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Zionist Organization of America, Executive Committee, minutes,
1945-1946.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.O.A. HELD ON
TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 12th, 1945 AT 8:00 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, Hon. M. Maldwin Fertig, Jacob Fishman, Daniel Frisch, Abraham Goodman, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Irving D. Lipkowitz, Louis Lipsky, Mortimer May, Rabbi Irving Miller, Emanuel Neumann, Abraham A. Redelheim, Louis P. Rucker, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Hon. Albert D. Schanzer, Herman Shulman, Jacob Sincoff, Saul S. Spiro, Dewey D. Stone, Robert Szold, William H. Sylk, Herman Weisman, and Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

GUESTS: Gershon Agronsky, Dr. Shlomo Bardin, Morris Bernstein, Z. Paul Byne, Morris Catchman, Mr. Chornitzky, of South Africa, Rabbi Moshe Davis, Joshua Epstein, Eliyahu Epstein of Palestine, Mandel N. Fisher, Hertzal Fishman, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Max Greenberg of Tel Aviv, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Eliezer Kaplan, of Tel Aviv, Henry Montor, Jacob Weiss, Meyer W. Weisgal, and Mrs. Stephen S. Wise.

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

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Goldstein at 8:00 P. M.

The chairman welcomed Mr. Eliezer Kaplan, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, and other guests. A resolution expressing a sense of loss and sharing the deep sense of loss on the part of the Yishuv on the passing of Eliyahu Golomb, was entered upon the minutes. Mr. Eliezer Kaplan paid tribute to Eliyahu Golomb on behalf of the Yishuv.

A resolution was also adopted voicing sorrow at the passing of Eli Brachman, president of the Southwest Region.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY:

Dr. Stephen S. Wise moved that a committee be appointed to discuss with Dr. I. S. Wechsler the problems which the latter wishes to raise with regard to the Hebrew University. The motion was unanimously adopted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. Saul S. Spiro reported that to date \$207,410.00 had been received by the Expansion Fund; \$17,542.00 within the last month. Last year the organization had 111,421 paid-up members. This year as of June 12 there are 119,035. There are still 31,000 who have failed to renew their membership. With 400 districts still to be heard from, the ZOA War Bond campaign exceeds \$53,000,000. The goal set is \$95,000,000. 1020 rabbis have signed the Appeal to the Conscience of America sponsored by the ZOA Committee on Unity for Palestine.

The Secretary's report was received with approval.

The chairman stated that Professor Louis Finkelstein, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary, had signed the Rabbis' Appeal to the Conscience of America and has expressed to him a desire to be helpful in securing the assent of others to this statement.

Mr. Morris Catchman reported on the activities of Rabbi Schachtel of the American Council for Judaism in Houston. Both the rabbinical association and the community Council of Houston representing 38 organizations, voted to condemn the actions of the American Council for Judaism.

A communication from Arthur Lourie of the American Zionist Emergency Council, was read requesting that an appropriation of \$200 be made toward a fund to assist a number of young people from Oswego to participate in the Chalutz camp this summer. A motion authorizing the above sum was unanimously adopted.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL:

Mr. Herman Weisman, acting chairman of the UPA in the absence of Rabbi Heller who is in Palestine, reported on the developments leading to the reconstitution of the United Jewish Appeal. Following negotiations, a ratio of 57% to 43% between the Joint Distribution Committee and the UPA respectively was decided upon. In addition JNF is permitted to collect up to \$1,500,000 and the JDC to have the corresponding privilege to collect up to \$800,000 through the Landsmannschaften, which is for the year 1945 and will continue through 1946 unless abrogated upon 60 days' notice prior to December 31. Changes will also be made in the organizational set-up of the United Jewish Appeal which are intended to remedy existing inequalities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Membership of the Executive were invited to visit the Brandeis camp at Winterdale, Pa., July 27-29.

The chairman announced that the Palestine Economic Committee of the ZOA was sponsoring a conference at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City, on Sunday, June 17.

HEBREW ARTS COMMITTEE:

In the absence of Rabbi Simon Greenberg, chairman of the Hebrew Arts Committee, Rabbi Moshe Davis presented a report on its activities. He stated that the Hebrew Arts Committee which has been supported in the main by funds from the ZOA Expansion Fund has presented a series of music and dance programs and a play in Hebrew which had been enthusiastically received. Rabbi Davis thanked the ZOA for its guidance and support in the successful launching of this program.

MEMORIAL TO HENRIETTA SZOLD:

Mr. Jacob Sincoff, chairman of a ZOA Committee for the establishment jointly with Hadassah of a Henrietta Szold Youth House as the American Zionist memorial, reported progress and stated that he would have a complete report at the next Executive meeting.

ZOA CONVENTION:

Mr. Daniel Frisch, chairman of the committee to investigate the feasibility of holding a ZOA convention at the usual time, reported that after exploring the possibilities his committee was not yet in a position to render an affirmative report.

RETURNING WAR VETERANS:

Mr. Albert D. Schanzer, chairman of the ZOA War Veterans Committee, reported that a meeting of his committee was held, attended by 5 of its 7 members; Chaplain Edward T. Sandrow, Jacob Fishman, Paul Byne and Chaplain Harry Nelson. Rabbi Philip Bernstein of the Jewish Welfare Board and Archie Greenberg, president of the Jewish War Veterans were prevented from attending by prior engagements.

Mr. Schanzer submitted a report that his committee had adopted. A general discussion ensued in which the following participated: Mr. Schanzer, Mr. Spiro, Mr. Herman Weisman, Rabbi Irving Miller, Mr. Mortimer May, Mr. Jacob Fishman, Mr. Z. Paul Byne and Dr. Goldstein. Mr. Spiro suggested that the committee continue to study the report with particular emphasis upon conflicting jurisdictions with regard to other committee and constitutional questions. Mr. Weisman urged that emphasis be on the returning soldiers, many of whom have been to Palestine and have been favorably impressed. He suggested that the armed force group be integrated within the groups of the Zionist Organization. Mr. Schanzer stated that the work should begin while the soldier was still in the army; it would be too late to wait until he has returned and is confronted with problems of economic rehabilitation. Rabbi Miller indicated that many organizations had undertaken the task of rehabilitating the returning soldier. He pointed out that the ZOA should take advantage of the experience and the information offered by the veteran in mapping out its own plans for the future. Mr. Jacob Fishman stressed the need of immediate action in this matter and urged the adoption of a positive and concrete plan. Dr. Goldstein suggested that the committee take the matter up with Mr. Spiro and Mr. Berson; and after the report of the committee has been accepted, further suggested that it submit a further report and begin to implement its recommendations.

LONDON ZIONIST CONFERENCE:

It was moved that a committee be appointed to study the question of sending a delegation to represent the ZOA at the London Zionist Conference in the light of budgetary requirements. The question arose whether representation should be limited to members of the Actions Committee or also opened to others.

The chairman stated that the following are invited to the conference: 31 members constituting the entire smaller actions committee; representatives from various Jewish communities and Zionist organizations of all countries. Twelve American Zionists are to participate in the conference, selected from among the various parties. A committee was appointed to recommend the list of the ZOA delegation. The following participated in the discussion: Mr. William Sylk, Mr. Myer W. Weisgal, Mr. Jacob Fishman, Mr. Dewey Stone, Mr. Herman Shulman, Mr. Eliezer Kaplan, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Goldstein.

ELIEZER KAPLAN:

Dr. Goldstein called upon Eliezer Kaplan, treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Mr. Kaplan stated that if he were to submit a message from the Yishuv it would be "a message of achievements, of progress made, of prospects, but also a message of failures, of obstacles, of deep concern with regard to what lies before us." He urged the consideration of two vital points: the first, that in keeping with the world-wide scope of our movement that we have a united policy in political, economic, social and fiscal spheres; the second, that because of the tremendous tasks involved, plans and procedures must be looked at from the point of view of effectiveness. He then proposed that there be established in the United States a joint council of the Zionist movement to cover not only political, but also financial, economic, fund-raising and other activities. Parallel with the increase and reform in organization of the activities of the Zionist Organization, the activities of the Jewish Agency in this country must also be reorganized and increased. In conclusion, Mr. Kaplan suggested that a committee be appointed to give consideration to the problem and suggestions which he brought up and additional matters, so that when these matters are taken up in London, some decision could be made. The chairman indicated that he would appoint such a committee.

GERSHON AGRONSKY:

Dr. Goldstein then introduced Mr. Gershon Agronsky, editor and publisher of the Palestine Post, who is in this country on a visit and had just returned from the San Francisco Conference. Mr. Agronsky reviewed the results of the Conference and declared that whatever lay in the power of the Jewish representatives to do, has just been done.

Every opportunity was utilized to press our claims. No ground had been lost and from a historical prospective, this was important. Mr. Agronsky continued to discuss the part played by Arab representatives at San Francisco and he suggested the lines along which future political action should be taken.

Speaking of the political situation in Palestine, Mr. Agronsky stated that it was exemplified by the statement by David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive. "We are fighting the war as if there were no White Paper. We are fighting the White Paper as if there were no war." Mr. Agronsky asserted that the Yishuv will continue to fight the White Paper with all its power and resources.

PEACE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Judge Louis E. Levinthal, chairman of a committee appointed to explore the possibilities of terminating dissension within the organization reported back that his committee had not yet arrived at a mutually satisfactory formula and expects to submit a definite report to the Executive Committee within two weeks. (This report has already been submitted). Judge Levinthal stated that the committee discussed various possibilities with Dr. Wise and Dr. Silver and others. He asked that in the meantime the committee be empowered to continue its efforts.

Emanuel Neumann voiced disappointment at the committee's delay in submitting a definite report. He maintained that it had ample time to complete its work and that another two weeks was too much time to lose. He asserted that the "overwhelming majority of American Zionists have voiced a cherished desire for prompt action."

Mr. Neumann stated that he and his group do not blame the chairman and the members of the Peace Committee who have done their work devotedly. However, in view of the present critical situation, his group reserves the right in the near future to draw conclusions and to take such action as the situation may call for.

Judge Levinthal in this reply termed Mr. Neumann's statement "surprising and shocking." He declared that Mr. Neumann and his group were in a position to know that the committee was working zealously for peace. He recalled the attacks made on the members of the committee by the Silver group, when the committee was first appointed, and said that nevertheless, "we have put the movement above personal and partisan considerations."

Judge Levinthal further stated that Louis Lipsky, a member of the committee, has been absent attending the San Francisco Conference and that the committee could not take definite action in his absence.

The speaker revealed that he had had lengthy conversations with Dr. Silver, Mr. Neumann, Dr. Wise and others, and that the committee felt - members of the Jewish Agency concurring -- that there should be a postponement.

Daniel Frisch, chairman of the Administrative Council and a member of the committee, appealed to Mr. Neumann and his associates to bear with the committee and "not add to the burden of confusion and restlessness which seems to prevail in the movement today." Mr. Frisch asserted that the committee deferred its report because "we felt it to be in the best interests of peace and the cause." He pleaded for a little more patience, with the hope that we may succeed in unifying the groups.

Upon a motion, the Executive Committee voted to empower the Peace Committee to continue with its efforts.

SHULMAN AND GOLDMANN DISCUSS PALESTINE CONFERENCE:

Herman Shulman, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council, reported that the representatives of the American Jewish Conference and of the Jewish Agency for Palestine at the San Francisco Conference successfully resisted every attempt on the part of Arab delegates and other anti-Zionist forces to insert clauses in the trusteeship plan which would have prejudiced the Jewish position in Palestine. The Jewish representatives were in constant contact with members of U.S. Delegation, who voted and fought consistently for the preservation of the rights of the Jewish people under the Mandate.

REPORT OF MR. HERMAN SHULMAN - AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE DELEGATE TO SAN FRANCISCO:

Mr. Shulman indicated that our major objective at the Conference was to protect fully our rights in Palestine and to see that these rights were broad enough so that we might be able to carry on our work in a satisfactory manner. There were many discussions held with the American Delegation at which these problems were presented. We asked that our existing rights in Palestine shall be fully safeguarded and that we should sit in on Committees which deal with those subjects which affected us. It is gratifying to report that we received the full assistance of all members of the American Delegation. It is now well-known that the Arabs tried by way of amendment, to change arrangements on Trusteeship and tried to eliminate all clauses which they considered unfavorable. They were unsuccessful in these attempts. It was the American Delegation who first insisted on including the clause "safeguarding our rights."

There were three regular meetings a week with the Consultant and the American Delegation at which an opportunity was given for discussing the various aspects of the problems under consideration. There was a special meeting devoted to the Trusteeship clause and Mr. Stassen put up a strong fight for this clause.

The Russians were opposed to freezing the present status and wanted multi-lateral agreements. The Russians accepted the proposal which we were in favor of, namely, that the needs "of the peoples concerned should be included in the Charter and not the local population." This text was finally accepted by everyone except the five Arab States.

We also tried to improve the status of the Trusteeship Commission as compared to what it was under the League of Nations, and in this, I believe we succeeded. As it now stands, the Charter provides for the right to petition and also the right of inspection and permits trade agreements to be entered into.

The Arabs made a serious attempt to have the Federation recognized as a local pact but did not succeed. The fact that the Arabs did not disclose all of the annexes did not make a favorable impression. Mr. Stottinius indicated that the primary consideration for a status under the new Charter will be the contribution which individual members have made to the cause of peace rather than the formation of regional pacts.

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The consultants also dealt with the problem involving "human rights" in which they were helpful.

There was an opportunity in San Francisco to contact the representatives of the various nations. Valuable contacts were established with representatives of the South American countries and with the Russian delegation.

The Christian Council for Palestine will establish a permanent office in Washington so as to build up the contacts which it has already established.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, who had just returned by plane from San Francisco, stressed Jewish achievements at the Conference and outlined a plan of action for the future.

METROPOLITAN ZIONIST FUND:

Mr. Schanzer requested that the allocation of funds collected by the Metropolitan Zionist Fund be revised in accordance with a formula which he submitted. Mr. Sincoff moved that the proceeds of the next dinner, on behalf of the Expansion Fund, should be 25% to the various districts who participated in the raising of funds and 75% of the net proceeds to the Expansion Fund.

A motion was unanimously passed, subject to certain restrictions and limitations.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted

Saul S. Spiro

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA



1720 - 16TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Office of the Secretary
September 28, 1945

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
President

DR. HARRY FRIEDENWALD
Hon. Vice President

DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN
DR. JAMES G. HELLER
EDMUND I. KAUFMANN
JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINthal
LOUIS LIPSKY
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DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
ROBERT SZOLD
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
Vice-Presidents

DANIEL FRISCH
Chairman, Nat'l Admin. Council

ABRAHAM GOODMAN
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SAMUEL BERSON
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RABBI WILLIAM P. GREENFIELD
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JACOB SINCOFF
LOUIS E. SPIGLER
DEWEY D. STONE
ELIHU D. STONE
WILLIAM H. SYLK
HERMAN L. WEISMAN

To All Regional and District Presidents,
Societies and Affiliated Organizations

Dear Friends:

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that pursuant to ARTICLE X, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Zionist Organization of America which, reads as follows:

This Constitution may be amended upon recommendation of the Executive or the Administrative Council, or upon a petition signed by at least two hundred and fifty members in good standing, by a two-thirds vote of the delegates voting at a regular or special session of the Convention, provided written notice of the proposed amendment is given to each Region, District, Society and Affiliated Organization at least thirty days before such Convention, and the proposed amendment is published in the official publication of the Zionist Organization of America, at least thirty days before such Convention. This Constitution may also be amended by the Convention, without prior notice, by a two-third vote of all the delegates elected to it.

A meeting was held by the Committee on Constitutional Revision, at the Biltmore Hotel, New York City on September 27, 1945 at 2 P.M. in the afternoon of that day, wherein the following amendments to the Constitution were proposed for submission to the Convention of the Zionist Organization of America which will convene at Atlantic City, November 16th - 20th.

The proposed amendment to ARTICLE IX, Section 7 reads as follows:

The Executive Committee of the Zionist Organization of America shall consist of the elected officers and thirty five (35) members elected by the Convention

The National Administrative Council may elect additional members to the Executive Committee not to exceed five in number.

ARTICLE IX, Section 7 now reads:

The Executive of the Zionist Organization of America shall consist of the elected officers and not less than nine nor more than twenty-five (25) members to be elected by the Convention. They shall hold office for one year and until their successors in office have been elected.

The proposed amendment to ARTICLE IX, Section 5 consists of an additional provision reading as follows:

No Chairman of the National Administrative Council may serve consecutively for more than two terms.

There is no similar provision in the existing Constitution.

The Committee recommended but did not incorporate into a proposal the suggestion that all Regional Presidents shall be invited to attend all National Executive Committee meetings as auditors.



Daniel Frisch

Chairman, National Administrative Council
and
Committee on Constitutional Revision

Dated: Washington, D. C.
September 28, 1945

Paul J. Gaiser

Member, Committee on Constitutional
Revision

Dr. Sidney Marks
Office of the Secretary

Zionist Organization of America
1720 - 16th Street, N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

For Release: UPON RECEIPT

THE DRAMA OF PALESTINE BROADCAST BY 65 RADIO STATIONS

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Washington, D. C. -- "The Drama of Palestine," a new weekly series of 26 radio transcriptions which dramatize the story of Jewish zeal and heroism in the fight for the rebuilding of Jewish Palestine is now being broadcast by 65 radio stations in various parts of the country, according to an announcement by Dr. Sidney Marks, Executive Director of the Zionist Organization of America here.

A sequel to "Palestine Speaks" which was broadcast last year over a network of stations in the United States and Canada, the new series brings up to date the part which Palestine plays in the rehabilitation of European Jews who survived Nazi mass extermination.

Joshua S. Epstein of New York is National Chairman of the ZOA Radio Committee sponsoring "The Drama of Palestine," with Harry Torczyner, formerly with the Radio Division of OWI, in charge of production.

Among the outstanding artists and radio talent participating in the program are the director Aldo d'Alessandro, who has produced such high-standard educational programs as ADVENTURES OF ADMIRAL BYED and THE GROWTH OF DEMOCRACY; Alfred Palca, radio writer, author of THE ARMY HOUR and GRAND CENTRAL STATION; Lawrence Menkin, writer for such major programs as MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WE THE PEOPLE and the Kate Smith Hour.

The principal narrator of "The Drama of Palestine" series is Alan Edwards.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
Z.O.A. HELD ON SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 12, 1946,
AT HOTEL COMMODORE - NEW YORK CITY

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver at 7:30 P. M.

CORRECTION

The minutes of the meeting of December 25 was amended to include the statement that Dr. Sidney Marks, secretary, was also elected Executive Director.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Sidney Marks reported on the assiduous efforts of the national office to keep the membership informed of the events growing out of the General Morgan statement and the developments connected with the hearings before the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry.

Membership

Indicating the present healthy condition of the organization, Dr. Marks pointed out that the ZOA membership had reached 70,898 representing an increase of 16,264 over the corresponding period last year. Of this number, 12,803 are new members and 399 new Life members.

He further reported that an intensive campaign has been launched, with special stress to be placed on the enrollment of new members from the larger cities during the next three months. In order to reach the contemplated goal of 250,000, these large population centers will have to triple their present numbers. The Executive Committee, now representative of every part of the country, was strongly urged to participate actively in both membership and Expansion Drive work within their communities. The Membership Department is preparing to undertake extensive plans to stimulate the current drive.

Expansion Fund

Dr. Marks also outlined the techniques and plans of the Expansion Fund in its drive to finance the various ZOA projects, which cover an enlarged program of public relations and education including, radio, publications and youth activities.

Public Relations

Since the convention, Dr. Marks stated, about 1000 columns of ZOA items have appeared in the general, Anglo-Jewish and Yiddish press, and many items have been syndicated through the large general news services. Promotional material for various ZOA activities and the News-Reporter issue of the New Palestine are also under the direction of this department, headed by Ernest E. Barbarash.

Radio Program

"The Drama of Palestine," the ZOA radio program, is being heard over more than 70 stations. This magnificent program should be more widely disseminated; the cooperation of regions and districts is needed to place it before the country.

Other Activities

The Committee on Unity for Palestine, and the Veterans Enrollment program are progressing satisfactorily. The Book Department reports indicate excellent sales, especially to the ZOA publication "Palestine Year Book"; the Economic Bureau has issued another Pal-Eco bulletin; and the Speakers' Bureau work is rapidly expanding; many speakers have been supplied and there is close cooperation with regional Speakers' Bureau. Extensive study is being given to an integrated policy regarding an education program.

MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION

Mr. Joseph Goldberg, national chairman of the membership committee, announced that the following morning a breakfast of regional and district membership chairmen of the Metropolitan Area would be held in line with a general policy of stimulating the districts to greater action, and bringing together the active workers. The New England area had a similar get-together and plans are being made to hold similar breakfasts throughout the country.

A dramatic and effective large scale membership campaign is being worked out, which contemplates the engaging as speakers prominent guests from abroad.

In the large cities, including New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, current campaigns on an imposing scale have been launched. Mr. Goldberg recommended that the members of the Executive and Administrative Committees undertake to make the membership drive an outstanding success.

VETERANS

The integration of returning veterans within the framework of the ZOA was then discussed. It was suggested that veterans be enrolled within the organization on payment of a nominal fee. Mr. Z. Paul Byne, president of Masada, stated that experience indicated that veterans did not desire any special reductions and did not wish to be placed in a special category; that upon returning to civilian life, they wanted to participate in all activities as civilians. They desire no segregation on either an organizational or dues basis. The problem was solely one of education; that if an effort was made, thousands of the youth of the country could be organized within the ranks of Zionism. Rabbi Irving Miller suggested that the matter be left to the discretion of the individual districts, rather than formulated as national policy. Mr. William E. Sylk described the efforts of Philadelphia in solving the veteran problem; no special dues deductions are made but veterans who desire to do so are to be enrolled in a separate and newly created unit; with their own officers and committees. Dr. Stephen S. Wise said that thousands of Jewish young men have as a result of their experiences in the army come much nearer to constructive Zionism, even those who previously had no concern in Zionism.

or with Jewish problems. Once they enroll within the organization, they will retain their membership in view of the tragic struggle carried on by the Jewish people. It may be feasible to consider a lower initial cost of membership.

Following a lengthy discussion, in which Judge Hyman J. Reit, Mr. David Spiegel, and Mr. Daniel Frisch participated, a motion was adopted that membership dues for returning veterans shall be the same as for all other members of the organization.

COMMITTEE ON UNITY

Rabbi Miller than reported upon the proposed expansion of the activities of the Committee on Unity for Palestine. After a survey made at the suggestion of the Interim Committee, the consensus of opinion was that the work of the Unity Committee required both intensification and extension; that more funds be placed at its disposal; and that the scope of its activities be broadened. Rabbi Miller stated that the Interim Committee recommended that the work of the Unity Committee be coordinated with the work of the American Zionist Emergency Council; and requested that authorization be given to proceed further to explore the possibility of such action. Dr. Israel Goldstein pointed out that the Unity Committee was one of the major projects of the ZOA Expansion Fund, which financed its activities. He suggested that this status be maintained; and that the Emergency Council and its affiliated bodies be called upon for whatever assistance might be necessary when the occasion demands; but that the Committee remain an exclusive project of the ZOA.

Dr. Silver stated that the practical points presented by Dr. Goldstein were well taken. There should however be closer cooperation between the Unity Committee and the Emergency Council since the anti-Zionist forces are well organized and well-financed. After discussion, in which Mr. Sylk, Mr. Goldberg, Dr. Wise, Mr. Ezra Shapiro, Mr. Frisch and Mr. Byne participated, it was decided that representatives of the Unity Committee, the Emergency Council and Hadassah should explore further the problem of increased cooperation and activity.

OFFICE SPACE

Dr. Marks, reporting on behalf of a subcommittee headed by Mr. Mark Sugarman, delegated to look into the question of office space, stated that this committee was not yet prepared to render a final report, but that considerable progress has been made.

YOUTH COMMISSION

Mr. Herman Weisman summarized the results of the Intercollegiate Zionist Conference which was held recently in Chicago. Avuka sponsored the call for the conference, the aim of which was to bring together representatives of all youth groups and individuals doing Zionist work. Fifty colleges and universities were represented by 170 delegates as compared with 20 colleges and 60 delegates who attended a similar conference 20 years ago. The only requirement was acceptance of the Basle Program and recognition of the jurisdiction of the World Zionist Organization. The conference adopted a series of resolutions, and representatives of the ZOA and Hadassah as sponsors of the Zionist Youth Commission, are meeting with a committee selected by the conference.

Hebrew Arts Committee

Mr. Weisman also described the relationship between the Youth Commission and the Hebrew Arts Committee. The first performance of this group will be given in New York on January 29; the Hebrew Theatre Unit has several other productions in rehearsal, which will be produced before June.

Young Judaea

Young Judaea, said Mr. Weisman, is being reorganized and a new director is being considered; the present director having accepted another position. The number of Young Judaea Clubs has grown since last year and other activities have been expanded.

Brandeis Camp Institute

The last convention considered plans contemplating the organization of at least additional camps similar to the Brandeis Camp Institute, in different parts of the country. Harry and Louis Levine, of Leominster, Mass. who have been active in Zionist youth work for many years, and have contributed freely of their time and money have graciously agreed to underwrite 50% of the capital expenses for acquiring additional camp sites, by a grant of \$90,000. The work is to be supervised by a non-profit corporation controlled by the Youth Commission.

Mr. Weisman also stated that Dr. Shlomo Bardin, director of the Youth Commission would soon return to this country from Palestine where he has been making a survey of the educational system.

Mr. Jacques Torczyner analyzed the report on youth activities and pointed out that the last ten years have clearly indicated to the youth of the country that Zionism is the only solution to the Jewish problem. He urged a more vigorous measure of activity on the part of the Youth Commission.

Mr. Ezra Shapiro regretted that Zionist work among university students has not received all the financial and other support necessary to bring college men and women into the ranks. An increased budget is required to carry on the promotional work in reaching American youth.

Dr. Silver emphasized the urgency of reaching the youth in the universities and colleges, who are the future leaders of the movement. The ZOA is prepared to stand behind any sound program of expansion in the field and the Youth Commission should continue with a vigorous approach to the practical solution of the problem.

SHEKEL CAMPAIGN

Mr. Daniel Frisch, chairman of the National Administrative Council, outlined the constitution of the Joint Shekel Committee in this country and discussed the existing situation. Others who participated in the discussion included Mr. Torczyner, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Fisher and Dr. Bernstein. It was the consensus of opinion that the matter be given further consideration.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 11, 1946, at 8:20 P. M.
HOT L COMMODE, NEW YORK CITY

PRESENT: Dr. A. H. Silver, President, in the Chair

Messrs. Sol Cohen, Jacob Fishman, Ernest Freudenheim, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Samuel Gildstock, Dr. Simon Greenberg, Joseph Greenleaf, Rabbi Harry Halpern, Louis Lipdsky, Rabbi Irving Miller, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Milton Pollack, Abraham Redelheim, Judge Hyman Reit, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Charles Rosenbloom, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Albert D. Schanzer, David Spiegel, Elihu Stone, Herman Weisman, and Dr. Sidney Marks, Executive Director.

GUESTS: Messrs. Paul Byne, Joshua Epstein, Mendel Fisher, Herzl Fishman, I. L. Kenen, Mrs. Benjamin Gottesman, Robert Silverman and Harry Torczyner.

STAFF: Ernest E. Barbarash and Dr. David Tannenbaum

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Membership - Dr. Sidney Marks reported 23,017 members to date, an increase of 23,013 over the same period last year, 20,112 of which are new members. He expressed concern that the impending shekel campaign, United Jewish Appeal, etc. may interfere with membership activities which are now reaching their full momentum. He urged the Executive to cooperate so as to ensure a continuation of membership efforts throughout the country.

Expansion Fund: Plans for raising funds are progressing. Dr. Marks outlined the campaigns which are currently taking place in New York City, New England, Philadelphia, Southeast Region and elsewhere.

Public Relations: Attention was called to the new format of the New Palestine and the recomposition of the News Reporter. The Public Relations Department is securing substantial coverage in the press and new techniques and materials are being developed.

Inner Committee: The efforts of this body are bringing about a complete revamping of the internal structure of the Z. O. A. which will result in increased service and productivity.

Radio: Dr. Marks pointed out that despite pressure on local districts and regions for the excoitation of this program, the response has not come up to expectations. The Intercollegiate Broadcasting System has joined the network and new stations are being added. It is hoped that more districts will take advantage of the radio programs for membership, Expansion Fund and Public Relations purposes.

Other Activities: The United Committee has added Rabbi Jerome Unger to its staff; Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld is on an extended tour to the West Coast, and the appearance of the Chaplains at the sessions of the Council for Judaism in Philadelphia served a satisfactory purpose. The Palestine Immigration Bureau is continuing to render a great public service, and the Palestine Economic Bureau and Speakers' Bureau are increasing their activities.

The Director commended the Zionist leadership for their part at the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation and Welfare Funds in Detroit, which resulted in an overwhelming defeat for national budgeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Milton Pollack, Chairman, reported that the Comptroller's office and membership records will be in New York. Arrangements are being made for regional directors in the metropolitan area to be housed outside the office.

The budgeting system is being recast which will result in a revised financial set-up over a period of three months instead of on an annual or longer basis as heretofore.

YOUTH COMMITTEE:

Mr. Greenleaf reporting for Mr. Jacques Torczyner who was out-of-town, stated that progress was being made in the reorganization of youth activities. A letter from the Youth Commission was read containing a resolution adopted by Masada and the Youth Commission recommending that the Z. O. A. Executive favorably consider making a special allocation to the Youth Commission of an additional \$15,000 to be earmarked for Masada (this is in addition to the regular appropriation from the Expansion Fund). This extra sum will enable Masada to increase its present membership of approximately 1000, to 5,000 to 8,000 and organize an additional 35 chapters within the next eight months. Hadassah would not be expected to make an equivalent contribution.

As a result of the ensuing discussion in which Mr. Pollack, Mr. Freudenheim, Mr. Goldstock, Paul Byne, President of Masada and others participated, a resolution was proposed by Rabbi Miller, and adopted, that the request be referred to the next meeting of the Inner Committee, with full power to act. As a decision was requested before the Annual Convention of Masada scheduled to take place on February 22nd, it was further recommended that prior to the next meeting of the Inner Committee, Mr. J. Torczyner, Dr. Shlomo Bardin, Mr. Pollack and Mr. Byne work out all details to expedite the deliberations of the Inner Committee.

Rabbi Greenberg urged the Z. O. A. to take a greater interest in the Hebrew speaking youth groups. The Chairman suggested he submit his suggestions and recommendations to the Youth Commission, and if not satisfactorily acted upon, to then bring them before the Executive for its consideration.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

Dr. Goldstein reported the General Zionist bloc comprised of the Z. O. A. and Hadassah delegates, would attend the Conference in Cleveland with undiminished strength. The Z. O. A. has named as its organizational representatives, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Dr. Emanuel Neumann and Rabbi Leon Feuer.

After outlining the general program of the Conference, Dr. Goldstein read the resolution adopted by the Interim Committee on the future status of the American Jewish Conference. Following a lengthy discussion (text on file) in which Rabbi Miller, Rabbi Halporn, Messrs. Stone, Schanzer, Goldstock, and Mrs. Gottesman participated, the Chairman stressed the fact that the Administrative Council and National Executive Committee of the Z. O. A. had recently passed a resolution urging the continuance and strengthening of the American Jewish Conference which was a clear mandate to Z. O. A. delegates to the Conference. Speaking strongly in favor of the strengthening and continuation of the Conference, Mr. Lipsky and Judge Rothenberg declared that the Conference has far from achieved the purpose for which it was created, and that the tasks confronting it were of transcendent importance to the future of our people.

Dr. Neumann felt that the resolution of the Interim Committee did not adequately reflect the point-of-view of the Z. O. A. Executive and something should be done to strengthen the situation in Cleveland.

Dr. Goldstein then pointed out that inasmuch as the majority of the new Interim Committee would undoubtedly be Zionist there was every reason to believe that the Interim Committee would want to see the Conference continue as long as they are members of it, and therefore nothing was being jeopardized. A permanent Conference would be particularly advantageous from a Zionist viewpoint because of the struggle we are now facing on the international scene. The resolution of the Interim Committee does not contradict the resolution of the Zionist Executive but offers an opportunity to give it additional strength and implementation.

In summarizing the discussion, the Chairman expressed the view "that the American Jewish Conference represents for Zionists at this time a source of great strength, that we cannot afford to liquidate it at this time when we are facing a serious crisis, and that it should be continued until such time as its usefulness is no longer apparent."

On motion of Dr. Neumann, it was moved and carried, that the views of the Chairman represent the thinking of the Z. O. A. Executive and delegates in connection with the forthcoming sessions of the Conference.

The question of new elections was raised by Mr. Schanzer and Rabbi Greenberg and was deferred for consideration by Z. O. A. caucus meeting at the Conference. Mr. Fishman's recommendation that we have at least one joint meeting with the Mizrahi and Labor Zionist groups at the Conference was approved.

BUILDING:

In the absence of Mr. Mark Sugarman, Dr. Neumann reported the Washington offices were being moved to New York. A suitable building to house the Z. O. A. and other Zionist institutions is under consideration. Ways and means to finance the purchase of a building were discussed, in which Dr. Neumann, Dr. Goldstein, Judge Rosenblatt, Judge Rothenberg, Mr. Schanzer and others participated. A resolution was adopted authorizing the Inner Committee to proceed with the purchase of a building in keeping with the consensus of the discussion.

SHEKEL BOARD:

A letter was read from Mr. Gottlieb Hammer of the Jewish Agency in this country, reporting the formula for representation on the 1946 Shekel Board as follows: Z. O. A. 7; Hadassah 6; Poale Zion 6; Mizrachi 3; Jewish State Party, 1; Hashomer Hatzair, 1; with Mizrachi reserving the right to bring up the question of increasing its representation from 3 to 4. The World Zionist Congress will meet in August, and the shekel campaign will therefore terminate the end of April. Elections will be held in June.

The Chairman stressed the need for intensive membership activities. March 17th will inaugurate an eight day membership campaign after which all efforts will be concentrated on the sale of shekolim.

Dr. Neumann reported word had been received that the Congress might be postponed until November. From our point-of-view, this would be most undesirable as it would disrupt Zionist activities and entail difficulties for a great many people. On behalf of the Inner Committee, he recommended a motion putting the Z. O. A., as well as the American Zionist Emergency Council on record, urging the World Zionist Organization to adhere to its first decision to hold the Congress in August. This motion was adopted.

Dr. Neumann also urged that April be set aside for an energetic campaign for the sale of shekolim and that the General Zionists have adequate representation at the Congress. In response to a query as to the locale of the Congress, the Chairman stated that the first choice was Palestine.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A resolution expressing sorrow at the death of Abraham Rovusky, gifted Zionist and author and Rabbi Louis Greenberg of New Haven was unanimously passed.

The matter of the advertisements of Mr. Morris Zucker in the general press was referred to the American Zionist Emergency Council for action.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sidney Marks,
Executive Director.

Minutes of Meeting of Committee on General Zionism
Held Tuesday morning, February 12, 1946
at Dr. Israel Goldstein's Study, 270 W. 89th St.

Present: Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Dr. Israel Goldstein for ZOA
Mesdames Epstein, Halpern, Shulman, Pool for Hadassah
Gustave Shocken, Editor of Ha Aretz by Invitation.

Dr. Goldstein read the exchange of cables with Mr. Bakstansky in connection with the plan of Segal and Kubovitsky to come here. It was agreed that Dr. Goldstein's reply thereto was proper. It was also agreed that a communication be sent to Mr. Bakstansky inquiring as to how the ZOA-Hadassah money is being spent and what is the budget in detail. It was felt, however, that perhaps at some future time, there would be need for some consultation with those who would be in the best position to consult with us.

It was agreed that we should try to work out a set of principles and a program slogan, and if possible, a change of name to "Progressive" and that it would be helpful to do all that in time for use in the Shekel Campaign. It was also agreed that a committee of four would be appointed to draft a platform and program.

It was felt that it would be helpful for us to have a permanent liaison in Palestine, an American Zionist as Dr. Harry Davidowitz. It was also felt that one or two people from the ZOA and Hadassah ought to go to Palestine to investigate on the spot the situation with regard to General Zionism. Judge Levinthal's name was suggested. It was also reported that Mrs. Rebecca Shulman was shortly going to Palestine and that she might be helpful in that connection. It was also reported the Dr. Neumann will be leaving shortly for Palestine and might be of assistance in this regard, but Dr. Neumann felt that he ought not to be the one to serve this purpose.

It was felt desirable to visit the South American countries with regard to General Zionism.

It was agreed that a communication be sent to the JNF and Kh who are now engaged in discussing the UPA contract for 1946 requesting that they set aside an unallocated sum not to exceed \$500,000 for purposes of General Zionist colonization in Palestine to parallel the allocation to Mizrachi.

The point was raised about having a chairman for the Confederation of General Zionism. The consensus of opinion was that at the present time it ought to be a loose confederation until we have made great progress in crystallizing the program.

Gustave Shooker was welcomed and delivered a brief summary of the General Zionist situation in Palestine dealing with the Aliyah Hadashah and other groups in the General Zionist field.



MINUTES OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1946, HOTEL COMMODORE, NEW YORK
at 8:30

PRESENT: Dr. A. H. Silver, in the chair

Messrs. Sol Cohen, Rabbi Leon Feuer, Ernest Freudenheim, Jacob Fishman, Daniel Frisch, Joseph Goldberg, Harold Goldenberg, Dr. Israel Goldstein, I. R. Goodman, Samuel Goldstock, Rabbi Simon Greenberg, Joseph Greenleaf, Rabbi Harry Halpern, Rabbi Irving Miller, Milton Pollack, Isaac Potts, Abraham Redelheim, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Charles Rosenbloom, David Spiegel, Rudolf Sonneborn, Mark Sugarman, Jacques Torczyner, and Dr. Sidney Marks, Executive Director.

GUESTS: Marcus Abramson, Dr. Harris I. Levine, K. Israeli, Dr. Israel Wechsler, Rabbi Max Maccoby, Joseph Sternstein, Seymour Cohen, Harry Shapiro, Harold Manson, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Mr. Herman, Dr. Shlomo Bardin.

STAFF: Yale Goldberg, Abraham Tannenbaum, Ernest E. Barbarash, Zvi Levavy, Isidore Cooperman, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Rosalie Kroll.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman expressed the good wishes of the Executive Committee to Rabbi Max Maccoby who was leaving on a tour of the Southwest in the interest of the Z.O.A. Membership and Expansion Fund campaigns.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Membership: Dr. Sidney Marks reported an enrolled membership of 115,415, marking an increase of 36,000 members over last year. Zionist enrollment week which started on Purim, March 17th, saw an intensification of membership activities throughout the country. These activities were implemented by special press releases, posters, advertising campaigns, radio, films and other appropriate techniques.

Expansion Fund: Dr. Marks reported that fund-raising affairs have been planned in many areas including Cleveland, Philadelphia, Chicago, Baltimore, Miami Beach, St. Louis, Ohio Valley, and the West Coast. Under the direction of Dewey D. Stone, Expansion Fund Chairman, the work has been given considerable stimulus and he expressed the hope that our goal for the Expansion Fund and Membership Fund and Membership would be realized.

Headquarters: The national office is now located in New York. Plans for the reorganization of the fiscal and organizational structure of the organization are being worked out with the cooperation of members of the Inner and Finance Committees. The Inner Committee continues to meet weekly.

Shekel Campaign: The shekel campaign is going forward under the chairmanship of Jacques Torczyner with the professional direction of Abraham Tannenbaum. The campaign will be formally inaugurated at the national shekel conference scheduled for March 25th in New York and the Administrative Council meeting in New York on March 31st.

Public Relations and Publications: The Public Relations Department is carrying out a well-integrated and coordinated effort to reach all communities with every device for public enlightenment.

The News Reporters issue of the New Palestine will appear bi-monthly, in an improved format; the New Palestine will continue as a monthly.

Veterans' Program: Dr. Marks reported this new program is taking shape and that Major Hershel Auerbach in charge of its activities has just completed a tour of a number of communities and will render a full report to the Inner Committee.

Radio: The radio program is expanding satisfactorily and continues to serve an increasingly larger public. More than 100 stations from coast-to-coast are broadcasting the ZOA twenty-six week program. The broadcasts are coordinated with our membership and expansion fund efforts.

Other Departments: The Committee on Unity for Palestine is carrying forward its nation-wide circularization program and effectively combatting anti-Zionist activity.

The Palestine Economic Bureau is making plans for a business man's trip to Palestine by air during the latter part of April.

A new phase of membership activity is being developed under the direction of Oscar Leonard to obtain mass enrollments of Landsmanshaften and fraternal organizations. It is hoped that these organizations will also be enlisted in our shekel campaign. Preliminary negotiations are under way with several of the larger fraternal orders as well as small landsmanshaften.

The Palestine Bureau is continuing to serve hundreds of applicants, and the Book Department, Speakers' Bureau and other departments of the ZOA are cooperating closely to bring about the greatest possible growth of our activities.

INNER COMMITTEE:

Rabbi Irving Miller, acting chairman of the Inner Committee in the absence of Dr. Neumann, reported that the Committee was meeting weekly. The various departments of the ZOA are receiving careful consideration with a view toward revamping and strengthening them wherever necessary. He added that the whole problem of regional reorganization was receiving serious attention and a full report on this would be rendered at a later date.

MEMBERSHIP:

Mr. Joseph Goldberg, National Membership Chairman, called attention to the fact that the membership campaign had started later in the year than usual, but despite this adverse factor, he had every reason to believe that the goal of 250,000 would be attained. Mr. Goldberg commended Mr. Barbarash, Director of Public Relations for the preparation of excellent literature and publicity material, and Yale Goldberg and Dr. Marks for their cooperation. He urged the members of the National Executive to take the initiative in their respective communities to further membership activities.

It was recommended that Zionist districts be urged by Dr. Silver to avail themselves of speakers who expressed the desire to be of service to the ZOA, such as returning chaplains. In this way, new and younger material would be developed and the heavy pressure on the few leaders who were in constant demand throughout the country would thereby be lessened.

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL ZIONISTS:

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Chairman of the Joint ZOA-Hadassah General Zionist Committee, reported on the two immediate objectives--the shekel campaign and the World Zionist Congress. The platform embodying the call to General Zionists will be submitted to the National Shekel Conference on March 25th.

Stressing the need of funds to strengthen the unbuilding work of General Zionists in Palestine, Dr. Goldstein urged approval of the request for an allocation of \$500,000 from the United Palestine Appeal, from funds of the Keren Hayesod and Jewish National Fund, for General Zionist colonization and work in Palestine. The Keren Hayesod Administrative Council at a recent meeting, approved their share of the appropriation. After a discussion in which Mr. Charles Rosenbloom, Dr. Harris J. Levin, Dr. Goldstein and others participated, a resolution was passed approving the request. The ZOA members on the J. N. F. Council are to be so advised.

BUILDING:

Mr. Mark Sugarman reported on the negotiations that have been initiated with the J. N. F. and the Keren Hayesod regarding the purchase of a building to house the major Zionist organizations. A resolution was adopted to proceed with the negotiations as recommended by Mr. Sugarman and the Finance Committee (Discussion on file)

HEBREW UNIVERSITY:

Dr. Israel Wechsler, on behalf of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, appealed for greater interest and increased financial support to meet the needs of the University. Upon motion of Mr. Frisch, amended by Rabbi Miller, the Chairman was instructed to appoint a sub-committee whose task it shall be to work out ways and means whereby the ZOA can in specific fashion come to the support of the Hebrew University.

SHEKEL CAMPAIGN:

Mr. Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the ZOA Shekel Committee, outlined the plans for an intensive shekel campaign for which a goal of 1,000,000 shekel payers has been set, and for bringing out the vote at the election of delegates to the Congress. April and May have been set aside for the shekel campaign and ways and means of implementing it on a national scale will be presented to the shekel conference on March 25th in New York and regional meetings to be convened shortly for this purpose.

Upon motion of Mr. Frisch, a resolution was passed calling for the appointment of a committee for the purpose of officially inviting Hadassah to join with the ZOA in a united campaign and in one slate of delegates to the World Zionist Congress.

Those participating in the discussion included Rabbi Irving Miller, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Joseph Goldberg, Sol Cohen, Jacob Fishman and others.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. CHURCHILL:

The Chairman reported on a conference he had had that evening with Mr. Winston Churchill which had been arranged by Mr. Bernard M. Baruch. In this conversation, Mr. Churchill gave assurances that he has always been a Zionist and is still a Zionist. He reaffirmed his support of the Jewish National Home in Palestine with free immigration to the fullest absorptive capacity of that country and favors a joint trusteeship of Great Britain and the U. S. A. to bring about this end.

Mr. Churchill recalled that he was one of those who backed the Balfour Declaration and he still stands by the commitments contained in that historic pledge to the Jewish people. He is ready to stand alone on this issue in his own Party if necessary.

Mr. Churchill paid tribute to the achievements of the Jews in Palestine and to the role played by members of the Palestine Jewish Brigade. He voiced gratification at the fact that Palestine has absorbed large numbers of Jews, particularly children.

The Chairman added that the British Conservative leader reiterated that his Zionist convictions had not undergone any change and that he confidently looked toward the solution of the Palestine problem through a "partnership" in trusteeship of Great Britain and America. He stands foursquare on the commitments he made and believes that the realization of the Jewish National Home is a definite possibility if both countries will work together toward this common solution.

DR. BARDIN'S REPORT:

Dr. Bardin, Executive Director of the American Zionist Youth Commission, reporting on his recent trip to Palestine, emphasized the importance of an exchange of youth emissaries between our country and Palestine and the creation of one year fellowships. The fellowships would be granted to specially selected American youth leaders who on their return to this country would be prepared to carry on youth and General Zionist activities. Dr. Bardin reported that three youth representatives from Palestine would arrive in America shortly to further the work of the Youth Commission.

The matter of appropriating funds to establish fellowships, in addition to the Fellowships already announced by the Z.O.A. was referred to the Inner Committee with power to act after consultation with the Finance Committee. Dr. Bardin recommended closer cooperation between the General Zionists in America and those in Palestine.

ECONOMIC BUREAU:

Mr. Frisch asked that action be taken at this time on the recommendation of the Inner Committee to appoint a committee from the ZOA to meet with a committee of the Keren Hayesod, to explore the advisability of the Keren Hayesod taking over the Economic Bureau. A motion to appoint this committee was approved.

The Executive Committee reaffirmed its stand taken at the last National Convention, asking Zionists to abstain from appearing in public debates with members of the American Council for Judaism.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

DR. SIDNEY MARKS
Executive Director

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dictated over the phone to H.J.
ZOA Executive Meeting - Thurs. Apr. 11 - 1946. —

It is clear from the letter addressed by the President of the Hadassah to Rabbi Miller on April 5 that the Hadassah, while it wants to be assured of parity of delegates to the Congress, appropriate representation on the Jewish Agency Executive, and equal representation with the ZOA on all Congress committees and commissions, it ~~nevertheless insists on~~ ^{also wishes to} reserve for itself complete freedom of action at the Congress. It will not be bound by any caucus and no majority vote taken at a caucus of all the delegates, ^{including both} ZOA and Hadassah, would be mandatory upon Hadassah delegates. Furthermore, Hadassah insists on freedom to have its own caucuses at the Congress.

To all intents and purposes, this is to ~~come to and~~ act at the Congress as an independent party. A united shekel campaign and a joint slate in this country is meaningless if at the Congress the ZOA and the Hadassah act independently, and if there is to be no General American Zionist bloc. There should be no individual caucuses at the Congress either of ZOA delegates or of Hadassah delegates. There should be unified caucuses ~~held when necessary~~ of the entire General Zionist delegation, which will be elected as a unit list at the forthcoming Congress elections. At the Congress these delegates will represent not the ZOA or the Hadassah, but one body -- the General Zionists of the United States.

The sole purpose ~~of~~ ^{of} a joint ZOA-Hadassah slate is to send to the Congress a large and well organized General Zionist bloc which will, through concerted action, if possible with other General Zionist bodies, exercise decisive influence upon the Congress and the future organization of our movement. If the General Zionists of America are not to be bound by the resolutions of their bloc, and if each delegate will act for himself as his spirit moves him, the General Zionists will be as helpless at the forthcoming Congress, as they were at all previous Congresses. Their numbers will be raided by other parties, scattered and completely ^{ly} neutralized. Furthermore we will throw confusion in the ranks of the other General Zionist groups.

The ZOA cannot agree to such disintegration which would render us utterly ineffective at the Congress. It is far better for us to go our own way than to be confronted at the Congress with a split in the ranks of General American Zionists, with the Hadassah delegation being played off against the ZOA delegation. Some political strategists are counting on just such a maneuver.

The idea of a General American Zionist bloc working as a unit does not contemplate binding delegates on matters which involve conscience. No majority can conceivably be rallied at a General Zionist caucus favoring such compulsion. However, on all other matters both of policy and procedure, if the General Zionist bloc is to be effective, it must work as a unit, and in a democracy ^{it} ~~which~~ is the majority which determines the action. The General American Zionist bloc, in which Hadassah will have 50% representation, when it meets at the Congress, will formulate its own rules of procedure, and they will be liberal enough, I am sure, to protect the individual delegate in matters which involve his conscience while at the same time preserving the integrity and the effectiveness of the General Zionist bloc at the Congress. ^R I would therefore suggest that we accept no other conditions or stipulations than those already made by our representatives ^{to} ~~and~~ the Hadassah -- namely, parity of delegates to the Congress, and equal representation on all Congress committees and commissions. We shall welcome the Hadassah if it wishes to go along with us in mutual confidence for common action, otherwise we must go our separate ways.

It is clear from the letter addressed by the President of the Hadassah to Rabbi Miller on April 5 that the Hadassah, while it wants to be assured of parity of delegates to the Congress, appropriate representation on the Jewish Agency Executive, and equal representation with the ZOA on all Congress committees and commissions, it nevertheless insists on reserving for itself complete freedom of action at the Congress. It will not be bound by any caucus and no majority vote taken at a caucus of all the delegates, ZOA and Hadassah would be mandatory upon Hadassah delegates. Furthermore, Hadassah insists on freedom to have its own caucuses at the Congress.

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The sole purpose for a joint ZOA-Hadassah slate is to send to the Congress a large and well organized General Zionist bloc ^{which} ~~who~~ will ~~at the Congress~~ through concerted action, if possible with other General Zionist bodies, exercise decisive influence upon ~~all action at the Congress and the organization of our movement in the future.~~ If the General Zionists of America ~~will not~~ are not to be bound by the resolutions of their bloc, and if each delegates will act for himself as his spirit moves him, the General Zionists will be as helpless at the forthcoming Congress, as they were at all previous Congresses. Their numbers will be raided by other parties, scattered and complete neutralized. Furthermore we will throw confusion in the ranks of ^{the} other General Zionist groups, ~~who will come to the Congress from other countries.~~

The ZOA cannot agree to such disintegration which would render us utterly ineffective at the Congress. It is far better for us to go our own way than to be confronted at the Congress with a split in the ranks of General American Zionists, with the Hadassah delegation being played off against the ZOA delegation. Some political

~~the~~ ^{the} ~~any~~ ^{any} ZOA bloc -- ^{in which 1977 will pass 50% of} ~~meeting at the Congress~~ ^{it will} ~~cost~~ ^{cost} ~~formulate~~ ^{formulate} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~can~~ ^{can} ~~only~~ ^{only} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~debated~~ ^{debated} ~~can~~ ^{can}

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strategists are counting on just ~~this~~ ^{such a} maneuver.

It is a very strange and anomalous situation that the Hadassah should wish to set itself up as an independent political party on the basis not of any ideology, economic or political, but on the basis of sex. Such a condition exists nowhere ^{else} in the world. It is also an anomaly that a woman's organization which has always been regarded as philanthropic the woman's/auxiliary of the General Zionist Organization, holding the same relationship to the ZOA as the "Pioneer Women" holds to the Poale Zion and the "Mizrachi Women" holds to the Mizrachi, should set up an independent political slate and on the basis of its large membership demand parity in Congress representation. The majority of the United States citizens who voted at the last Federal election were women, and yet neither the Congress nor the Senate of the U.S. is made up ^{of a} ~~of anywhere near~~ parity ^{as} between men and women. In fact there are no women in the Senate of the United States, and only four or five in the House. And this holds true of all other legislative bodies in the world.

I suppose that there is nothing that we can do about it. But certainly the ZOA ~~should~~ ought not to commit itself to an arrangement which is bound to embarrass it at the Congress, ^{and secure votes that there will be in favor of} ^{the cause that will represent the cause of the} ^{well} ^{work} ^{to} ^{our} I would suggest that we do not accept any of the other conditions contained in the letter of the President of the Hadassah. We shall welcome Hadassah if it wishes to go along with us in mutual confidence for common action. Otherwise we must go our several ways.

In this connection I should like to express my deep disappointment at the fact that the request of Rabbi Miller, Chairman of our Interim Committee, to appear before the National Board of Hadassah to discuss this matter with them, was not granted. Bearing in mind that a representative of Hadassah has always been ^{welcome} ~~in attendance~~ at the meetings of our Executive, this rejection of Rabbi Miller's request is ^{utterly} ~~even more~~ incomprehensible.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.O.A. HELD ON
MONDAY, MAY 13, 1946 AT 8:30 P.M. AT THE AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY
COUNCIL, 342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

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PRESENT: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, presiding; Marcus Abramson, Rabbi Leon
Feur, Jacob Fishman, Daniel Frisch, Abraham Goldstein, I. R.
Goodman, Joseph Greenleaf, Judge Louis Levinthal, Dr. Sidney
Marks, Abraham Redelheim, Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Judge
Morris Rothenberg, Louis Schwefel, David Spiegel, Mark Sugarman,
William Sylk, Jacques Torczyner, Morris Weinberg.

GUEST: Abe Cohen, K. Israeli, Mendel Fisher, Dr. Ludwig Lewisohn,
David Macarov, Harry Shapiro and Joseph Sternstein.

STAFF: Ernest E. Barbarash, Yale Goldberg and Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 P.M. by the Chairman, Dr.
Abba Hillel Silver.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dr. Marks, Executive Director, reported that the present membership
has already far exceeded the final total of last year's enrollment. Both
Expansion Fund and membership figures are increasing daily and other
activities are continuing satisfactorily despite the primary position which
is being given to the shekel campaign.

The speaker urged that the eleven days remaining before the conclusion
of the shekel sales campaign be utilized for an intensification of shekel
activities, to be followed immediately by a nation-wide drive for the
election of the ZOA slate. Our success will be in direct ratio to the per-
sonal effort of each member to get out the vote on June 16th and 17th.

SHEKEL CAMPAIGN:

The Chairman called for suggestions to implement the final stages of
the current shekel campaign, and the procedure to be adopted to secure the
largest possible number of ZOA delegates to the Congress. In the discussion
that followed, the speakers emphasized the importance of electing a majority
of ZOA delegates in support of the present leadership, particularly in view
of the vital role which American Zionists will be called upon to play at the
Congress and in this country.

Abraham Goldstein of Hartford suggested that mass rallies be arranged
in all large cities to be addressed by Zionist leaders heading the ZOA
ticket. This would be an effective means of arousing interest and get-
ting out a record ZOA vote. He expressed the conviction, which was shared
by subsequent speakers, that direct appeal by the ZOA leadership would be
a very important step to ensure an election victory.

The Chairman announced that he was ready to devote all his available time until June 16th for this purpose, and other members volunteered their services. Mr. Frisch stated that the success of the shekel campaign would be in indication of the measure of influence of Zionist leaders in their respective communities, just as our membership and Expansion Fund figures should reflect our strength.

Pointing out that the locale of the political struggle was centered in America and that American public opinion must be coralled in our favor, Judge Morris Rothenberg stressed the importance of electing a large ZOA delegation which would strengthen the hands of our leaders in their representations to the Government. Judge Rothenberg's sentiments were echoed by I. R. Goodman and others.

Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the ZOA shekel campaign, expressed satisfaction with the progress of the shekel campaign. He added that all necessary machinery would be set up to ensure a successful ZOA election.

Several speakers discussed the separate Hadassah slate and its effect on the ZOA election campaign. St. Louis, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and other communities, have indicated that many Hadassah members would vote for the ZOA ticket.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR ZOA SLATE:

The Chairman advised that the list of delegates to the Congress must be submitted by May 22nd with the right to make changes not later than May 29th. He suggested that a meeting of the Administrative Council be convened before May 29th to consider and act upon the slate of delegates. Referring to the fact that a national meeting of the Emergency Council would be held in Washington on May 23rd, the Chairman recommended that the Administrative Council meet there that day.

Abraham Goldstein moved that the President be empowered to appoint a national nominating committee of seven which would submit a slate of all candidates and alternates to the Administrative Council meeting on May 23rd for its final action. This motion was unanimously adopted.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL:

The Chairman reporting on behalf of the Emergency Council, stated that the Anglo-American Committee Report had been the subject of several recent meetings. Every feasible step is being taken to exert maximum pressure on the government for the immediate admission of 100,000 Jews into Palestine. Messages to this effect are flooding Washington from all parts of the country. Further plans of strategy will be worked out at the national meeting of the Emergency Council in Washington.

ZOA BUILDING:

Mr. Sugarman reported he was continuing his negotiations for the purchase of a suitable building to house the offices of the ZOA and other Zionist institutions. He expected to have a more definite report at the next meeting of the Executive.

COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE:

Rabbi Lelyveld, executive director, announced that Nathan Strauss, III had agreed to take a leading share in the work of the Committee, particularly in Greater New York. There was need for a more intensive program in the metropolitan area to counteract the growing activities of the American Council for Judaism.

Regular mailings of the Committee on Unity are reaching all members of the Council. Rabbi Jerome Unger is doing effective work in the field, particularly in those communities where the Council has been active.

Judge Rothenberg felt that many persons who joined the Council for Judaism did so because they were in many cases, totally uninformed as to the Zionist program. He suggested that Zionist leaders in communities where the Council had gained a foothold, could help to win over potential Council members to the Zionist cause if they were given sufficient time to make the necessary contacts.

BUSINESS MEN'S TOUR OF PALESTINE:

The Executive Director reported the receipt of a cable from Dr. David Tannenbaum that the first contingent of business men who left by plane on April 30th for a thirty day tour of Palestine under the auspices of the Palestine Economic Bureau, had arrived there safely.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sidney Marks,
Executive Director