously voted the ZOA plan to expand its activities in the field of education and that it be recommended to the Convention to authorize the incoming administration to carry out the recommendations and conclusions of the Education Committee."

The motion was unanimously accepted.

The session was adjourned at 12:25 P. M.

SECOND SESSION

Held Sunday, August 13th, 1944, 8:30 A. M.

CONVENTION:

The question of representation of the various fund raising bodies to the Z.O.A. convention was discussed. Upon a motion by Elihu D. Stone, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted

"That the fund raising bodies of the Keren Hayesod, Keren Kayometh, and the United Palestine Appeal be given 5 delegates each to the convention."

INDEPENDENT JEWISH PRESS SERVICE:

A communication from the Independent Jewish Press Service was read requesting a financial contribution. It was reported that both the J.N.F. and K. H. voted contributions to that agency. Following a discussion, it was moved and unanimously voted that the question be referred for further study by a committee to be appointed by Dr. Goldstein.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE Z.O.A.:

Dr. Goldstein stressed the two main objectives to which the ZOA must address itself in the coming year with greater emphasis than before;

- 1) Making the Z.O.A. more economic - conscious in relation to Palestine.
- 2) Expanding and intensifying our cultural, educational, and youth work.

Judge Rosenblatt stated that the Keren Hayesod, which has investments in Palestine, has gone into this problem and said they planned the convocation of an Economic Conference to fit into the plans of the Z.O.A.

The meeting expressed its approval of Dr. Goldstein's objectives as stated at the evening and morning sessions.

YOUTH COMMISSION:

Herman Weisman presented a detailed report on the activities of the Youth Commission. Hadassah, which cooperated with the Z.O.A. in this project, is aiding the formulation of plans for the expansion of the project on a national basis.

Mr. Weisman submitted the following recommendations to the Executive:

1) That the Youth Commission itself, be increased so that it will have an overall number of 50 exclusive of the people on local and regional Youth Commissions, 33 representatives from the various regions, and 18 to be appointed as heretofore by the presidents of both the Z.O.A. and Hadassah. These 17 would act as the Executive financial body of the National Youth Commission. Local and Regional chairmen would play the part of a constituency as well as Advisory body in connection with plans to be formulated.

2) That the Z.O.A. increase its active interest in college groups and suggested the allocation of a budget for Campus Activities. Avukah is now being reorganized and indicated a desire to affiliate the Z.O.A. and Hadassah.

Mr. Herman Weisman also suggested that an inter-collegiate conference be held around Chanukah time to which all youth groups be invited, including Avukah and Brandeis Societies (now active on the campus) to attend. This will lay the foundation for an Inter-Collegiate Zionist Society. These groups must assume the Zionist discipline including the payment of the Shokol. We can have thousands of members in this society.

3) Personnel - A field worker and secretary, 4 additional field workers, and a campus worker,

4) Publications - including a national youth magazine for senior youth.

5) Public relations, travelling expenses, additional office help, rent.

6) Services and subsidies to youth organizations (give financial aid to Masada and help them organize units at the present time.)

7) Brandeis Camp - This year we have collected from communities \$10,300 which covered one half of our budget.

Mr. Weisman requested that a budget of \$60,000 should be granted by the Z.O.A. this year to the Youth Commission.

Dr. Bardin pointed out that at the present time the Z.O.A. should devote itself mainly to the activities of the Youth Commission and the Brandeis Camp, and not to expand the camps on a national basis. A suggestion was made by Dr. Bardin that a Brandeis Memorial should be adopted by the Executive of the Z.O.A. to be held over the Labor Day week-end.

Judge Morris Rothenberg moved to accept the suggestion of Dr. Bardin for a Brandeis Memorial and that this be released to the press. It was so voted.

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The discussion was continued with regard to Mr. Weisman's request that the Youth Commission be granted a budget of \$60,000 by the Z.O.A. for the coming year.

Rabbi Greenberg, Dr. Goldstein, Judge Rothenberg, Judge Rosenblatt and Messrs. Boukstein, Frisch, Stone, Shapiro, and Byno participated in the discussion following the reports of Mr. Weisman and Dr. Ferdin.

Upon motion by Maurice Boukstein, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted that it be recommended to the Finance Committee to seek ways and means of making available to the Youth Commission a budget of \$60,000 as the Z.O.A. contribution.

Rabbi Greenberg moved and it was duly seconded and unanimously voted that an effort be made to secure an Extension Fund of \$250,000 in order to provide for the enlarged educational and youth needs of the Z.O.A.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND:

Dr. Goldstein suggested that the Z.O.A. undertake to raise the sum of \$1,000,000 for the Jewish National Fund within three years, as a Z.O.A. project to bear a ZOA designation in Palestine. The present J.N.F. totals in the Z.O.A. are not far from that sum, but there would be an advantage in proclaiming a large monetary goal.

Judge Rothenberg stated that he had a similar idea in mind and warmly endorsed the suggestion. Mr. Fisher pointed out its feasibility. After a discussion, it was voted that Dr. Goldstein announce at the Convention the J.N.F. project of a \$1,000,000 to be raised over a period of three years.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted
Saul S. Spire

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.C.A. HELD SUNDAY
EVENING, OCTOBER 29TH, 1944. AT 7:30 P.M. AT NEW YORK OFFICES, 41 EAST 42ND
STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, presiding; Robert Bernstein, Maurice M. Boukstein, Hon. M. Maldwin Fertig, Daniel Frisch, Jacob Fishman, Rabbi Simon Greenberg, Rabbi William P. Greenfield, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Irving D. Lipkowitz, Rabbi Irving Miller, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Louis P. Rucker, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Judge Morris Kothenberg, Hon. Albert D. Schanzer, Herman Shulman, Jacob Sincoff, Louis E. Spiegler, Saul S. Spiro, Robert Szold, and William H. Sylk.

Paul Z. Byne, Dr. Shlomo Bardin, and Mrs. Robert Szold.

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I. APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Dr. Israel Goldstein announced the appointments of the following as Chairmen of their respective committees:

Finance Committee - Mr. Samuel Berson; Membership - Mr. Leo C. Rosen; Publications - Judge Louis E. Levinthal; Life Membership - Mr. Deway D. Stone, Co-Chairman, Mr. Jacob Sincoff; Education - Rabbi Simon Greenberg; Jewish National Fund - Mr. Leo Guzik; Co-ordinator of Zionist Bloc at American Jewish Conference - Mr. Seymour Levine.

Upon motion made, these appointments were unanimously ratified.

It was decided that Chairmen of the various committees be invited to attend Executive meetings and participate in discussions without the right to vote.

II. ELECTION OF MR. SAUL S. SPIRO:

The President reported that Mr. Saul S. Spiro who served as Acting Secretary during the illness of Mr. Simon Shetzer was nominated and unanimously elected to the office of National Secretary of the Organization at the first meeting of the Executive Committee held at Atlantic City on October 16, 1944.

III. EDUCATION:

Rabbi Simon Greenberg submitted a program for an Education Department. After discussion, it was proposed that a Committee on Educational Activities be formed within the next few weeks to formulate plans regarding the establishment of an Education Department.

IV. INDEPENDENT JEWISH PRESS SERVICE:

It was decided after considerable discussion and upon a formal motion that the request of the Independent Jewish Press Service for a grant of \$1,000.00 be approved. The grant which will be payable in twelve (12) monthly

installments carries the proviso that the ZOA be given representation on the Board of Directors of the Independent Jewish Press Service.

V. AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL:

It was unanimously agreed that the President be empowered to appoint, if necessary, ZOA representatives to the Emergency Council and the names of such designees be reported to the Executive Committee at its subsequent meeting.

It was further proposed and agreed upon that ZOA representatives on the Council be called upon to report regularly to the Executive Committee at its meetings.

A telegram addressed to the Emergency Council by Congressman Andrew L. Sommers was referred by the Council to the Executive Committee. The communication was referred back to the Emergency Council and advised that no action had been taken.

VI. VISIT TO OSWEGO, N.Y.:

Dr. Goldstein proposed that a ZOA-appointed delegation be sent to Oswego to visit the refugee camp. Unanimously approved.

VII. AMERICAN YOUTH TO PALESTINE:

It was proposed that the projected movement of American youth to Palestine be sponsored by the ZOA and that the situation be explored to determine whether the ZOA should undertake it alone or in co-operation with other American Zionist organizations. Upon motion made by Mr. Shulman it was unanimously agreed to appoint a committee to explore the problem. The committee is to report at a subsequent meeting.

VIII. WORLD ZIONIST CONFERENCE:

A discussion took place regarding participation by representatives of the ZOA in a world conference in Jerusalem, if and when such a meeting is held. The entire question was tabled pending the return of Nahum Goldmann to this country.

IX. JEWISH VETERANS:

Upon suggestion by Mr. Jacob Fishman it was agreed that the problem of returning veterans be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion.

X. PALESTINE BUREAU:

A communication from David Wertheim regarding the Palestine Bureau was read to the meeting (text of letter on file). It was unanimously agreed that Dr. Goldstein be empowered to deal with the entire matter.

XI. AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

Mr. Herman Shulman submitted a comprehensive report on the American Jewish Conference. He pointed out that some of the issues which are likely to confront the delegates at the Second Session to be held in Pittsburgh early in December are:

- 1 - Whether the scope of the Conference's activities should be enlarged so that it might become the overall agency to deal with the protection of Jewish rights on the American scene?
- 2 - What type of organization should be set up after the second session to continue the work of the Conference?
- 3 - What basis of cooperation should be established between the Conference and other organizations abroad also working in the field of rescue, postwar and Palestine?

Mr. Shulman discussed these problems at some length. With respect to the first problem he pointed out that negotiations are now going on which might lead to a satisfactory solution of that question. He expressed the opinion that ZOA had arranged for one or more meetings of the general Zionist bloc to discuss these problems and to formulate a policy with respect to them, whereupon the president was authorized to call such meetings as soon as practicable.

Among those who participated in the discussion were Judge Rothenberg, Maurice Boukstein, Rabbi Miller, M. Malwin Fertig and Daniel Frisch (complete remarks on file).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted

Saul S. Spiro
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.O.A. HELD SUNDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 19TH, 1944 AT 7:00 P. M. AT THE STEVENS HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILL.

PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, presiding; Maurice M. Boukstein, A. K. Epstein, Judge Harry M. Fisher, Daniel Frisch, Rabbi Solomon Goldman, Rabbi William Greenfeld, Dr. James G. Heller, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Mortimer May, Ezra Z. Shapiro, Dewey D. Stone and William H. Sylk.

Suggs Garber, Rabbi Felix J. Levy, Leo J. Rosen, Rudolph G. Sonneborn; and Norman Jacobs and Mrs. Sieff (members of the British delegation to the Emergency War Conference of the World Jewish Congress).

Saul S. Spiro, Dr. Sidney Marks and Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld.

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Dr. Goldstein welcomed the guests from England. He introduced the National Chairmen of major committees who were present at the meeting: Leo J. Rosen, Membership; Rabbi Felix J. Levy, Committee on Unity for Palestine. He announced and introduced William H. Sylk as Chairman of the Expansion Fund. He also introduced Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld and Dr. Sidney Marks, Directors of the Committee on Unity for Palestine and the Expansion Fund, respectively.

REPRESENTATION ON THE EMERGENCY COUNCIL:

Dr. Goldstein reported on the appointments of representatives and alternates to the Emergency Council, which, on motion duly made and seconded was ratified.

Representatives: Dr. James G. Heller, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Maurice M. Boukstein, Daniel Frisch and Herman Shulman.

Alternates: Herman Weisman, Samuel Rothstein and Irving D. Lipkowitz.

PALESTINE TERRORISM:

After a discussion it was agreed that a statement on this subject be issued on behalf of the Executive, along the lines of Dr. Heller's formulation in his address before the U.P.A. Conference.

CONFERENCE OF ACTIONS COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ZIONIST ORGANIZATION:

Dr. Goldstein read a communication from Mr. Lourie of the Emergency Council and an exchange of cables between Mr. Ben Gurion and Mr. Lourie regarding a meeting of the Larger Actions Committee and representatives of Zionist Organizations which was to be held in Palestine during November in connection with Dr. Weigmann's visit. Difficulties of travel compelled the postponement of the meeting. It was reported that Dr. Nahum Goldmann had suggested that the meeting be held in London in order to ensure American participation; Dr. Joseph had urged Jerusalem as the meeting place.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Boukstein stated that at the last meeting of the Executive of the ZOA it was agreed in principle to participate in the proposed conference. He stated that there are a number of questions to be determined such as the basis of participation; was it to be on a numerical basis, or some other basis. In his opinion the Emergency Council has not been given the authority by the organizations comprising it to represent them in dealings with the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Palestine. It is possible that this conference will provide the groundwork for the next Zionist Congress and the election of a new Zionist Executive.

Dr. Heller favored London as the place of the meeting of the Actions Committee and recommended that representation by parties should be based on actual membership at this time. He maintained that the Zionist Congress basis of representation is artificial and incompatible with reality. With reference to the Emergency Council, Dr. Heller stated that it derives its limited powers from the participating groups which created it and that it is not empowered to represent the ZOA in its relations with the World Zionist Organization.

Dr. Goldstein stated that as he sees it the invitation includes members of the Actions Committee and heads of the parties and such others as the parties may designate for this purpose.

Rabbi Goldman offered a clarification of the position of the Emergency Council in light of its historical antecedents and stated that the Council is an inter-party instrument and is not intended as a liaison between the Jewish Agency or the World Zionist Organization and the parties.

In discussing the place of the meeting, Rabbi Goldman commented on the unavailability of travel priorities and stressed his preference for London as a more feasible meeting place. He discounted the apparent limitation to one delegate for the ZOA and suggested the choice of several others who are not presently members of the Actions Committee.

In line with the discussion, Dr. Goldstein suggested that 3 or 4 additional representatives be authorized to attend. Mr. Stone recommended the pooling of priorities through Mr. Lourie and a canvass of available representation. Mr. Ezra Shapiro suggested that Dr. Goldstein undertake the selection in consultation with the ZOA Vice Presidents and the Chairman of the Administrative Committee.

On the basis of the discussion it was moved, duly seconded and passed (1) that Dr. Goldstein notify the Jewish Agency of its intention to participate, irrespective of the place of meeting (2) that the President, together with the ZOA vice presidents and the Chairman of the Administrative Committee, select the delegates and (3) that the Executive Committee on behalf of the organization, in consultation with the Finance Committee, decide on the participation in the expenses for this delegation.

ORGANIZATION:

Mr. Spiro rendered a brief report on organization activity to date. A summary of the report follows:

Membership enrollment since October 1, 1944 of 27,257 represents an increase of 13,654 over last year's corresponding period bringing our grand paid up total to 117,628.

The Expansion Fund and Membership Campaigns are receiving our prime attention and are being implemented by organizational work in every department.

The Secretary has completed a plan of coordination designed to integrate such new major activities as the Committee on Unity for Palestine and the Radio Project into our centralized pattern of organization.

Mr. Barbarash, Director of Public Relations, reports post-convention press to date of upwards of 1000 columns, 25% of which were carried in the general English press; the publication of new holiday manuals and departmental literature and a special convention issue of The News Reporter Issue of The New Palestine.

Dr. Weizmann's birthday was commemorated by a special issue of The New Palestine, Dr. Goldstein's message to the Districts, and District celebrations. Balfour Day received country-wide District observance and publicity culminating with the Carnegie Hall meeting.

The Speakers Bureau and the ZOA Book Department show remarkable progress and the National and Field Staffs are vitalizing and strengthening Zionist activity throughout the country.

On motion by Mr. Boukstein, duly seconded, it was voted that a committee be appointed with authorization to study the ZOA Constitution with a view to changes which may be desirable in the light of the growth and development of the organization and to report to a subsequent meeting of the Executive.

Dr. Goldman recommended that a schedule of the Executive Committee meetings be prepared for the balance of the year and suggested the elimination of Saturday and Sunday nights meetings, if possible.

A communication from the Comptroller of the organization, Mr. Weingart, indicated that it is the consensus of the Finance Committee that another signature is required in addition to Mr. Goodman's. It requires an official resolution of this body. Mr. Boris Margolin of New York, member of the Finance Committee was recommended. It was also suggested that the president of the ZOA be authorized to sign the checks. A motion was duly made, seconded and passed resolving that Boris Margolin and Dr. Goldstein, in addition to Mr. Abraham Goodman and Mr. Samuel Berson, be authorized to execute bank vouchers on behalf of the Zionist Organization of America.

WEIZMANN FUND:

Mr. Epstein asked for information regarding ZOA participation in the Weizmann Million Dollar Fund. Mr. Spiro suggested that ZOA district activity in this respect cannot begin before January 15 and certainly not before the completion of the major portion of the ZOA Expansion Fund Campaign. After a discussion in which Messrs Mendel Fisher, Stone and Shapiro participated, wherein the subject of a possible conflict between the Expansion Fund and this Fund was reviewed, Mr. Stone moved that Dr. Goldstein be given discretionary authority to announce on November 27th, the date of Dr. Weizmann's birthday, a ZOA quota of \$250,000 if the need for such announcements seems advisable.

The motion was seconded and passed.

THE ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT:

Dr. Goldstein discussed the Economic Department for which a portion of the Expansion Fund has been allocated. The Department will generate new interests among the membership with respect to the economic possibilities and needs of Palestine. After conferences in New York with economic experts on Palestine and with Keren Hayesod representatives, a pattern for operation has been evolved. He further explained the subject by indicating that departmental operations contemplate the utilization of the services of the American Economic Committee for Palestine and the Economic Institute of the Jewish Agency. He stated that the department will not make recommendations for specific investment, but will answer inquiries and make information available.

Mr. Stone urged the creation of a separate Economic Committee since unsuccessful investment experiences would reflect on the ZOA.

Mr. Epstein agreed with Dr. Goldstein and stated that the department's educational work and economic research would be equally as important as the political phase of our work.

Mr. Boukstein emphasized that this ZOA activity offers unique opportunities. He stressed the fact that private investment rather than public funds have heretofore represented the largest part of Palestine's capital funds. The bulk of these funds in the past came from Poland and Central and Eastern European countries with American investors supplying only about fifty million dollars. Neither private funds nor public funds can alone rebuild Palestine and a joint effort provides the correct financial formula. The position on public funds in Palestine is somewhat akin to government aid in other countries. The desperate financial straits of Europe clearly places the burden upon the United States. The ZOA is charged with the responsibility of bringing an awareness of Palestine's economic potentialities to the membership and thereby encourage their participation in Palestine's economic upbuilding. The establishment of new industries in Palestine by American industrialists would increase the country's absorptive capacity and take up any postwar employment slack. ZOA, however, should not recommend specific investment and prospective investors must reach their own decisions from information supplied them.

Mr. Ezra Shapiro agreed with Dr. Goldstein and Messrs. Boukstein and Epstein while Mr. Levine advised caution and suggested his blueprint for economic action which, he stated, had received the approval of Dr. Weizmann and Robert Nathan. He suggested the retention of Robert Nathan as Economic Advisor.

Dr. Goldstein asked for authority to appoint a Director in consultation with an Advisory Committee. Upon motion of Mr. Epstein, duly seconded and passed, this authority was conferred.

COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE:

Rabbi Lelyveld reported for the Committee on Unity for Palestine. His Southwest tour disclosed that Council representatives had propagated anti-Zionist sentiment and shaken Zionist morale in this area. Rabbi Lelyveld's visits to these communities and the meetings held in conjunction therewith helped Zionist morale and succeeded in winning over to the Zionist fold some of those who had been persuaded by the Council representatives. The Council membership and public relations activities continue unabated. Affirmative action must be taken even in communities which assure us that they have no Council menace. The Southwest Zionist Region organized a Regional Committee on Unity for Palestine under Julius Livingston of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Felix Levy is attending the Southeastern Regional Convention in New Orleans and will organize a similar Regional Committee.

The Committee has published five pamphlets to date and is issuing regular bulletins, all of which are circulated among Council members and a select mailing list of potential Council members. Rabbi Lelyveld is preparing a dossier on provocative derogatory statements which issue from the Council and he intends to submit them to the proper anti-defamation agencies. Rabbi Lelyveld disclosed an interesting exchange of correspondence wherein the Council expressed its willingness to admit to membership anyone who was opposed to Zionism even if the applicant did not believe in Judaism as a religion. This exchange will be widely publicized.

Mr. Norman Jacobs, Vice Chairman of the Zionist Federation of England, was welcomed and introduced to Dr. Goldstein. He extended the fraternal greetings of his organization to the members of the Zionist Organization of America and stated that he hoped to use his visit to bring about a close contact between our two parallel bodies. As Chairman of the Political Committee of the English Zionist Federation, he emphasized the special political responsibilities which rest upon the Zionists of America.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Saul S. Spire
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.C.A. HELD SATURDAY
EVENING, JANUARY 6TH, 1945 AT 8:30 P.M. AT THE NEW YORK OFFICES, 41 EAST 42ND
STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, presiding; Robert M. Bornstein, Maurice M. Doukstein, Hon. M. Baldwin Fortig, Jacob Fishman, Daniel Frisch, Rabbi William P. Greenfeld, Dr. James G. Heller, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Louis Lipsky, Mortimer May, Abraham Redelheim, Louis P. Rocker, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Ezra Z. Shapiro, Herman Shulman, Louis E. Spiegler, Saul S. Spiro, William H. Sylk, Robert Szold, and Herman L. Weisman.

GUESTS: Prof. Solig Brodetsky, Meyer Abrams, Dr. Bossman, Joseph Fisher, Mendel M. Fisher, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Arthur Lurie and Meyer W. Weisgal.

Herzl Fishman and Leo J. Rosen

STAFF: Ernest E. Barbarash, Dr. Shlomo Bardin, Isidore Cooperman, and Dr. Ludwig Lewishohn.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Goldstein at 8:45 P. M.

The Chairman extended a welcome to Professor Brodetsky, President of the British Board of Jewish Deputies and member of the Jewish Agency Executive, to Mr. Joseph Fischer, head of the Zionists of France, and to Meyer W. Weisgal, who had just returned from Palestine.

Mr. Spiro's report on the activities of the organization was put over to the meeting of the Administrative Council the next day.

The Chairman traced briefly the events that occurred since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee which led to the reorganization of the Emergency Council. He reported that Dr. Wise was elected chairman of the plenum of the Emergency Council; Dr. Hayim Greenberg, of the Poale Zion, the chairman of the Executive; and Mrs. Rose Halprin, of Hadassah treasurer. A smaller committee (the Administrative Committee) has been established for implementation of policy, which consists of the heads of the four organizations, or their duly appointed designees, and a chairman, together with the chairman of the Executive and the chairman of the plenum. Mr. Herman Shulman was elected chairman of the smaller Administrative Committee. Dr. Goldmann and Mr. Lipsky as the representatives of the Jewish Agency will sit with all committees. A finance committee has also been provided for, composed of a chairman together with members to be designated by the four constituent organizations. Both the Executive and the smaller Administrative Committee have already met.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the action of the representatives of the ZOA in relation to the reorganization of the Emergency Council are deemed to be in conformity with the resolution heretofore adopted by the Executive.

The Chairman then informed the Committee that the first step toward the establishment of the Economic Department had been taken in the designation of Mr. David Tannenbaum as its director. The plans of the new department were briefly outlined. The first duty of the new department, the Chairman stated, would be the dissemination of information on the economic phases of Palestine through the districts. Mr. Tannenbaum is preparing an exhibit on Palestine economics. The next step will be the formation of a committee of businessmen to take care of inquiries regarding economic needs and opportunities in Palestine for recognized and approved investment media, and for the fostering of private enterprises in Palestine. It is hoped to establish a close contact in economic matters between Palestine and the ZOA, and to have qualified representatives from Palestine come here and assist in adapting our work to Palestinian needs. It is further anticipated that the Economic Department may be of service to the national funds, and by assisting them through private enterprise more American Zionists count were substantially than heretofore in the economic development of the Homeland. The Department looks to the economic section of the Jewish Agency for guidance, and is designed to cooperate, not compete or conflict with other existing enterprises of a like nature. Dr. Goldstein expressed the hope that Mr. Tannenbaum would at the next meeting be able to give a more detailed report on the activities contemplated by his department. For financial support, it was stated, the Economic Department would be allocated the sum of \$25,000 from the Expansion Fund.

In connection with setting up the Committee of businessmen to conduct the technical and business aspects of the project, which may involve an additional budget of \$25,000, the President was authorized to appoint a special committee with power if the matter cannot wait till the next Executive Committee meeting for action.

Dr. Goldstein then proceeded to the reading of a letter from Rabbi Simon Greenberg, concerning the work of the Education Committee. (Letter on file). Rabbi Greenberg stressed the need for a capable director for the Education Department, and called for a minimum budget of \$50,000; \$25,000 to be allocated for the remainder of the current year, and an additional \$25,000 to ensure continuance of the work after the next Convention.

In the ensuing discussion, it was brought out that the ZOA has been carrying on a great deal of educational work before the new project was instituted, and that duplication of effort was to be guarded against. It was moved and seconded that, subject to this understanding, funds be made available. Following a discussion in which Mr. Weisman, Mr. Shapiro, Dr. Lewishohn and Mr. Spiro participated, the motion was approved with the understanding that the final recommendation be again presented to the Executive for approval.

The Chairman then presented Professor Brodetsky, who gave the Committee his personal impressions of the state of British opinion regarding the Commonwealth both before and after recent terrorist activity in Palestine. Professor Brodetsky stated that before the assassination of Lord Moyne, it was his own conclusion that Prime Minister Churchill was rather favorably disposed than otherwise. The Moyne incident, however, did great damage, especially in view

of the long-standing friendship between Churchill and the victim. There was a tendency among certain sections of the British press, he said, to blame the Jews as a whole for the actions of one or two, but in general press reaction was "not as bad as it might have been", and he felt rather optimistic than otherwise for the future. The visit of Dr. Weizmann to Palestine mitigated to some extent the possible effects of the Moyne assassination. An official statement in regard to future policy in Palestine has been submitted to the British Government by the Agency Executive. The Prime Minister, he continued, attaches great importance to American public opinion in regard to Palestine, in view of the British domestic political situation. The question would in all likelihood be discussed at Churchill's next meeting with Roosevelt and Stalin, which will be an event of great importance to the future of Palestine. The most important factor now before Zionism, Professor Bredetsky concluded, was "to see that the next step in the political situation should be as favorable as possible."

After Professor Bredetsky had answered questions from the floor, the Chairman introduced the next speaker, Mr. Joseph Fischer.

Mr. Fischer, who spoke in Yiddish, brought greetings from the Zionists of France. He told the Committee that the 180,000 remaining members of the French Jewish community had restored to them all the civic rights of French citizenship, but were badly off economically, and that their morale was very low. It is estimated that there are about a million unemployed in France today, and it is particularly difficult for Jews to find work. The French Zionist movement has gained great impetus from the sufferings of the past few years, and comprises all groups, the largest being the Zionist Youth movement. The assimilationist faction is still strong, however. The main problem of the movement in France is organizational. Mr. Fischer concluded with an appeal for financial aid in the printing and distributing of Zionist propaganda, and of Hebrew textbooks in language, literature and history.

After a discussion in which Dr. Heller and Mr. Foukstein participated, a motion was approved that a committee be appointed to find ways and means of making available financial aid for the French Zionists.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. Weisgal for a report upon his recent trip to Palestine. Mr. Weisgal prefaced his talk with the statement that his stay in Palestine was too recently ended for him to have organized and sorted out his impressions.

He reported conversations with outstanding Palestinian leaders, among them Mr. Ben Gurion, and read a letter from Dr. Weizmann on the political situation. They discussed with him the implications of the recent political developments both in Palestine and the United States, problems of refugee rehabilitation, the varying conception of Palestine's absorptive capacity, and other problems concerning the Homeland and its people. Dr. Weizmann warned of the possible dangers of inflation both in the present and postwar period. He urged the formation of an American Chalutzit as a positive and stabilizing factor in expanding Palestine's economy. Dr. Weizmann also expressed the opinion that Lord Gert, the new High Commissioner, had made an excellent first impression on the country and had won its respect.

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Mr. Weisgal described the development of the country since his first visit as "fantastic". He presented an interesting picture of the processing of a group of recently arrived refugees, and their subsequent establishment in settlements throughout the country, especially remarking the improvement in morale within a few short weeks. The speaker emphasized the importance of making American Zionism a greater influence.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 P. M.

Respectfully submitted

Saul S. Soiro
Secretary



REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
NEW YORK, JANUARY 7, 1945

We are meeting at the end of the first quarter of the current Zionist fiscal year. These three months were marked by extraordinary progress in almost every phase of our program as it was outlined by Dr. Goldstein in his Presidential message to our convention in Atlantic City. We have more than lived up to our highest expectations in membership, in public relations, and in cultural activities. We have also taken vigorous and successful steps in the initiation of the eight major projects for which the ZOA Expansion Fund was launched. Notwithstanding certain distractions of a political nature, the organization goes forward undeterred with its important tasks. These facts are vividly reflected in the report which I herewith present to you.

EXPANSION FUND:

The Expansion Fund Campaign continues to develop successfully according to the pattern planned. It is under the able and forceful chairmanship of William Sylk and the expert direction of Dr. Sidney Marks. In each Region, area and major city, National Vice-Chairmen have been appointed. Our field men are visiting every district and are endeavoring to stimulate Expansion Fund activity. The National Vice-chairmen in most communities are already hard at work on their assignments. Reports which come into this office in increasing volume show that the fund-raising endeavor is gaining momentum.

Contributions to date total \$42,534. By the end of January we confidently expect a considerable increase.

It must, however, be remembered that our organization has not been geared for fund-raising, and we must both apply new techniques and instill new habits. Every effort is being made to accomplish these objects.

Much constructive work has been done. Dr. Goldstein and Dr. Marks have visited many communities in the interests of the Fund, and Rabbi Lelyveld, Oscar Leonard, and other speakers are giving their aid. I myself have recently returned from the Southeastern Regional Conference. This Region has already pledged \$50,000. Proportionate amounts have been pledged by other Regions. National Vice-Chairmen are stimulating the Districts to increased activity. During January, Judge Bernard Rosenblatt will cover the entire West Coast area, addressing Parlor, dinner, and other fund-raising meetings exclusively on behalf of the fund. The Southeast Region has its drive under way. The Empire State Region, Western New York, Seaboard and others show encouraging returns.

A series of promotional leaflets and other unusual material are being prepared to stimulate the interest of Districts, to challenge them and impress them with their responsibilities.

EXPANSION PROGRAM:

Although the fund-raising activity of the Expansion Program has only recently been initiated, and returns now represent but a small fraction of the amount which we expect to raise, several projects incorporated in the plan are already in successful operation.

(a) Radio - The radio project, "Palestine Speaks", under the untiring and devoted leadership of Joshua Epstein, is gaining a growing audience. At present 102 stations are broadcasting "Palestine Speaks" in an area comprising over 80% of the total Jewish population of the country. We hope that within the next month, we will be broadcasting to an even greater area.

(b) Committee on Unity for Palestine - The impact of the Committee on Unity for Palestine is beginning to be felt in that segment of the American Jewish community which is the Committee's chief concern, namely, the Reform group. This fact is attested by the reports which we have been receiving in increasing numbers, and, in negative fashion, by the violent reaction of Council members themselves.

The Committee's work begins to show definite progress. Thus far, over 95,000 copies of the Committee's Publications have been distributed. These publications are now five in number. In addition to pamphlets, three issues of a Bulletin, "Unity for Palestine", have been distributed, and the mailing list of this publication has been augmented with each succeeding issue. The current number is going to a practically complete list of the officers and Board members of the more than three hundred Reform congregations in America, to all members of the American Council for Judaism, to key individuals whose names were forwarded to us by Extension Fund contributors, and, for their information, to our Zionist leaders throughout the country.

In the period since the last Administrative Council meeting, Rabbi Lelyveld, Executive Vice-Director, has begun his full-time work with the Unity Committee, and has visited numerous communities in which the Council has been active. In Houston, Texas, Phoenix, Arizona, and Oklahoma City, a series of effective meetings were held. In Houston, a public relations campaign was organized under the sponsorship of the local Unity Committee with Mr. Bernard Lasky as Chairman; a Unity Committee for the Southwest Region has been established under the Chairmanship of Mr. Julius Livingston, of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dr. Felix A. Levy, National Chairman, has spoken in Lincoln, Nebraska, Des Moines, Iowa, and most recently at the Southeastern Regional Conference of the ZOA held in New Orleans. Mr. Oscar Leonard, Secretary of the Committee has visited five communities, in addition to shouldering efficiently the administrative duties.

Widespread interest was aroused by an exchange of letters between a Miss Silverman of Detroit and the American Council for Judaism, which we distributed to over ten thousand selected people. This exchange clearly exposes the true nature of the Council and many of those who had joined the Council in the belief that it was a religious organization, have either resigned or are determined to see the issue fully discussed.

(c) Publications - The Publications Committee is under the active supervision of its Chairman, Judge Louis E. Levinthal. A biography of David Wolffsohn, by Emil Bernhard Cohn, the first of a contemplated series, has already been published and is receiving wide distribution. Dr. Ludwig Lewisochn, editor of proposed Zionist publications, has submitted a project to the Committee and Dr. Goldstein. Arrangements are being made for early publication of three additional volumes: "What is Zionism?" "An Anthological Handbook", "Modern Hebrew Self-Taught", and "Contemporary Hebrew Literature". Abraham Revusky is preparing a "Palestine Annual" under the direction of the Committee.

The publications project can be made a powerful instrument of Jewish and Zionist education, and will eventually not only become self-supporting but will be a source of profit to the organization.

(d) Economic Department - Dr. Goldstein has announced the establishment of the Palestine Economic Bureau which began formal operation on January 1, 1945, under the direction of Dr. David Tannenbaum. The Bureau will endeavor to promote the economic interests of Palestine in order to make possible the absorption of an increased number of immigrants into the economy of the country. To this end it will enlist the support of American business men and encourage investment in Palestine industries. It will provide authentic, unbiased information to those who are interested in establishing their own business in Palestine, and will cooperate in supplying Palestine with skilled technicians. A major activity will be the acceleration of the flow of commerce between Palestine and the United States. We hope that this new Bureau will become a cherished preoccupation of the Zionists of this country and thus increase the effectiveness of the organization in the establishment of the proposed commonwealth.

(e) Hebrew Arts - This new project is under the Chairmanship of Dr. Simon Greenberg. Rabbi Moshe Davis is Chairman of the Administrative Committee. Studio units consisting of Pargod, Galil Singers, Rikud Ami Dance Troupe, and Kiner Sinfonietta, are working towards an entire evening's program sometime in the Spring of 1945. Three distinct projects are being prepared at present - 1) Hebrew Dance, consisting of themes from the "Bible, Folk Themes, and Themes of our Day." - 2) Hebrew music which will include the Galil Singers as well as the Sinfonietta in a program of Jewish compositions (some of which will be rendered for the first time), both liturgical and a choral cantata. - 3) A full length play "Shlomo Hamelech V'Shalmel Hasandlar" by Sami Grunerman, will be produced by Erwin Piscator and R. Ben Ari. The Committee has also created an artists' bureau to fill the requests of the various committees. In New York arrangements are being made for cooperation with local Zionist districts to coordinate the local program for teaching community songs, dramatics and dancing. The Committee also plans art exhibitions, one featuring the works of Herman Struk and the other an exhibition of contemporary Palestinian artists. In order to centralize all activities, the Committee hopes to establish a center to be known as The Hebrew Arts Center of the Zionist Organization of America.

MEMBERSHIP:

Leo J. Rosen, National Membership Chairman, has already begun a highly effective drive toward the goal of 200,000 set for the current year.

For purposes of comparison you will recall that membership for the period 1943/44 closed with 111,421, exclusive of B'nai Zion whose enrollment was 4,018. These members remain in good standing. This year's activity has produced 34,988 renewals, consisting of 34,941 regular members and 47 President Chapter members. To this renewal figure, we can add 1,411 Life members, 3,757 members who serve in our armed forces and an enrollment of 11,814 new members which gives us a total of 51,790 members in good standing. (same date last year 35,923 - an increase of 16,049).

New techniques and incentives have been devised, such as Citations of Honor, an unusual type of membership kit, in addition to a campaign of major proportions dedicated to Dr. Weizmann in honor of his 70th birthday.

FINANCE:

Benjamin Weingart, Comptroller, reports the financial status of the ZOA for the 3-month period including October, November and December, 1944 as follows:

The total receipts of the General Fund were \$214,284, of which \$150,182 was income from membership dues, and \$64,102 from other sources making a total of \$214,284. Disbursements for the same period for budgetary expenses and accounts payable amounted to \$213,598.

A detailed analysis of receipts and disbursements for this period is as follows:

	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Other Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
October	\$37,008	\$12,804	\$49,812
November	61,942	14,923	76,865
December	51,232	16,375	67,607
From Ext. Fund		20,000	20,000
TOTAL	\$150,182	\$64,102	\$214,284
Total Disbursements.			<u>213,598</u>
Balance.			686
Balance Oct. 1, 1944			<u>6,001</u>
Balance Dec. 31, 1944.			<u>\$ 6,687</u>

The total membership income of \$150,182 as of December 31, 1944, represents 32,962 renewals, 9,911 new members and 41 President Chapter members, a total of 42,914 members. Subsequent membership income received for January 2 and 3 amounted to \$12,714 and represents 3,237 additional members.

82 life memberships have been added to the 907 secured up to October 1, 1944, and the total of 989 life memberships as of December 31, 1944, has provided \$98,900 for our life membership reserve account, of which \$72,000 is invested in JNF Bonds and the balance of \$26,900 is in current funds in the life membership reserve account.

The Expansion Fund has received \$37,509 up to and including January 3, 1945, and there remains in the Expansion Fund Reserve Account a balance of \$36,943.

Detailed figures for this account are as follows:

Balance in Extension Fund - Oct. 1, 1944	\$33,680.63
Receipts - Extension Fund to 10/15/44	850.00
Expansion Fund -10/15 - 1/3/45	42,534.00
Expenditures-Variou Activities	\$15,096.32
Radio Advances	23,825.00
	<u>\$77,064.63</u>
	38,921.32
Balance January 3, 1945	<u>\$38,143.31</u>

The Finance Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Samuel Berson has met frequently and has approved budgetary changes and corrections as directed by the Executive Committee.

The financial condition of the ZOA is on a sound basis and all accounts are current.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Our Public Relations Department, under the direction of Ernest E. Barbarash, reports an unprecedented coverage of ZOA and Palestine news items in the press of the country. On the basis of clippings on file, it is estimated that in the ten week period since the convention more than 1800 columns of ZOA releases have been published in the general, Anglo-Jewish and Yiddish press. It is worthy of note that the ratio of items published in the general press as compared with the Jewish newspapers has jumped from 15% to 30%. Many major items released by the ZOA Public Relations Department, such as the statement denouncing the assassination of Lord Moyne, Dr. Goldstein's Chamuka manifesto outlining the campaign for 200,000 members, and the tribute to Dr. Weizmann were put on the wires by the Associated Press and United Press.

The Bulletin INSIDE PALESTINE is in greater demand than ever. The number of institutions and individuals requesting the bulletin has swelled to over 2,000. U.S. Government Departments, many U.S. Libraries and Universities are on the mailing list. The Jewish community of Curacao, Netherland West Indies, is the latest among distant communities that have requested permission to reprint the material in their bulletins. INSIDE PALESTINE is especially popular among Jewish members of the armed forces.

The newest material issued by the Public Relations Department includes program manuals for Chamukah and Chamisha Asar B'Shevat, containing background and source material for the observance of the festivals by ZOA districts and regions, as well as new pamphlets in furtherance of our membership and Expansion Fund drives. The latter includes promotion literature in connection with the 100,000 new membership class dedicated to Dr. Weizmann. The Department has also initiated a publicity drive to promote the distribution of the biography of David Wolffsohn by Dr. Emil Bernhard Cohn, the first volume of a series of books on Zionism and Palestine which will be published under the chairmanship of Judge Louis E. Levinthal.

The Public Relations Department also supervised the publication of a new booklet "The Road Ahead", a program for American Zionism based on the Presidential address delivered by Dr. Goldstein to the 47th Annual Convention of the ZOA, and the Yiddish pamphlet, "The Jewish Commonwealth and Your Future", the third of a series of Yiddish brochures that is being distributed among Yiddish speaking individuals and societies. The latest Yiddish brochure contains a collection of articles by Dr. S. Bernstein, A. Almi and Daniel Friesch. The first two brochures were by Dr. Goldstein and Mr. Almi.

A word should be said about the News Reporter issue of The New Palestine, edited by Mr. Barbarash. Requests have been received from Anglo-Jewish newspapers throughout the country for permission to reprint material and photographs dealing with Palestine events. The special convention issue of the house-organ, as well as the November issue, which devoted a special section to the proceedings of the UPA Conference in Chicago, were widely used by our workers.

The ZOA Public Relations Department in Washington has also established coordination in cultural and educational activities with the Metropolitan office in New York for more effective functioning of their program.

The ZOA contemplates participating in the 75th birthday celebration of the Yiddish press sponsored by the Peretz Yiddish Writers Union.

A new Zionist publication, in the form of an illustrated periodical called "ZOA Horizon" will shortly go to press. This publication will be devoted exclusively to the promotion of the eight major ZOA Projects which are to be financed by the Expansion Fund.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU:

During November and December the Speakers' Bureau, under the direction of Yale Goldberg, has through direct contact with district officers and field directors made arrangements for speakers to address 426 district meetings. The Bureau has compiled an impressive list of Rabbis, Laymen and professional lecturers who have offered their services to the ZOA. To date 54 speakers have addressed Zionist meetings at the request of the national office. Eighteen of these speakers visited our different regions on a tour basis. Arrangements for additional tours are now being completed. Every region of the Organization has benefitted by the services of the Bureau.

Special mention should be made of the splendid cooperation of Rabbi Maurice Bloom, Dr. Samuel Blumenfield, Charles A. Cowen, Dr. Mitchell Salem Fisher, Joseph Goldberg, Isaac Heller, Rabbi Manuel Iaderman, Dr. Ludwig Lewisochn, Rabbi Carl Manello, Pierre van Paassen, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, and Richard A. Yaffe. Richard Evans has been outstandingly helpful in stimulating and crystalizing Christian opinion in favor of Zionist aims.

Each regional office --New York, Pittsburgh, Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, etc., maintains its own local speakers' department. These branch offices have received constant guidance and assistance from the National Speakers' Bureau. Lists and recommendations have been submitted to each of these offices and financial help has been accorded each region.

We have created an interest in speakers who were previously unknown and through the tour method have been able to serve our regions adequately. We have also initiated the production of a new film for the ZOA and are about to re-edit the existing films now in our possession.

PERIODICALS:

(a) The "News Reporter" issue of The New Palestine and the proposed ZOA Horizon have been fully discussed under the Public Relations Department.

(b) The literary section of The New Palestine is now under the editorial direction of Dr. Ludwig Lewisochn. The editor has endeavored to intensify the tone and elevate the stylistic form of the magazine by obtaining new contributors, among them some of the world's most distinguished thinkers, including Martin Buber, Jacob Klatzkin, and Hugo Bergmann. Dr. Lewisochn has established an informal seminary for the development of new talent among our youth, and plans to devote a monthly page to the instruction and inspiration of new members.

EDUCATION:

Rabbi Simon Greenberg has devoted much time and thought to the development of an adequate program of Zionist education. The first meeting of this Committee has been held recently and plans for the future have been formulated.

BOOK DEPARTMENT:

The Book Department, under the direction of Isidore Cooperman, shows progress. In the first three months of this year (October, November, and December) almost 6,000 volumes have been sold, which is two-thirds of last year's total sales.

During the past three months the Book Department has played a prominent role in the celebration of Jewish Book Month. Districts were urged to participate in local celebrations and the Department provided the Zionist books. A manual for Jewish Book Month was mailed to every District. USO directors and chaplains were supplied with appropriate materials.

On Wednesday, November 29, a Zionist Shelf was presented to the Library of Judaica and Hebraica of New York University. Dr. Goldstein presented the Shelf on behalf of the ZOA. Districts and Regions are being urged to present Zionist Shelves to local Universities, public and Jewish Community Center Libraries.

The Book Department arranges for a Zionist table at Regional Conventions. During the past three months it was represented at the Conventions of the Brooklyn, Connecticut and Southeast Regions.

At present the Department is engaged in distributing the David Wolffsohn biography.

The Department is now preparing a catalogue of Judaica suitable for children from six to sixteen years of age.

PALESTINE BUREAU:

Dr. S. Bernstein, Director of the Palestine Bureau, reports that 11,000 persons were granted immigration certificates through the Bureau. Recent developments of the war have prevented further rescue work in Hungary; the Bureau has nevertheless been able to secure approval for the future release of an additional 120 men in German concentration camps on an exchange basis.

The Bureau has obtained from the British Passport Control Office in New York a statement that Palestine residents possessing United States citizenship who returned here after the outbreak of the war will be permitted to re-enter Palestine without certificates. This will save many certificates for allocation to other applicants.

YOUTH COMMISSION:

The Chairman of the Youth Commission is the very active Herman Weisman who has materially aided in the translation into concrete achievement of the various activities of the Commission since the Convention in Atlantic City. Since the last ZOA Convention ten new Commissions have been established in the States of Virginia, Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, New York and Massachusetts. Many scores of leadership training courses are conducted by local Commissions throughout the country. Among the outstanding are one held in Los Angeles and one by the Manhattan-Bronx Youth Commissions. A number of local Commissions are conducting essay contests both among their general youth population and in the Hebrew Schools, Sunday Schools, etc.,

With the cooperation of the national offices of the ZOA and Hadassah, a new Youth Commission Regional set-up, composed of nineteen youth Commission Regions, was agreed upon. This arrangement will enable the Commission to carry out the decision of the two Executive Boards to increase the personnel of the Youth Commission to fifty-six, with two representatives from each region. A serious attitude to youth work is also shown by the appointment of Regional and Local Youth Directors, with funds provided by the regional and local Commissions. New England, Connecticut, all the Boroughs in the Metropolitan Area, Philadelphia, Kansas City, and many others are engaging full or part-time professional personnel for youth work.

The Executive Director of the Commission is Dr. Shlomo Bardin who has coordinated the activities of the various groups which constitute the Commission, including Young Judaea, which is under the expert leadership of Aharon Kessler, Masada, under the guidance of Paul Byne; Junior Hadassah and Avukah. The results of Brandeis Camp Institute training is reflected in the active participation of the Camp's graduates not only in their respective youth groups but also in the feeling of enthusiasm which they instill in the adult groups within the community.

FIELD SERVICE:

To our Field Directors who number twenty I would like to express my extreme appreciation of the marvelous work which these people are doing in bringing the message of the Zionist Organization of America to the entire country. Regardless of personal inconvenience they have thrown themselves into the work with zeal and enthusiasm and the organization has been well-served by them.

CONCLUSION:

This resume of our activities for the opening months of this crucial year shows that Zionists throughout the country are answering the call of duty in a way not incommensurate with Israel's need. The Districts, the backbone of the movement, under their devoted and zealous leaders, are vibrant with Zionist feeling. These leaders are in the forefront of Jewish communal life, taking the lead in the A.J.C. and in all other movements dedicated to Jewish welfare. Our faith in the future is founded on the devotion and the strength of our people.

Respectfully submitted

Saul S. Spiro
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.O.A. HELD ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 6th, 1945 AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE NEW YORK OFFICES, 41 EAST
42ND STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, presiding; Robert M. Bernstein, Samuel Berson, Maurice M. Boukstein, Jacob Fishman, Daniel Frisch, Abraham Goodman, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Irving D. Lipkowitz, Abraham A. Redelheim, Louis P. Rucker, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Hon. Albert D. Schanzer, Herman Shulman, Jacob Sincoff, Saul S. Spiro, William A. Sylk, Robert Szold, and Herman L. Weisman.

GUESTS: Joshua Epstein, Mendel N. Fisher, Herzl Fishman, and Dr. Robert Gordis.

STAFF: Ernest E. Barbarash, Dr. S. Bernstein, Oscar Leonard, and Dr. Ludwig Lewisohn, and Dr. David Tannenbaum.

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The meeting was called to order by Dr. Goldstein at 5:30 P. M.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

A communication from the American Jewish Conference, dated February 19, 1945 was read. It requested that the ZOA allocate the sum of \$3500 toward the 1945 Budget of the Conference, a copy of which was appended. The letter stated that the 1945 Budget, on the basis of representation as between organization and community delegates, provides that 75% of the budgetary needs be allocated to the communities and 25% (which amounts to \$55,000) to the national organization.

Mr. Samuel Berson advised the Executive that the ZOA gave the Conference \$2,000 last year. He stated that he had informed a representative of the Conference that a grant of \$3500 could not be made by the ZOA. He recommended, however, that a \$1,000 loan to the Conference, now outstanding be written off and considered an outright grant, and together with an additional \$1,000 constitute a total contribution of \$2,000. Motion to that effect duly made, seconded and passed.

RADIO COMMITTEE:

Mr. Joshua Epstein, national chairman of the ZOA Radio Committee, reported on the activities of his Committee. He stated that his group had supervised the preparation of 29 recordings, constituting the program "Palestine Speaks!" It is being broadcast in 112 cities; 40 Canadian stations are making use of the program. The program will also be broadcast on the Pacific Jungle Network to soldiers in that area. South Africa has requested copies of the script and the program has been produced in that country. In New York 60,000 radios, it is estimated, are tuned to "Palestine Speaks!" every Sunday. Mr. Epstein further reported that the equivalent of a coast-to-coast network has been built up for "Palestine Speaks!"; this has been done by communities themselves and the energetic Zionists in many cities, who have given

unstintingly of their time and resources. He also pointed out that this success had been attained in spite of the efforts of the American Council for Judaism to keep the program off the air.

The Radio Committee was commended for its achievements and requested to prepare a tentative program for the next year.

Dr. Goldstein extended greetings on behalf of the Executive to Mr. Abraham Goodman, national treasurer of the ZOA, who just returned from an absence of several months in Florida; and to Dr. Robert Gordis, president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America.

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL:

Mr. Herman Weisman presented a report on the status of the United Palestine Appeal. He strongly urged that all Zionist agencies coordinate their efforts to strengthen the U.P.A. position throughout the country in order to bring about parity with the J.D.C. in the distribution of funds. Mr. Weisman reported that parity was achieved in the Tri-State Region. He also discussed the peculiar situation existing in New York City arising out of the present corporate set-up. Nevertheless the U.P.A. received an increase in percentage over previous years, although slight. The Executive Committee of the U.P.A., continued Mr. Weisman, recorded its dissatisfaction in the following resolution:

"The Executive Committee of the United Palestine Appeal hereby records its strong dissatisfaction with the basic unfairness of the decision of the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, so far as Palestine is concerned. While we appreciate that the Allocations Committee granted to Palestine a participation in the New York Joint Campaign greater than JDC was ever willing to concede in the national UJA agreements of former years, or during negotiations of the 1945 contract, we protest because this approach to parity with JDC in the distribution of joint collections is insufficient and unfair, because less than a 50/50 division continues an attitude of belittlement towards Palestine which certain elements in our community still attempt to make plausible and represents failure to recognize the centrality of Palestine for Jewish relief, to rescue and rehabilitation even after Palestine on the level of saving Jewish lives has accomplished more . . . than any other country in the world.

"The UPA also denies the validity or jurisdiction of the UJA of Greater New York to attempt in any way to limit the scope of the fund-raising program of the Jewish National Fund which has become traditional in Jewish community life, a program which has always been safeguarded by the UPA in concluding agreements for joint campaign drives and over which the UJA of Greater New York, Inc. has no authority whatsoever, least of all by any consent or agreement on the part of the UPA or its two constituent and autonomous bodies, the Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund.

"The UPA has demonstrated its desire to maintain intact the joint fund-raising apparatus of the UJA of Greater New York, Inc. by agreeing to allocation of specific sums which in a generous manner answers the current needs of the MRS and JWB, and will fully co-operate in the 1945 campaign despite its sincere conviction that the formula for fund distribution to the UPA while superior to anything that the JDC would grant by agreement, is less than a true and fair evaluation of Palestine's contribution to relief, rescue and rehabilitation actually justified."

Mr. Weisman then presented a report on the general U.P.A. situation existing in many cities throughout the country. In the ensuing discussion in which the following participated: Mr. Bernstein, Mr. Boukstein, Judge Rosenblatt and Mr. Spiro, it was indicated that the U.P.A. position was misunderstood in many communities and that clarification was essential.

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE:

Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, chairman of the ZOA Economic Committee, reported on the work of the Economic Bureau, of which Dr. David Tannenbaum is director. He stated the Economic Bureau has made arrangements with the American Economic Committee to place its files and information service both here and in Palestine at the disposal of the Economic Bureau. He also stated that the first issue of Pal-Eco had been published by the ZOA Economic Bureau; that it is to be a regular monthly periodical; that the Bureau also plans to reprint a series of pamphlets dealing with phases of the economic developments of Palestine. In 10% of the Zionist districts, economic committees have already been organized, and contacts are being made with many Zionists who have been planning investments in Palestine. An Economic conference for Palestine is being planned jointly with the Keren Hayesod to be held in New York City on May 5-6; to present a complete picture of the economic development of Palestine. The ZOA Economic Bureau has also distributed several press releases to financial sections of the general press, and Anglo-Jewish publications.

Dr. Tannenbaum reported that several inquiries have been received from businessmen who are interested in establishing branch offices in Palestine and stated that surveys were being undertaken to inform fully those who had expressed interest and to supply them with basic information. He pointed out that the present major activity of the Economic Bureau in the collection and dissemination of reliable information regarding industrial development of Palestine and the preparation of the Economic Conference. He described in detail what the contemplated Conference sponsored by Keren Hayesod and the Economic Bureau would consider; that in addition to prominent speakers at series of round-table discussions were planned, devoted to food, textiles and pharmaceuticals, etc.

Dr. Goldstein indicated that an economic conference would have the two-fold purpose of impressing the ZOA Economic Bureau upon the consciousness of American Jews and at the same time of revealing to possible American investors the economic potentialities of Palestine. Mr. Weisman, Dr. Tannenbaum and Dr. Goldstein participated in the ensuing discussion.

Confidential

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.C.A. HELD ON
MONDAY EVENING, MAY 14th, 1945 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE NEW YORK OFFICES,
41 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, presiding, Samuel Berson, Robert M. Bernatein, Maurice M. Boukstein, A. K. Epstein, Hon. M. Maldwin Fertig, Jacob Fishman, Daniel Frisch, Dr. James G. Heller, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Emanuel Neumann, Abraham Redelheim, Louis F. Becker, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Jacob Sincoff, Saul S. Spiro, Dewey D. Stone, William H. Sylk, Robert Szold, and Herman L. Weisman.

GUESTS: Dr. Benjamin Akzin, Juliet Benjamin, Z. Paul Byne, Naomi Chertoff, Mendel M. Fisher, Mrs. Israel Goldstein, Dr. Gross, A. K. Isreeli, Mrs. Jacobson, and Robert Travis.

STAFF: Ernest E. Barbarash, Dr. Simon Bernatein, Dr. Ludwig Lewisohn, and Oscar Leonard.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Goldstein at 8:00 P.M. Letters were received from Hon. Albert D. Schanzer, Mortimer May, and Rabbi Robert Gordis regretting their inability to attend.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The chairman stated that six months has elapsed since the election of Mr. Saul S. Spiro to the office of national secretary of the ZCA, that Mr. Spiro has ably carried all the responsibilities formerly borne by Mr. Simon Shetzer, who was both Executive Director and Secretary of the ZCA, and recommended that Mr. Spiro be elected also to the office of Executive Director. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously so voted.

STAFF AFFILIATION WITH C.I.O.:

A statement of the Executive Staff on the ZCA was read, requesting that for purposes of collective bargaining recognition be extended to a union of their choosing, the SSEU Chapter of the C.I.O. Dr. James G. Heller moved that the request be granted. Mr. Samuel Berson stated that this union has been recognized by other Jewish organizations and urged that the Finance Committee enter into negotiations with representatives of the union; that a contract be mutually agreed upon and submitted for ratification to the Executive Committee. Dr. Heller's motion was unanimously adopted.

HENRIETTA SZOLD MEMORIAL:

The Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, president of Hadassah, dated April 10th, and addressed to Dr. Goldstein. The text of the letter follows:

"A few weeks ago Mrs. Dushkin and Dr. Fround discussed with you the whole question of the Henrietta Szold Memorial, which would not only serve to perpetuate the name of this great American Jewish woman, but would keep alive for generations those values which made her great and which made possible her magnificent contribution to Palestine, the Zionist cause and the Jewish people.

"Mrs. Dushkin reported that you reacted favorably to the idea of a Henrietta Szold Youth Center in New York as a joint undertaking of the Zionist Organization of America and Hadassah, where young people from all over the United States would be trained in Zionist thinking and Zionist ideology. Understandably, you stated that the matter would have to be submitted to the Executive of the Zionist Organization for official action. This letter, then, is an official reminder of your willingness to present the project to your Executive and to let us know the outcome of the discussions.

"We believe that such a Center would call for an initial fund of \$100,000 to which Hadassah would contribute \$50,000. The upkeep of the Center would then become part of an enlarged Youth Commission budget, borne equally by Hadassah and the Zionist Organization of America. This is a very challenging project, one which we believe will ignite the enthusiasm of our American Jewish youth, help us mobilize Jewish youth for Zionist purposes, and keep fresh and alive the spirit of Miss Szold.

"We look forward to a presentation of this project at the next meeting of the ZOA, and an encouraging response."

The chairman recalled to the Committee his conversation of a year ago with some of the members of the Executive regarding a central building in New York to serve as a Zionist youth center which might in time prove an incentive to other large Jewish communities, for the creation of a central radiation point for Zionist ideology and inspiration.

Miss Juliet Benjamin of Hadassah elaborated upon the contents of the letter, and urged the center as the natural outgrowth and development of the projects of the Youth Commission. Miss Benjamin, in response to a question, stated that Hadassah was planning other types of memorial for Miss Szold, including travelling fellowships and grants to the Children's Foundation in Palestine. Mr. Herman Weisman stated that the Youth Commission had been contemplating a center for some time. He considered this memorial to Miss Szold highly appropriate, and felt that a joint venture of Hadassah and the ZOA would make it possible.

Mr. A. K. Epstein expressed the view that a center established in New York would be looked upon as a local project; that if the Youth Commission felt a memorial necessary, they should consider the advisability of establishing a Youth Institute in Palestine to which American students could be sent. It was agreed that a committee be appointed to study the matter carefully, both with regard to the program and financial practicability; to discuss it with representatives from Hadassah and to report at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary's report showed that the paid membership to date (May 14th) was 107,733; that \$189,868 had been contributed to the Expansion Fund, an increase of \$69,000 over the previous month's report. (Copy of Mr. Spiro's report attached). The chairman commended Mr. Spiro and the executive staff on the remarkable job which has been accomplished in a period of internal and external difficulties. Mr. Spiro acknowledged Mr. Berson's cooperation.

DR. GOLDSTEIN'S TRIP TO WEST COAST:

Dr. Goldstein reported that he had visited Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, Kansas City and St. Louis, and had spoken before meetings sponsored by Zionist districts and the Emergency Council, at which he stressed, *inter alia*, membership and Expansion Fund needs. He also addressed meetings of Welfare Fund groups and Community Councils at which he stressed U.P.A. parity. In Kansas City and St. Louis he met with many individuals who had been close to President Truman in the days of his Senatorial career and earlier. In Seattle he conferred with several friends who were familiar with the record and opinion of Governor Walgren, who is very sympathetic towards Zionist aspirations, and who will be in Washington.

SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE:

Dr. Goldstein presented his report on the San Francisco Conference, which he attended as a representative of the American Jewish Conference and as a consultant to the United States delegation. He stated that both the State Department and the U.S. delegation were aware that the American Jewish Conference represented the vast majority of the Jews of this country. He also reviewed the activities of individuals and organizations other than the American Jewish Conference. He emphasized the gigantic public relations work that was necessary to present to representatives and newspaper correspondents from all over the world the problems confronting the Jewish people and the facts regarding Palestine.

It became evident early in the session that the technicalities of the agenda and of the make-up of the Conference would rule out consideration of the demand that the Jewish people be given a hearing. Only states could have representation; the Jewish people had no status; therefore it could obtain no status. Many statesmen, however, were spoken with, some of them on several occasions.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP:

Two items on the agenda of the Conference touched on Jewish problems and representations, and presented an opportunity to bring forward the Zionist program. One was the discussion of that part of the Dumbarton Oaks proposals which dealt with human rights. Dr. Goldstein stated that:

"While the consideration of our specific recommendations with regard to Jewish rights was technically deemed out of bounds in a Conference which restricted itself to the task of creating international machinery and left the consideration of programs for subsequent discussions, we found a large common area of agreement on the necessity of guarding against solutions by mere words and of making the effective guarantee of human rights a more important part of the scope of the International Organization than had been contemplated at Dumbarton Oaks."

The second item, said Dr. Goldstein, was the discussion of international trusteeships.

"We recognized the danger that even our own U.S. Delegation, friendly as it was, might inadvertently, because of its primary concern with American interests in the Pacific, permit a plan or formula of trusteeship to be adopted which would impair or even cancel Jewish rights and British obligations under the present Palestine Mandate and thus put an end to the possibility not only of free Jewish immigration and colonization in Palestine but also to its establishment as a Jewish Commonwealth as envisaged by the Balfour Declaration. We demanded, of course, that when the matter of trusteeships is discussed in the Conference Commission the Jewish Agency be heard."

THE AMERICAN DELEGATION:

Dr. Goldstein reported that Secretary of State Stettinius and other members of the American delegation had been made aware of the responsibility of the American Government to safeguard the interests of the Jewish people in view of the clear and unequivocal expressions of American policy hitherto made, and the existence of American rights with reference to Palestine, as established under the terms of the Anglo-American treaty of 1924, which guaranteed that no changes would be made in the original Palestine Mandate without consultation with and the consent of the American people.

STATEMENT OF MR. JOHN FOSTER DULLES:

Dr. Goldstein stated that Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Monsky and he had spoken with Mr. John Foster Dulles, who evinced understanding and sympathy, and made the following statement:

"America is opposed to the lumping of pre-war mandates into a general United Nations trusteeship with the mandates taken from the enemy. The fate of Palestine and other pre-war mandates will be decided at a later date upon their own merits and it will then be determined in relation to Palestine as in relation to other pre-war mandates whether to continue the mandate or place the country under international trusteeship or decide to establish Palestine as an independent Jewish State."

"America does not favor the participation of Arab States or any other states besides Britain, France or the United States in making the final decision on the status of Palestine. America does not entertain any position on the proposals of regional councils.

"There is no reason for concern over possible Arab representation on the committee which is to deal with trusteeships."

ALLEGED STATEMENT BY MR. CLEMENT ATTLEE:

While at the Conference it was reported by the JTA that Mr. Clement Attlee was alleged to have stated that "the people of Palestine would have to be consulted about this question." Upon inquiry it was denied that such a statement was made.

ZIONIST SYMPATHIZERS:

Dr. Goldstein emphasized that outstanding statesmen had expressed themselves sympathetically toward Zionist aspirations, including Mr. Masaryk, Mr. Frazer of New Zealand, who is Chairman of the International Commission on Trusteeships, General Smuts of South Africa, Minister Lo and Dr. Wu of China, and many others.

JEWISH AGENCY:

The Jewish Agency's special emissaries, Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, had submitted a memorandum on behalf of the Agency signed by Dr. Chaim Weizmann. Both Dr. Wise and Dr. Goldmann were planning to discuss the entire problem with representatives of many of the governments. An amendment had been suggested by the American delegation which read, "and safeguard the interests of the inhabitants of the country." Dr. Wise and the Zionist delegation suggested that the amendment read as follows: "to safeguard and protect the interests of those for whom the mandate was intended."

MEMORANDA DISTRIBUTED:

Memoranda were prepared by both the American Jewish Conference and the Jewish Agency and were distributed to the delegates and newspaper correspondents.

The Arabs, said Dr. Goldstein, had made a distinct impression because of their public relations staff. The Oil companies interested in the Near East had contributed both money and personnel to further the interests of the various Arab representatives.

Dr. Goldstein concluded with the hope that "other opportunities would present themselves in the near future when we could press ahead for a decision upon our objectives."

Mr. Mendel Fisher, Mr. Robert Bernstein, Mr. Redelheim, Dr. Levino, Mr. Berson and others asked questions relating to special phases of the Conference.

CONFERENCE IN LONDON:

It was reported that Mr. David Ben Gurion had cabled from London to Jerusalem recommending that an extraordinary conference be held in London at the end of June, to be attended by approximately 60 people, one third to be members of the Actions Committee and the others Zionist leaders of the various countries.

Pursuing to a decision of a previous meeting, the Executive Committee approved the calling of such a conference and is prepared to send a delegation to represent the ZOA.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL:

Dr. James G. Heller, national chairman of the U.P.A. in his report, stated that the separate appeal for funds was progressing in a satisfactory manner. Indications are that more money will be raised than in 1944; and that the U.P.A. will not suffer financially as a result of the separate campaign. Many communities had decided to make allotments to the U.P.A. on a parity with the J.D.C., and in no instance was a lesser sum granted than in the previous year. Dr. Heller expressed the opinion that "continued over several years, a separate campaign on the part of the U.P.A. would tend to democratize the American communal structure."

Dr. Heller also reported that the War Relief Control Board, a government agency, had called a meeting and requested that the U.P.A. representatives attend. At this meeting representatives of the J.D.C. had unfairly attacked the U.P.A. and the Jewish Agency. The War Relief Control Board urged the reconstruction of the United Jewish Appeal. Mr. Deway Stone, Mr. Jacob Fishman, Dr. Akzin, Mr. Mendel Fisher, Mr. Epstein and others participated in the ensuing discussion. It was then announced that Dr. Heller was to leave shortly for Palestine. The chairman, on behalf of the Committee, extended their good wishes to Dr. Heller, who stated that he had been requested to prepare a series of articles on Palestine by the Cincinnati Times Star. It was suggested that the ZOA syndicate these articles so that other newspapers would be given an opportunity to carry this first-hand information.

PALESTINE BUREAU:

Dr. Simon Bernstein reported on the activities of the ZOA Palestine Bureau. He submitted a copy of a cable received from Paris indicating that 25,000 Jews were reported alive in Belsen Bergen, and that many of them desired to immigrate to Palestine. He reported further that the ZOA Palestine Bureau from January to May, 1945, had submitted about 5,000 applications for Palestine certificates, of which 4,000 have already been granted.

Dr. Bernstein stated that several hundred American citizens who formerly resided in Palestine have applied to the Bureau requesting aid in obtaining permission to return there.

REPORT BY JUDGE LEVINTHAL:

Judge Levinthal, as chairman of a committee which also included Mr. Daniel Frisch, Mr. Louis Lipsky, Mr. Ezra Shapiro and Mr. Deway Stone, reported that his group, which was appointed to explore the matter of establishing peace

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within the movement, had held two meetings, and that progress is being made.

CONVENTION:

Dr. Goldstein stated that at about this time of year it was customary to appoint a convention committee to make the necessary arrangements for the annual ZOA convention. Because of Office of Defense Transportation Regulations, it will have to be ascertained whether it will be feasible to hold the convention during either September or October this year. Dr. Goldstein therefore stated that he is appointing a committee to examine the situation thoroughly and to discuss and investigate the feasibility of holding a convention at the normal time. The committee is to report at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

VISIT LIBERATED COUNTRIES:

Mr. Frisch discussed the advisability of a ZOA delegation to visit the liberated countries of Europe to study the condition of the surviving Jews there; to extend to them the greetings of American Zionists and to investigate the possibilities of rehabilitation of Zionist life and activity. The chairman called attention to the consistency of this proposal with the proposal to the last Zionist convention when he urged such a delegation to extend the hands of fellowship to European Jewry, not an empty hand, but one bearing some substantial help if possible. It was agreed to look into the feasibility of the project.

LEWISOHN STADIUM:

Hon. M. Maldwin Fertig described the rally held in the Lewishohn Stadium, New York City, under the joint sponsorship of the American Jewish Conference and the Zionist Emergency Council, which was attended by 60,000 persons. Speakers included Dr. Wise, Dr. Silver, Mrs. Epstein, Mayor La Guardia, Senator Wagner, Louis Lipsky and others. Mr. Fertig commended the staff of the ZOA for their cooperation in the preparation for the rally. Dr. Goldstein complimented Mr. Fertig, chairman of the arrangements committee, and Mr. Fishman for their aid in making the rally a success.

COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE:

Dr. Heller briefly indicated the progress made by the ZOA Committee on Unity for Palestine, stating that 1000 rabbis had signed a declaration sponsored by the Committee, entitled "An Appeal to the Conscience of America."

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF CHICAGO:

It was reported that Gov. Dwight Green of Illinois and Mayor Kelly of Chicago had issued statements endorsing a Jewish Commonwealth of Palestine and urging Jews of the city of Chicago to join the ZOA.

CHAPLAINS:

It was suggested that members of the ZOA who reside in the vicinity of army camps keep in close contact with the chaplains, and cooperate with them in fostering Zionism and good will.

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VETERANS:

Mr. Jacob Fishman stated that several months ago he had brought up the question of returning war veterans and the Zionist movement. The Jewish War Veterans Organization is holding a conference and representatives from the ZOA have been invited. The ZOA should arrange to cooperate with the Jewish War Veterans, who have publicly endorsed a Jewish Commonwealth of Palestine. The chairman recalled that Mr. Archie Greenberg, president of the organization, spoke at the last ZOA convention. Mr. Z. Paul Byne of Masada expressed the interest of his organization in Jewish youth now serving in the armed forces. He also stated that his group is interested in cooperating with returning war veterans. Mr. Dewey Stone discussed the cooperation of Massachusetts Zionists with war veterans. The chairman stated that he would appoint a committee to go into the problem, arrange contacts with veterans' groups, and report at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 P. M.

Respectfully submitted

Saul S. Spiro

