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Zionist Organization of America, Chalutziut, 1946-1947.

MEMORANDUM

490

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

DATE: 9/24/46

FROM: Herschel Auerbach

SUBJECT:

Enclosed herewith is the Chalutzit Report presented to the Inner
Committee of the ZOA:

HA:RW
Enc.



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REPORT ON CHALUTSIUT

There is a General Zionist chalutz movement with 60 actually paid-up members. This movement, about a year and a half old, already has sent a number of people on a farm of the Hechalutz for training to go to Palestine. Compared to the number of chalutzim from other Zionist groups, the General Zionist chalutz movement does not have an inconsiderable number of individuals. Actually, the surface of the General Zionist interest in chalutzim has not yet been scratched, and it is deemed possible to increase this number of chalutzim many-fold.

The problem of General Zionist chalutzim is tied up with the general problem of chalutzim in the United States. This revolves around a lack of interest in the chalutz movement by organized American Zionism, the lack of funds to carry out a chalutz movement by fitted to the American scene, and the lack of leadership by American-bred and trained experts on problems facing the movement.

To tackle the problem of chalutzim, we must take a two-fold approach. On the one hand there is the immediate problem of aiding the General Zionist youth already pledged to chalutzim. This aid can best be expressed in the desire of the General Zionist chalutz movement, Pivgat Aliyah, composed of Masada, Jr. Hadassah, and a number of ZOA members, to have their own chavah - or training farm. The second phase of the problem is the long-term phase of analyzing the role of American chalutzim in relation to the needs of Palestine and applying ourselves to fulfilling our obligations in this respect.

The present agency for chalutzim is the Hechalutz organization of which the General Zionist youth movement, Pivgat Aliyah is a member. However, Hechalutz has only two farms in the States, Cream Ridge and Hightstown, one of which is a Habonim farm and the other a Hashomer Hatzair farm. It is therefore necessary for the General Zionist chalutzim to go to the Habonim farm for their orientation and training before going to Palestine. As a result they live in an environment somewhat alien to their beliefs and find it difficult to train and work in the most effective and productive manner. It must be stated that the Habonim have cooperated to the fullest extent with the General Zionist chalutzim.

Hechaluts is prepared to purchase a farm to be run and operated by General Zionist chalutzim if such a farm will be under the financial and organizational leadership of the ZOA. This farm, however, will be owned by Hechalutz and the chalutzim would all be members of Hechalutz.

The need for such a farm is immediate, particularly in view of the fact that on my visits to both Hightstown and Cream-Ridge I found a lack of organization and planning, due largely to lack of funds. The establishment of a General Zionist farm should be on a scientific basis, with all modern physical improvements so that the chalutzim on such a farm would receive the training and experience of operating an ultra-modern agricultural community, and upon their arrival in Palestine, could therefore aid the General Zionist kvutsoth in Palestine to operate more efficiently and more scientifically.

Attached herewith is a memo from Hechalutz regarding their desire to establish a General Zionist training-farm, and also their proposed budget for January 1947-1948 for the whole organization and for the two existing farms in the States.

It might also be interesting to note that since 1940 Keren Hayesod has given \$53,650.00 to Hechalutz of which \$32,000.00 was given in 1945 and 1946 - \$16,000.00 being given each year.

Discussion of the general problem of chalutzim involves a tremendous number of factors and a complete re-orientation on our attitude to this problem. Mr. Abraham Redelheim has made a thorough survey of the matter and has set up a Palestine Chalutzim Commission, composed of all parties, with a program and plan for the operation of the chalutzim movement in America. The agreement between the organizations is attached.

Sketchily, this plan recommends the establishment of an agency, such as the Palestine Chalutzim Commission, composed of all parties and Hechalutz. It should be subsidised by the Jewish Agency and by the parties themselves. It deems the role of the American chalutz to be that of an expert and a technician, in addition to the role of a farmer on a kibbutz. The agency set up to run chalutzim in America should have a forward-looking public relations program geared to the American scene, and geared to appeal to the American youth. It should be a model agency for all undertakings and enterprises such

as training-farms of a model nature, so that anyone who visits these farms should be deeply impressed from a public relations point of view. The idea at present propagated by Hechalutz that it is necessary to sacrifice all before one can go to Palestine can very well be done away with; as well as the type of appeal which states that "Palestine is your home - don't you want to return there?"

Although many of the young men and women desire to go to Palestine on a permanent basis, there will be many who have specific skills such as engineers, chemists, mechanics, business-men, etc., who might desire to go to Palestine only on a short-term basis. The agency for chalutzim should be prepared to send these people to Palestine and to further their training in this country before they leave. For example, if a promising young chemist just out of college can be interested in becoming a chalutz and going to Palestine, he should be farmed out to industry by the agency for chalutzim to further his training, and then sent to Palestine as a specialist in his field.

Similarly, the farms of the chalutz movement should be run by experts on the basis of imparting the best modern information and training to chalutzim on the farm. These farms should also be used as orientation centers for previously trained personnel going to Palestine as mentioned above. The chalutz agency would cooperate with the Economic Bureau by providing the technicians to help American industrialists or entrepreneurs open branches in Palestine. Thus, if a man came to the Economic Bureau and desired to open a soap factory in Palestine and needed certain technicians from the States, the chalutz agency would provide such technicians by searching them out or training them.

The above plan of Mr. Abraham Redelheim was agreed to by all parties and Hechalutz. Its implementation requires the full support of the ZOA. It is highly recommended that this support be given by having the leadership of the ZOA take up the matter as soon as possible with the Jewish Agency and by having a meeting of the various parties and organizations to discuss allocations to the organization for such Palestine Chalutzim Commission.

It is further recommended that a committee be formed to search out a farm for General Zionist chalutzim, to look into the aspect of the amount of money required for the establishment of such a farm, and to arrange for the establishment of such a farm

as soon as possible.

As director of the Veterans Bureau, I have had many contacts with veterans and know that there is a wide-open field among them for chalutzit. It must be remembered that many servicemen returned from the army and navy trained in skills which they now cannot employ, much as they may desire to do so, and that they would be most happy to pioneer in any sort of enterprise such as going to Palestine if they could employ their skills today.

To accomplish this, it is necessary that immediate action be taken to really begin a chalutz movement in America on as broad a scale as possible. Palestine needs American youth for its American "know-how" and particularly for its moral health.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Herschel Auerbach

FROM: Hechalutz Organization

Hechalutz Organization has been investigating the possibilities of new and additional farms, with a view toward obtaining such a farm for the use of Plugat Aliyah members. It is hoped that such a farm will afford not only the facilities for agricultural training, but also other fields of skill. Two farms have been investigated very closely, one near New York, and one near Washington, D. C. These farms consist of approximately 100 - 120 acres, and are available for \$30,000. This sum is for investment and first year maintenance, and does not include long term financing and additional maintenance. In both cases, the equipment of the farm was negligible, and the houses were in poor shape. Neither farms contained cattle. It was felt that neither farm would be suitable for the purposes desired, and only a lack of funds kept other and better farms from coming under consideration. Of late, there has been some possibility of donations in the form of land or farms, but although negotiations have been going forward in this regard, nothing definite has been decided. It is felt that a sufficient sum of money to allow for the realistic investigation of other farms would result in farms equipped to the satisfaction of both Hechalutz and Plugat Aliyah.

In addition to the initial funds, and those needed for physical improvements, there are other expenses, such as the pay of instructors in various fields, hospitalization, etc. A well-equipped farm should be procurable in the neighborhood of \$50,000, but the addition of machine-shops, auto-repair shops, or other industrial training units might increase this figure somewhat.

Budgets for the three existing Hechalutz farms, and the Hechalutz budget for the coming year are enclosed and a more detailed report on the farms available and investigated will be forthcoming very soon.

HECHALUTZ ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Budget for Training (Hachshara)

January 1947 - January 1948

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Hightstown

Maintenance of 40 students at \$100 per student	\$ 4,000.00	
Agricultural and Hebrew Instructors	3,500.00	
Maintenance and repair of house	700.00	
Payment on mortgage and interest	1,800.00	
		\$ 10,000.00

Cream Ridge

Maintenance of 40 students at \$100 per student	\$ 4,000.00	
Agricultural and Hebrew Instructors	3,000.00	
Rebuilding of burned barn	3,000.00	
		\$ 10,000.00

Smithville (Canada)

Maintenance of 25 students at \$100 per student	\$ 2,500.00	
Agricultural and Hebrew Instructors	3,000.00	
Housing for 15 additional students	2,500.00	
Replacement of old machinery	1,000.00	
Repair of water system	1,000.00	
		\$ 10,000.00

Proposed Mid-West Training Farm

Maintenance of 40 students at \$100 per student	\$ 4,000.00	
Agricultural and Hebrew Instructors	3,500.00	
Payment on Mortgage and Interest	2,500.00	
		\$ 10,000.00

TOTAL - four training farms

\$ 40,000.00

HECHALUTZ ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Budget Summary

1947 - 1948

EXPENSE

General Items

1. Organizational Program	\$ 15,000.00
2. Training Farms	40,000.00
3. Cultural and Educational Work	9,400.00
4. Veterans Department	3,600.00
5. Aliya	5,000.00
6. National Office	12,000.00
7. Payment of debts	9,000.00
8. 5 Delegates from Palestine	12,000.00
	\$ 106,000.00

ESTIMATED INCOME

1. American Fund for Palestine Institutions	\$ 40,000.00
2. Membership dues	4,000.00
3. Year Book	15,000.00
4. Jewish Agency Allocation	30,000.00
5. Friends of Hechalutz	5,000.00
6. Histadrut Allocation	12,000.00
	\$ 106,000.00

Cream Ridge Farm
Proposed Budget
Statement of Income and Expenses
October 1, 1946 - September 30, 1947

Income

Poultry

Sale of Eggs	\$ 25,000.00	
Sale of Poultry	2,500.00	\$ 27,500.00

Livestock

Sale of Milk	\$ 3,600.00	
Sale of Livestock	400.00	\$ 4,000.00

Field Crops

Vegetable sales	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
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Miscellaneous Income

Avodat Chutz	4,000.00	
Merkaz Subsidy	10,000.00	
Field Crops Subsidy (Government)	125.00	
Cooperative Dividends	200.00	
Gifts	125.00	
M. Leet - Loan	2,000.00	
Summer Seminars	300.00	
Nursery plants	3,000.00	
Radio Repair Shop	500.00	
Trucking and Hauling	500.00	
	20,750.00	\$ 20,750.00

Total Estimated Income

\$ 53,250.00

Expenses

Poultry

Feed	\$ 9,000.00	
Expenses	1,000.00	
Sales Expense	200.00	
Chicks	4,000.00	\$ 14,200.00

Livestock

Dairy Feed	\$ 2,500.00	
Dairy Expenses	200.00	
Livestock Expenses	100.00	2,800.00

Crops

Vegetable Garden	\$ 200.00	
Field Crops	1,000.00	1,200.00

General Farm Expenses

Insurance	\$ 650.00	
Hardware and Small Tools	300.00	
Repair Farm Machinery	150.00	
Auto and Truck Expenses	800.00	
Gas and Oil	500.00	
Office and General Expenses	500.00	
Interest and Bank Charges	100.00	
Taxes	400.00	3,400.00

Group Maintenance

Food and General	9,000.00	
Medical	1,000.00	
Coal	1,000.00	
Electricity	500.00	
Telephone	300.00	
Gas	100.00	
Parent's Aid	500.00	12,400.00

Investments and Improvements

Livestock Purchase	\$ 1,000.00	
Rebuilding Burned Barn	3,000.00	
Range Shelters	500.00	
Silo	500.00	
Purchase truck	1,000.00	
General Maintenance	1,000.00	
Stove for Machinery Shed	50.00	6,050.00

Other Disbursements

Cannery	\$ 300.00	
Notes and Loans	2,000.00	
Avodat Chutz	250.00	
School Expenses	500.00	
Chofesh Expenses	500.00	
Legal Expenses	50.00	
Aliya Expense	100.00	<u>3,700.00</u>

Total Estimated Expenses		\$ 43,750.00
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Hightstown Farm
Proposed Budget
Statement of Income and Expenses
October 1, 1946 - September 30, 1947

Income

Poultry

Sale of Eggs	\$ 15,000.00	
Sale of Poultry	1,000.00	\$ 16,000.00

Livestock

Sale of Milk	5,000.00	
Sale of Livestock	100.00	5,100.00

Merkaz Subsidy

	10,000.00	10,000.00
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Avodat Chutz

	6,000.00	6,000.00
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Field Crops

Sale of Vegetables	750.00	
Orchard Income	650.00	1,400.00

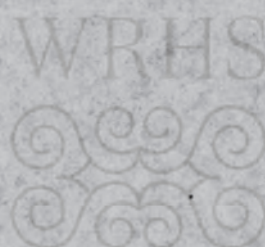
Miscellaneous Income

Conservation Subsidy	100.00	
Dairy Feed Subsidy	200.00	
Cooperative Dividends	100.00	
Water Rental	70.00	470.00

Loans and Exchanges

Hightstown Trust Co.	1,000.00	
Miscellaneous Other Loans	1,500.00	<u>2,500.00</u>

Total Estimated Income		\$ 41,470.00
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Expenses

Poultry
Feed
Expenses

\$ 8,000.00
2,000.00 \$ 10,000.00

Livestock
Feed
Expenses

2,500.00
700.00 3,200.00

Crops
Vegetable Garden
Orchard
Field Crops

300.00
1,000.00
1,200.00 2,500.00

General Farm Expense
Auto and Truck Expense
Gas and Oil
Hardware and Small Tools
Repair Farm Machinery
Office and General Expenses
Heating
Canning

400.00
800.00
300.00
450.00
300.00
600.00
150.00 3,000.00

Group Maintenance
Food and General
Medical
Gas
Electricity
Telephone
Parent's Aid
Avedat Chutz
School

9,000.00
1,000.00
500.00
600.00
350.00
200.00
300.00
200.00 12,150.00

Investments and Repairs

Dairy
General
Range Shelters
Bees
Cannery

150.00
600.00
400.00
25.00
100.00 1,275.00

Total Estimated Other Disbursements

Loans
Summer Camps
Taxes
Insurance

2,500.00
200.00
600.00
300.00 3,600.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSE

\$ 35,725.00



PALESTINE CHALUTZIUTH COMMISSION OF AMERICA - MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS: After an evaluation of the situation in Palestine and a realization of the necessity for more intensive education and effectual organization for the purpose of providing greater participation by American Jewry in the up-building of Palestine, as well as the importance of a joint effort in this direction by the entire Zionist movement in the United States, now therefore:

The representatives of all Zionist Parties in the United States herewith agree to establish a coordinating commission on ALIYAH to Palestine in the following manner:

STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION:

1. The Commission will be composed of representatives of all Zionist parties.
2. The Commission will deal with Aliyah of (a) Limited service (b) Chalutzith
3. The Commission will operate through specially established Committees dealing with the different aspects of the Commission's work - i.e. Chalutzith, limited service, etc.

Committee on Palestine Service Corps (limited service)

Objectives:

1. To supply information about possible positions in Palestine for young people with professions and skills.
2. To maintain constant contact with Palestine concerning the needs of the professions and industry there and direction for the retraining of the candidate.
3. To make available facilities for the Zionist orientation of these people prior to their departure for Palestine.

Scope of work in the U.S.

1. Recruitment of professionals; doctors, dentists, chemists, engineers, social workers, teachers, etc.
2. Recruitment of skilled personnel; mechanics, nurses, dietitians, machinists, etc.

Method of operation

1. General propaganda
2. Direct contact with and guidance of the candidates
3. Organization of orientation courses. The Brandeis Institutes of the AMZYC and the existing Hachshara farms will be called upon to provide facilities for the orientation courses.

(cont.)

4. Contact with colleges for the purpose of cultivating prospective candidates for Aliyah.
5. Contact with Jewish youth organizations, Zionist and non-Zionist (Such organizations to be enumerated.)

Committee on Chalutzim.

Objectives and Scope

1. General propaganda to further the chalutz movement
2. To supervise all Hachshara activities in the U.S.
3. To determine the financial needs for such Hachshara activities and for Aliyah to Palestine.

Method of operation

1. To do Hachshara work through existing chalutz organizations. (The Hechalutz organization and the Hapoel HaMizrachi have agreed on basic principles for cooperation.

Other Committees will be appointed and their scope of activities will be determined as the needs arise.