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Zionist Organization of America, American Jewish Conference,
1946.

The following was moved as the sentiments of the ZOA with reference to the American Jewish Conference: by the Executive at its meeting Feb. 11, 1946:

CHAIRMAN SILVER: I think the arguments have been adequately presented from both sides; I would like to just say this one word: when this matter was discussed at our last meeting we all felt that the AJC represents for us Zionists at this time a source of great strength; that we could not afford to liquidate at this time or to endanger at this time, because as Judge Rothenberg clearly indicated, we are in the midst of all of our difficulties. We are in a far more serious crisis today in certain departments of our international situation than we were two or three years ago. Why just at this particular time take this instrument which has served us in good stead and has been helpful, and begin to undermine its prestige by giving the suggestion to the community as a whole, Jew or non-Jew that it is being liquidated? What have we to gain by it? And what is the urgency?

If all that you say, Dr. Goldstein, and cogently have said, and those who feel as you do, is true, why must it be done just now, in February 1946? We cannot think about a permanent conference in October, or next year. It may well be within 90 or 100 days we will face such a world Jewish situation as the report of the Inquiry, and that we will be looking around for buttresses and sources of additional strength.

I cannot understand the statesmanship which dictates that at this particular time, meeting in this critical hour, we should announce to the American Jewish public that this fine instrument which American Jewry has created, which represents so many fine organizations and so many millions of our Jews, that we are going to liquidate it, and some day we will try to develop a permanent American Jewish Conference.

My own feeling is that the action which was taken by our body at the last meeting is a wise action and that we should go to the Conference next weekend with the idea first of all to discuss the great problems confronting Jewish life at the moment; and to arrive at certain decisions that we will arrive at; and then, adjourn and await for the next summoning of this Conference until such time as it is crystal clear to us that the purposes of this Conference have been adequately served and that we should now be thinking of a new instrumentality.

Certainly as I size up the Jewish situation this is not the time for any such action, and we Zionists stand most to lose, and nothing to gain at this moment by taking the kind of action that is suggested in that resolution of the Interim Committee. That is my judgment, friends.

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue Phone MUrray Hill 2-7197 New York 17, N. Y.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

June 11, 1946

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Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road & E. 105 St.
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

We are now in the process of compiling the proceedings of the Third Session. In preparing material for the printer, we have gone over the stenotypist's transcript of the address which you delivered at that session and have sought to correct all typographical errors.

Before sending it on to the printer, we are submitting two copies of the speech to you -- one intended for your own use and one which we would ask you to check at your earliest convenience and return to us as soon as possible.

In order to have the record accurate, may we call to your attention the fact that the Crum statement (Page 7), as given by the JTA of February 18th, differs somewhat from the version which appears in our transcript. The JTA quotes Crum as follows: "There is a very great emergency in the sense that unless the settlements are cleared out and people permitted to rehabilitate their lives, we will have mass suicides. Or they may try to fight their way to Palestine." Would you be good enough to check this?

Your cooperation in making the necessary corrections will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Hershman
Ruth Hershman

RH:md
Enc.

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, SEPT. 2, 1943, TO IMPLEMENT ITS RESOLUTIONS ON: THE RESCUE OF EUROPEAN JEWRY; THE RIGHTS AND STATUS OF JEWS IN THE POST-WAR WORLD; THE RIGHTS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WITH RESPECT TO PALESTINE

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Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

September 18 19 46

To Mr. David R. Wahl

Care of or Apt. No. American Jewish Conference

Street and No. 521 Fifth Avenue

Place New York, N. Y.

Please telephone me here sometime today. Kindest regards.

Silver

Sender's name and address
(For reference only)

Sender's telephone
number

September 24, 1946

Mr. David R. Wahl
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear David:

Thank you for your kind letter of September 23, which I read with great interest.

I do hope, of course, to see Mr. Wallace at the first opportunity -- if only to pay my tribute to a very courageous man. That ~~same~~ evening -- the Friday I was in Washington -- Mr. Hannegan called. He apologized that he was so busy all day with the unexpected events that he could not get around any earlier to call me. He wanted to talk to me over the telephone but I told him that I would be glad to stay over the next day in order to see him. He said that he was leaving for Chicago early in the morning to attend some very important function but urged me to get in touch with him when I am in Washington next and he will clear his calendar to have a talk with me. I hope to be in Washington sometime next week. The more pressure that is kept on, the more fruitful may our conversation prove.

I was very much interested in your conversation with Mr. Harold Laski. I feared as much and, as you know, I warned against it.

With all good wishes for a very Happy New Year, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

RESOLUTION

It is recognized that there is a widespread demand for an American Jewish organization competent to speak authoritatively for the Jewish community and since this Conference was not designed as a permanent body, the Interim Committee is directed to explore the possibility of establishing a permanent, democratic, representative Jewish body, in consultation with representative community organizations and through agreement as to the nature and scope of such an organization with existing national organizations, and subject to such agreement, to propose ways and means for bringing such a body into existence.

From March 1946 issue of THE RECORD



November 12, 1946

Miss Ruth Hershman
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

My dear Miss Hershman:

I chanced this morning upon the copy of the address which I delivered at the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference, which you sent me for correction. This was some months ago. I regret that I did not go over the material. For some reason it escaped me.

I assume that by now the proceedings have been published. If so, I would appreciate receiving a copy of it.

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR