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Zionist Organization of America, "D" and "E", 1946-1947.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
New York, U. S. A.

P. O. Box 1159
Jerusalem, 5-11, 1946

Ref. No. 107.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann
Zionist Organization of America
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Emanuel:

The ZOA Convention was reported after a fashion in the local press, naturally by cable (though Frank had an article written beforehand, which appeared here after the Convention and which did give, to some extent, the background. I must say that I consider the function of keeping the Yishuv properly acquainted with the mood and policy of American Zionists and Jewry, would be in itself sufficiently important to warrant a permanent representative here of the ZOA. I understand from Alpert that you desire to discuss this with me at the Congress. My plans are to be at the Congress, and I expect to leave about the middle of the month for London, where I have some work to do in advance of the Congress. I do not know whether it is worthwhile cabling you this fact in case I could be useful there. I expect to see Bakstansky and Paul Goodman. However, this letter may reach you before I arrive in London (my address would be c/o Jewish National Fund, 65 Southampton Road, W. C. 1), or anyway while I am there.

I hope that my cable to you about the elections here was helpful. My forecast was not very far out, even in regard to abstentions. Although you may consider the Palestine participation large, which it is in comparison with abroad, it was not so from a Palestine standard. At the Assefat Haniivharim there was about 90% participation of the electorate, while for the Congress it was only 60%, and final figures may even modify this. Clearly, the organised party members lined up at the polls, but the unorganised voters, which means for the most part "general" Zionists, stayed at home. Apart from other causes, they may well have had difficulties in deciding for whom to vote, since the issue of Partition, the only specific item in the air, was not placed squarely before them. Moreover, as I have written, Partition can hardly be an issue until and unless it is offered and we know what kind of Partition is offered.

Of course, the elections proved again the loss to the liberal or Centre cause due to cleavage and lack of coherence. The General Zionists, even after amalgamation, did badly. No outstanding names appeared at the head of the list, and apparently they, too, suffer from an abundance of politicians and a scarcity of organisers. The split with Messrs. Rokach and Sapphir was also unfortunate for both sides. As a matter of fact, there seems to be a crisis in "Haboker" because of the differences between the owner and the editor. On the editorial staff of "Haboker" there is no homogeneity. This, too, is unfortunate for the General Zionists. I have previously expressed the opinion that the two General Zionist dailies ought to merge into one, but that is not simple.

Aliyah Hadashah is also disappointed. I was surprised that they placed their foreign policy first in emphasis, instead of concentrating on the internal programme. Even if it had not brought them more votes, it would have helped in the impact upon the Yishuv.

I think the ZOA Convention helped the Revisionists. They squeezed every advantage out of the crudest methods of propaganda and the antagonism against England. Nevertheless, they are even now, proportionately, only of the same strength in Palestine as in 1933 at the 18th Congress.

As regards Mapai, their strength has surprised some people, but as a matter of fact, as a party on its own it has lost ground. Later figures indicate that they had 60,000 votes out of about 200,000, which is, of course, substantial, but it can only make its weight felt in alliance with one of the other parties. As regards Ahdut Avodah and Hashomer Hatzair, there are bitter relations between it and them. An alliance with Hashomer Hatzair is not to be expected, and probably that party would not even participate in a general coalition Executive with Mapai. However, Ahdut Avodah may insist upon a member in the Executive, and it would then be difficult for Mapai to resist. That would, nevertheless, be an uneasy alliance, although they might well combine on class issues against non-Labour forces. It would seem that Mapai will require, as before, support from the General Zionists, and the question is whether the ZOA will come to terms with it, and what terms. I have no need to emphasise that without the ZOA providing the necessary representative manpower, no terms will be worthwhile.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Elias

Elias M. Epstein

M/

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NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

July 24, 1946.

The Rev. Mr. A. Hillel Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

With regard to the critical situation in Palestine, I beg leave to say a few words which cannot be discussed in the press or at meetings. There is an open secret that Israel has survived the long ages of persecution by bribery...

In my childhood days, when I lived with my parents in Moscow, committees of Jews used to go from house to house to raise money for bribing the police so that they would not enforce the Czar's ukases. During the bloody pogroms of 1905 many Jewish communities saved life and property by munificent gifts given to the government authorities. My father told me that in the days of Nicholas I, the Jews raised a hundred thousand rubels for the minister of the interior.

Throughout history, Jews bought the good grace of bishops and even Popes and -- according to the Talmud, this method of bribery began with Father Jacob in dealing with the "GOY" Esau.

It is probable that the Arab leaders and journalists could (with the aid of gold) be induced to prove that a co-operation of Jews and Arabs in the Holy Land would prove of mutual benefit. In fact Mohammed said that Abraham bequeathed the vast land of Arabia to his favorite son Ishmael, leaving the little country Palestine for young Isaac -- thus the Moslem Prophet recognized the right of the Jews to the Land of Israel. Yes, MONEY TALKS....

With Zion's greetings, I am,

Respectfully yours,
Samuel Elkin.

Mr. K. J. Edersheim

Mr. I. L. Hamburg

Advocaten En Procureurs

POSTGIRO NR. 75922

Telefoon Mr. E.: 96852

Telefoon Mr. H.: 97881

" Private 96953

AMSTERDAM-Z., the 1st, Sept. 1946
Van Miereveldstraat 11

DUTCH GROUP OF GENERAL ZIONISTS

To Dr. Abba H. Silver,

New York, Washington,

Cleveland.

Copy to Dr. Emanuel Neumann

Dear Dr. Silver,

We read your resignation as a member of the J. A. Executive and we want to inform you at once, that we are placing ourselves behind you with all our strength in your struggle. While full of admiration for your firm attitude and deep Zionist conviction at the London Conference in August 1945, I have still the most pleasant remembrance of our personal conversations on this occasion and I am sure that nobody could take the lead of our struggle better than you. We hope you will, without delay, take that lead, not only in the U. S., but all over the world. There's no hour to be lost.

Although we only represent the Dutch General Zionists, the Dutch Z.O. as a whole - which includes the members of all parties - can be held to oppose strongly to every partition.

We fully appreciate the reasons for your resignation. We are deeply shocked by what has happened and for which no condemnation is strong enough. Nevertheless, your resignation removed the strongest obstacle on Weizmann's way and we fear seriously that within three weeks the Executive will have definitely agreed to partition, be it unauthorized and contrary to the London resolutions. We do not know the details of the conflicts and cannot, therefore, give any advice, yet we recommend to you to consider most seriously every chance to influence by your presence and that of your supporters the members of the Executive during the negotiations. Not all of them are equally enthusiastic for partition and constant and positive influence still may change their minds. If you also think it advisable to convene a provisional meeting of non-partitionists f.i. at Paris during the London Conference, we shall be willing to take our part in the preparations.

The British are obviously trying to get some partition accepted by us before the opening of the U. N. Assembly on the 23rd, September, where the Mandate will have to be superseded by a trusteeship. Probably many members will refuse to vote for a trusteeship which is depriving the Jewish people of rights, obtained by the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate. In this

To Dr. Abba H. Silver

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respect our position possesses a strength, not to be underestimated, if we do not give up our rights.

Now we know the Dutch Z.O. to be in a very difficult position. The doors to their Government are open, they can very well represent our case, if necessary follow the Dutch delegation to New York. They are publishing a leading article "Conflicting provisions in the Palestine Mandate?" in the Dutch Law Journal of this week, for the use of the Dutch Government and their delegation to New York. But they feel unable to approach their Government at the moment, where they know rather sure the Executive is giving up our rights. Within two weeks, however, the delegations are leaving for New York. This raised the questions I am asking you now:

- 1) The Zionist Federations are still bound by the London resolutions, which oblige us to fight for the establishment of Palestine, undivided and undiminished as a Jewish State, in accordance with the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate. Do the Z.O.A. intend, as long as contrary directives have not been given by the Executive (supposed they were competent to it) to pursue their political activities with the U. S. Government and Congress on the basis of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate?
- 2) If so, would the Z.O.A. recommend Z.O.'s and Federations in other countries to approach their Governments on the same basis before the leaving of their delegations for New York, if possible to follow these delegations? If so it seems us necessary that the Z.O.A. would send with the utmost speed detailed advice to all Z.O.'s and Federations concerned: many of them will not have sufficient knowledge of the formal situation (superseding of the Mandate, plural Trusteeship under Article 81 of the Charter, etc.).

This cannot, of course, be separated from the campaign in the Zionist world.

We urge instantly that the ZOA should take the initiative, in an encouraging and passionate appeal to the dejected Movement, to the formation of a solid and interfractional organization for the reservation of our obtained rights to the development of Palestine, undivided and undiminished, to a Jewish State. This appeal should be made and this organization start with a solemn act and really world-wide publicity, if possible with participation from the outset of other Zionist bodies. It will not fail to have its influence on world opinion, if it becomes manifest, that the J.A., while negotiating on partition, do not represent the opinion of hundreds of thousands American Zionists and probably much more. It will have its influence on the Executive's attitude and it will give the Jewish people the feeling that there is again a strong political Zionist will. Perhaps it will even not be entirely unwelcome to the Executive. And towards Governments it will have a great moral strength, as it demands the upholding of our once obtained rights in the new statute for Palestine.

This movement should become as soon as possible an all-party movement and perhaps a World Election List should be set up, if still possible. In 1937 we started too late and party discipline strangled us.

To Dr. Abba H. Silver

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We are well aware that all this requires an efficient machinery, also in Europe and Palestine. It requires organization, officials, money, travelling possibilities and constant information of the whole Zionist world, purposely kept in the dark. And before all: it requires the highest speed. The Executive as well as the British do all they can to place us before an accomplished fact within three, perhaps two weeks. Even in that event, we should have to continue our efforts to prevent ratification by the Zionist Congress.

We are standing behind you, as we did always in the past. The coming weeks, if not the coming days will be decisive for our future. Don't lose an hour. Your task is gigantic: to rally, to encourage the despaired Jewish people, to organize, to say the horrible truth, yet not to stiffen our Zionist adversaries and...to act with immense speed. Yet I am sure: you and the Z.O.A. will succeed.

Yours truly;

DUTCH GROUP OF GENERAL ZIONISTS:



(K.J. Edersheim)

Chairman

September 4, 1946

Mr. George Edelstein
225 Urbano Drive
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear George:

I was sorry not to have been able to see you during your recent visit to New York. I didn't get word that you dropped into the office until it was already too late to get in touch with you.

In addition to the pleasure that I would have gotten from seeing you, there were a few specific things which I wanted to talk to you. For one thing, Dr. Silver and our administration leaders were disturbed by the press reports of a scheduled debate between Mr. Herman Quittman, representing the Z.O.A., and Mr. George Levison, representing the American Council for Judaism, on the subject of "Partition." Not only does such an event lend itself to the Council's program of making itself appear kosher, but the statement of the proposition that was to be debated seemed in itself to be most unfortunate. The Council for Judaism opposes any Jewish autonomy in Palestine, and we could only guess that Mr. Levison was opposing partition, and that Mr. Quittman was defending it. The other alternative, namely, that both speakers opposed partition, seems to us to be equally unfortunate.

Won't you look into this matter and let me have full information as to just what has been going on in your relationships with the Council for Judaism crowd?

It must be no secret to you that the Council is being groomed by the British Government for a quiescent role with relation to the problem of Palestine. It seems to us to be vitally important that we avoid doing anything which will enter to the false impression that the Council is an authentic and representative Jewish voice.

Incidentally, I want to tell you of the fact that Saul Richman, who served this Committee with skill and devotion for four months in our New York office, is now on route to San Francisco where he has accepted a position with the Associated Press Radio Bureau. Saul is a splendid Zionist and a talented public relations man, and I want to urge you to get in touch with him through the Associated Press as I

Mr. George Malstein

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know he is eager to serve our cause and that he will be unusually helpful to San Francisco Zionist work.

Let me hear from you. Meanwhile, my very cordial greetings.

As always,

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld
Executive Director

AJL:hsd



THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE NETHERLANDS ZIONIST ORGANIZATION
(in which all the districts are represented) in their meeting of
September 8, 1946

in view of the now existing plans for partition or cantonization
of Palestine

having heard the discussions .

considering

that the Jewish problem and the Palestine problem are unbreakable
bound together and are in essence one

that an unpartitioned Palestine with the rights of Jewish
immigration, Jewish land acquisition and Jewish selfdefence in the
whole of Palestine are the indispensable conditions for the
solution of the Jewish problem

declare themselves strongly against any policy which means a
reduction of the rights of the Jewish people on Palestine and
against any plan for partition or cantonization of Palestine and
against any policy which signifies a hindrance of Jewish immigration
and Jewish land acquisition

recommend to the Steering Committee of the Netherlands Zionist
Organization that they be guided in their actions by these directives
and authorize them to contact those elements in the World Zionist
Organization who reject partition or cantonization of Palestine.

R E S O L U T I O N

carried by the ADVISORY BOARD of the DUTCH ZIONIST ORGANISATION
assembled on Sunday, September 8th, 1946

The Advisory Board of the Dutch Zionist Organisation,

in view of the present plans for partition or cantonisation of Palestine,

considering that the problems of the Jewish people and the problem of Palestine are inseparable bound together and basically one,

and that there can be no solution for the Jewish problem except by an undivided Palestine entitled to Jewish immigration, Jewish land purchase and Jewish selfdefence in the whole of Palestine.

strongly objects to any policy curtailing the rights of the Jewish people to Palestine, to any plan for partition or cantonisation of Palestine, and to any policy which would impede Jewish immigration and Jewish purchase of land,

recommends that the Executive be guided in its action by the fore-mentioned lines of conduct,

and authorises it to get into touch with other sections within the World Organisation which are rejecting a partition or cantonisation of Palestine.

Amsterdam, September 25th, 1946

Dear Friends,

We herewith enclose a resolution adopted by a meeting of key-men of our organisation and expressing the view of all Dutch Zionists. In the same time it was decided, that the Executive of the Dutch Zionist Organisation (in which all parties take part) should publish a declaration of which we include a copy.

We hope, that if you take steps with reference to the points mentioned in resolution and declaration, you will contact us.

We should be pleased if you would bring the enclosed resolution and declaration to the knowledge of Congress- candidates and delegates in your country.

With Zionsgreetings,

Sincerely Yours,

enclosures.

J. VAN AMERONGEN,
chairman.

A/B 152.

EXECUTIVE OF THE DUTCH ZIONIST ORGANISATION.

DECLARATION.

The expiring years has brought nothing but disillusionment for the Jewish people.

Relying on the devices and promises of the Allies we had hoped and expected that the coming of peace, after the last tragic years of Jewish martyrdom, would put an end to the inhuman suffering of our people, and would mark a new era for the Jews. Still more: we were confident that the world would have realised the intensity of the distress of the Jewish people, and conscious of the cause thereof and its only remedy, would have recognised the rights of the Jewish people to Palestine in an endeavour to create the possibility for the Jewish people to live on.

However, we saw our expectations blighted. The feelings of anti-semitism have not weakened anywhere; they have, on the contrary, almost everywhere considerably increased: In Eastern Europe tens of thousands of Jews have to flee in order to save their lives; in Central Europe more than a hundred thousand are still in camps behind barbed wire; in several other countries the hatred against Jews is taking forms of violence.

There is one country the Jews of the world are longing for. Knowing by experience that every new dispensal implies new anti-semitism with new grief, and afraid of their own fate as well as the fate of their children, the Jews aim at concentrating their forces by building their own country they endeavour to save themselves and at the same time to contribute to the solution of the Jewish problem, by which the whole world is affected.

The keys of that country have been placed into the hands of Great Britain with the instruction to further Jewish immigration and to develop the land economically. But amidst the growing conflict of world-power relations the British Government has chosen the side of reaction; with an army of 80.000 stationed in Palestine it is destroying Jewish colonies and deliberately checking the economic development; whilst showing considerable weakness in its attitude towards open collaborators of the Axis-powers it is arresting the very people who joined hands with the British in fighting the fascists imprisoning them for months without any juridical justification; it is deporting refugees and puts pressure on governments to sheet their frontiers for people who are in peril of life.

After a deliberate delay of one year and a half it is now proposing a new scheme to the Jewish people; a scheme contrary to the obligations Great Britain has voluntarily taken upon itself, an important feature of which is the objective of providing Great Britain with a strong military base, and implication of which would signify suffocation for the Jewish people.

Against this the Executive of the Dutch Zionist Organisation wishes to declare that the demands of the Jewish people are and shall remain:

The rights to regulate its free immigration, land-purchase and self-defence in the whole of Palestine in a way which will result before long in the establishment of a Jewish State based on a majority.

The Mandatory Power has created an extremely difficult situation, having acted in defiance of the Mandate and still doing so cautiously. It is evident that Great Britain does not wish to carry out the Mandate and that the future of the land and the interests of the Jewish people are not secured in the hands of the Palestine Administration. A new form has

therefore to be found by which the historical rights of the Jewish people - as recognised by the whole world in the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate - are safeguarded, and the solution of the Jewish Worldproblem secured.

We shall never agree to a form which does not answer the demands of the Jewish people. We shall find the ways to pursue our purpose, favourably viewed by fifty two nations and never foresaken by ourselves: a Jewish State in an undivided Palestine.

The way may be long and full of strife and grief for the remnants of our people, - in the end we shall succeed.

EXECUTIVE
of the
DUTCH ZIONIST ORGANISATION.



DANN, ATLAS, TILCHIN & BLOOM
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
2415 BARLUM TOWER
DETROIT 26, MICHIGAN

October 1, 1946

SOL. A. DANN
MILTON R. ATLAS
SEYMOUR TILCHIN
LESLIE D. BLOOM

CADILLAC 1003

Zionist Organization of America
41 E. 42nd St.
New York 17 N.Y.

Attention
Mr. Jos. W. Greenleaf
Chairman, ZOA Convention

Gentlemen:

If sideshow activities in and about this memorable 1946 Convention can be avoided it will be small sacrifice - to say the least.

A vast amount of serious Zionist business must be transacted at this Convention.

This business must be expediently disposed of with dispatch in a business-like manner.

Most of the delegates are primarily concerned with learning the facts and how to solve Zionist problems-
without emotion.

The following suggestions are submitted for your consideration:

- (1) Emotional sermons should be restricted and avoided.
- (2) All reports should as far as possible, be printed and mailed to the delegates in advance.
- (3) Leaders should not consume most of the time at the various meetings to give brief reports - by way of a lengthy sermon.
- (4) More time should be provided to enable delegates to participate and express their ideas. (Delegates should be limited to 5 minutes unless they submit their proposed talk in writing in advance and get special permission for a longer time)
- (5) Most of the reports of the Committees, material, pamphlets, etc. (including the program if possible) should be sent immediately to each district for distribution to the delegates - before - they leave for the Convention.

(Delegates should be persuaded to prepare and familiarize themselves with certain problems on Zionism - before - they reach the Convention. Study and re-study of the Palestine Mandate should be emphasized.

(6) Delegates of the various districts should be encouraged to hold caucuses and meetings in their local districts immediately, to discuss the problems of Zionism and prepare written suggestions on ways and means of solving them - before - they reach the Convention.

(7) Leaders at the Convention should set an example for sincerity and decorum. Their conduct should inspire and impress the delegates to translate Zionism into action in their local districts with the same degree of sincerity witnessed by them at the Convention:

- (a) Meetings should commence promptly on the scheduled time.
- (b) ^{All} Those who are (necessarily) required to be on the Speakers' platform or presidium should be present at least 5 minutes - before - the scheduled time for the commencement of the meeting.
- (c) Only those who are expected to participate in the meeting should be permitted to sit on the platform of any of the meetings.
- (d) Leaders should avoid making the Convention a social gathering. They should keep themselves in readiness where they can be approached and consulted by the delegates in reference to the problems of Zionism which may be of either a local or national nature.
- (e) A suggestion box should be installed in the Lobby to encourage delegates to submit thoughts in writing they might hesitate to otherwise express.

Zionist Organization of America
New York City

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Oct. 1, 1948

The following additional Committees are suggested:

- (1) Committee on legal phases of Zionism.
- (2) Committee on public relations.
- (3) Committee on efficiency of Zionist districts:
 - (a) Efficiency of personnel of national organization.
 - (b) Efficiency of personnel of local districts.
 - (c) Coordination of activities between personnel of national organization and personnel of districts.
 - (d) Managerial and disciplinary supervision of national organization of the personnel of the district organizations.
- (4) Committee on consolidation of Zionist organizations:
 - (a) Coordination of the efforts, campaigns, programs, overlapping campaigns of the various Zionist organizations.

Sincerely,


Sol A. Dann

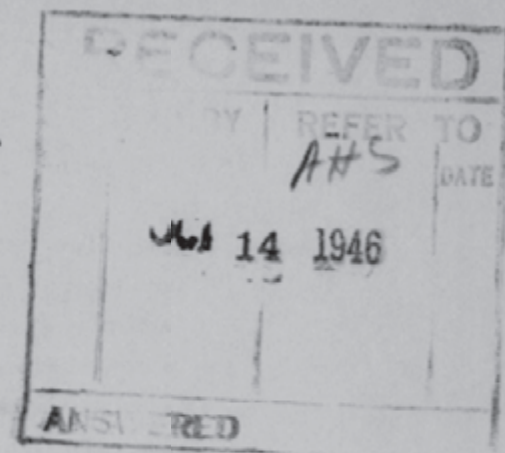
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THE WOMEN'S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, INC.

Hadassah

1819 BROADWAY • NEW YORK 23, N. Y.
TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-6585



October 9, 1946.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
342 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Hadassah's thirty-second annual convention will take place in Boston this year from November 10th to November 14th.

It is not necessary for me to point out to you how significant is any gathering of Zionist leaders at such a crucial time as this.

We warmly invite you to be our guest speaker at the closing function on Thursday, November 14th. We hope that you will find it possible to be with us at that important occasion, which will be attended not only by delegates but many thousand visitors from the New England region.

Will you please let us know that we may expect to have you with us?

Sincerely,

Moses P. Epstein
Mrs. Moses P. Epstein
National President

JGE:eng

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OBJECT IN AMERICA: Fostering Zionist Ideals through Jewish education. Participation in a program of democratic action.

ACTIVITIES IN PALESTINE: 1. Post-war Health Program; 2. Countrywide public health, hospitalization and child welfare (including vocational education and recreation) programs. Headquarters: Rothschild-Hadassah-University Hospital, which is part of the Hadassah Medical Center, Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem; 3. Newest project: the erection of Hadassah's 200 bed tuberculosis hospital in Palestine; and joint sponsorship with American Friends of the Hebrew University of a campaign for funds with which to erect the Hebrew University-Hadassah Undergraduate Medical School; 4. Hadassah reclaims and afforests the land of Palestine through its contributions to the Jewish National Fund; 5. It also educates and maintains Jewish refugee children brought to Palestine through the Youth Aliyah movement, of which Hadassah is the official American representative.

JUNIOR HADASSAH ACTIVITIES: Maintenance of Meier Shfeyah Children's Village and Pardess Anna Training Farm.

JOINT ACTIVITY WITH SENIOR HADASSAH: Maintenance of Henrietta Szold School of Nursing; Junior Agency Youth Aliyah.

October 18, 1946

Mrs. Moses P. Epstein
National President
HADASSAH
1819 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Epstein:

Please pardon the delay in replying to your kind letter of October 9. I have been out of town and the holidays, too, have intervened.

I deeply appreciate your gracious invitation to address the National Convention of Hadassah on November 14. I wish I could see my way clear to come, but I plan to leave for Europe and the Congress around the 20th of November, somewhat ahead of the last sailing date, in order to visit one or two places prior to going to Basle. Under the circumstances, it will not be possible for me to leave Cleveland a few days before sailing time.

I wish your Convention all success in its deliberations.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:GR

March 7, 1947

Mr. Arthur I. Darman, President
Rhode Island Region
Darman Bldg.
Woonsocket, R.I.

My dear Friend:

From our national headquarters I received the information that Providence has remitted its quota in full to the ZOA Expansion Fund. I know how active you have been in the field and how much you have contributed not alone to the success of the Expansion Fund, but to the ZOA membership in your state. I want to express to you my own personal gratitude as well as that of the officers of the ZOA. I had occasion in Pittsburgh, at a meeting of our National Administrative Committee, to speak of the magnificent work in the field of membership which Rhode Island has been doing under your guidance and inspiration. More power to you!

I am leaving soon for Palestine to attend meetings of the Executive of the Jewish Agency and of the Actions Committee. I hope that some good will come out of these meetings.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

ZIONIST ORGANISATION OF AMERICA
NEW YORK, U.S.A.

ELIAS M. EPSTEIN,
PALESTINE CORRESPONDENT
TEL. 2697

P. O. BOX 1159

JERUSALEM

19

47

AHS
Em. hem
4/14/47

2/4

Dear Sirs
I think Dr. Siegel
will be interested
in this article & Mr.
Epstein's quote it.
With best wishes
Elias

April 19
1947

Dr. Abba-Hillel Silver,
19810 Shaker Boulevard,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am writing this letter to you in an individual capacity and not as a member of the Z.O.A. Executive Board. I do so because I feel very keenly about the subject matter which I desire to touch upon here.

It is not a secret to you that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction in the Zionist ranks. The Congress left many wounds, and they are far from healed. I don't have to tell you that I am one of those who were deeply disappointed at the results of this last Congress. And yet I feel it would be a calamity in these difficult days to permit the discontent which exists today to blossom into an opposition. While conflicts within the Z.O.A. may sometimes be unavoidable, any internal conflict is of secondary importance at such a time. Some of us may still disagree on internal policy, but that should not preclude a complete coordination of efforts for the common good in connection with our external policy.

We are perhaps in the greatest crisis today of any time in our Zionist and, I dare say Jewish, history. Our appearance before the United Nations Assembly can be a great chance, but it is fraught with danger, for this may be our last chance. There is no appeal from this Tribunal; our whole situation hangs on a *כף קל*.

We must therefore mobilize all our forces, irrespective of personal or organizational relations. And upon you, Dr. Silver, rests the great responsibility of effecting such a mobilization of forces.

In time of great stress every country, however divided internally, seeks to unite its forces. During the last war, when we faced such great difficulties, Mr. Roosevelt understood the importance of working together, and we know now that his greatness as a leader lay in his ability to mobilize all forces to his side. He took into his Cabinet such staunch Republicans as Knox and Stimson; he took into his counsel his political opponent, Wendell Willkie, and

April 19, 1947

appointed him his emissary of good will.

Would it not be fitting, then, in these difficult days that you should personally invite into your Cabinet men like Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Mr. Louis Lipsky, Dr. Solomon Goldman, Dr. James Heller, Mr. Edward Kaufmann, Mr. Robert Szold, Judge Louis Levinthal, and others, and take counsel with them?

You will tell me, no doubt, that these men are members of the Z.O.A. Executive body and, as such, can wield influence unilaterally. But you know and I know that this is a purely formal status and that none of these men have anything to say in the shaping of Z.O.A. policy, nor do they carry any responsibility. In fact, almost all of these leaders are outsiders and the affairs of the Z.O.A. are conducted by a small closed group called, if I am not mistaken, the Inner Committee. I might add that just as the World Zionist Executive is composed of a coalition of men with differing opinions, so, too, the leadership in this country, if it is to be united in action on external affairs at this crucial time, must reflect the ideals of the Z.O.A. Quite apart from the general principle involved, these men -- all of them -- could be of invaluable service in various fields of endeavor.

I do not intend to outline a program of activity at this moment. Let me point out, however, that we must have emissaries to visit South American countries, Scandinavian countries, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Balkans to obtain the good will of their governments. We must have men of standing to consolidate the non-Zionist bodies of the U. S. and the entire Jewish community behind the Jewish Agency. We must make an effort to meet with industrialists who have interests in the Near East, not to mention the work which must yet be done with respect to our own government here.

Our task is enormously difficult and we are working against time. In fact, were you to place all these men in important jobs, we would still not have sufficient personnel at our disposal to meet the exigencies of the critical situation.

What I say about the American scene holds true with even greater force in the world arena. To me, at least, it is inconceivable that when our cause is presented to the United Nations it should be done in the absence of Dr. Weizmann. Whatever differences may exist, I think we all agree that we have not in Jewish life a personality with greater force and prestige than Dr. Weizmann. It would be an historic error not to utilize this great personality at such a time.

Dr. A. H. Silver

Three.

April 19, 1947

He can be of great service to our cause in this country in joining with you and other leaders to fight the common battle with dignity and in total unison.

I would like to repeat that this letter is written to you without any mental reservations and with no previous consultation with any of the men whom I have mentioned in writing. I know that you are burdened with many weighty problems and, in fact, believe that this entire matter has already given you many anxious moments, but I thought perhaps you would like to hear from just a Zionist.

I appreciate that this is a delicate matter. Wherever great personalities are involved the matter becomes delicate and complicated. Let us, however, not forget the seriousness of the situation. The entire matter rests in your hands.

With Zion's greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

AKE:fmg



Albert K. Epstein

ALBERT K. EPSTEIN
6715 OGLESBY AVENUE
CHICAGO 49, ILL.

April 21
1947

Dr. Abba-Hillel Silver,
19810 Shaker Boulevard,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am writing this letter to you in an individual capacity and not as a member of the Z.O.A. Executive Board. I do so because I feel very keenly about the subject matter which I desire to touch upon here.

It is not a secret to you that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction in the Zionist ranks. The Congress left many wounds, and they are far from healed. I don't have to tell you that I am one of those who were deeply disappointed at the results of this last Congress. And yet I feel it would be a calamity in these difficult days to permit the discontent which exists today to blossom into an opposition. While conflicts within the Z.O.A. may sometimes be unavoidable, any internal conflict is of secondary importance at such a time. Some of us may still disagree on internal policy, but that should not preclude a complete coordination of efforts for the common good in connection with our external policy.

We are perhaps in the greatest crisis today of any time in our Zionist and, I dare say Jewish, history. Our appearance before the United Nations Assembly can be a great chance; but it is fraught with danger, for this may also be our last chance. There is no appeal from this Tribunal; our whole situation hangs on a *מחלוקת*.

We must therefore mobilize all our forces, irrespective of personal or organizational relations. And upon you, Dr. Silver, rests the great responsibility of effecting such a mobilization of forces.

In time of great stress every country, however divided internally, seeks to unite its forces. During the last war, when we faced such great difficulties, Mr. Roosevelt understood the importance of working together, and we know now that his greatness as a leader lay in his ability to mobilize all forces to his side. He took into his Cabinet such staunch Republicans as Knox and Stimson; he took into his counsel his political opponent, Wendell Willkie, and

appointed him his emissary of good will.

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Dr. A. H. Silver

Three.

April 23, 1947

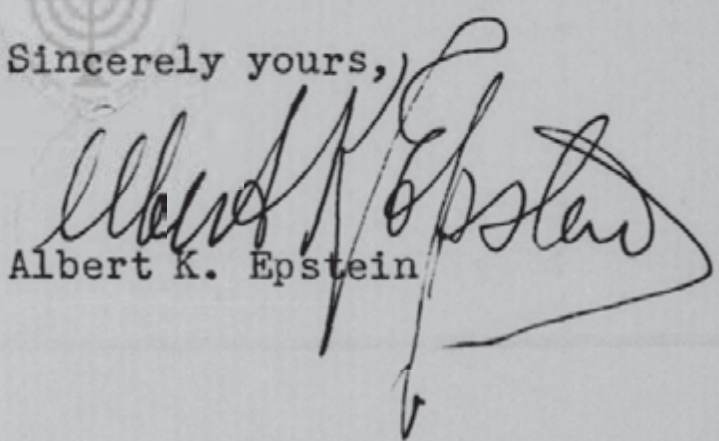
He can be of immeasurable service to our cause in this country in joining with you and other leaders to fight the common battle with dignity and in total unison.

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I appreciate that this is a delicate matter. Wherever great personalities are involved the matter becomes delicate and complicated. Let us, at the same time, not forget the seriousness of the situation. The entire matter rests in your hands.

With Zion's greetings, and hoping to hear from you,
I am

Sincerely yours,


Albert K. Epstein

AKE:fmg

ALBERT K. EPSTEIN
6715 OGLESBY AVENUE
CHICAGO 49, ILL.

April 23
1947

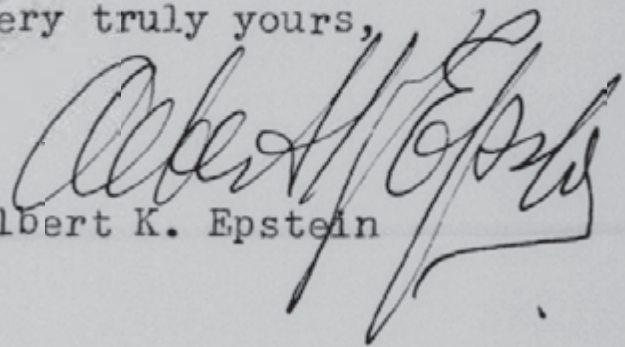
Dr. Abba-Hillel Silver,
Zionist Organization of America,
41 East 42nd Street,
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I enclose herewith a copy of
the letter which I wrote to you and
mailed to your Cleveland address.

With Zion's greetings,

Very truly yours,


Albert K. Epstein

:fmg

Portion of Mr. Elias Epstein's letter of April 24.

Granovsky told me that you had written to Mr. Kolodny who showed your letter to him, about General Zionism representation on the Board of Directors of the KKL. Granovsky was not quite clear as to the point of your inquiry. He said that in point of numbers the General Zionists are fairly represented. This is correct. Out of eleven directors you have from the General Zionists Messrs. Granovsky, Schocken, Suchovitsky, Samuel Ussishkin and Mr. J. Janower (of South Africa and Tel Aviv) - five out of eleven. What is striking about this representation is the absence of an American and the small share of the English speaking world. Moreover, Mr. Schocken largely resident abroad and Mr. Janower too has to pay long visits to South Africa. I need not tell you of my strong personal view (which, however, I have been led to believe was supported by the late Ussishkin and by Granovsky), that American Zionism should be represented strongly on the Board of our principal institutions and I need not state that the KKL is a very important institution in the Yishuv - far more so than the KH, for example. But as you and I know very well, American Zionists have not yet come forward as candidates for these positions of responsibility which entail, or should entail, residence in Palestine. If American Zionists desire any change in this respect, I am sure that it lies only in their own hands and that they will not find opposition on the part of the Yishuv.

However, I must say that I doubt if there is sufficient collaboration between all the General Zionist Board members and the newly organized Confederation and Palestine General Zionist organization. The case of the Bnai Zion land is an illustration and I think there may be other cases, particularly when it comes to providing land for the element which is not in the Histadrut, but belongs to the private Middle Class Sector.

I will have occasion to offer some comments in respect to the World Confederation Center and General Zionist Headquarters. There is need for a certain tightening up of relations in Palestine between the various factors, and between them all and USA. Of course we are only initiating these offices and hence there is bound to be a certain amount of looseness at first. I trust that this will be overcome. I do feel, however, that if the ZOA had stronger permanent representation here, preferably through Americans, this would considerably help in putting things in order in the most efficient and harmonious manner.

ALBERT K. EPSTEIN
6715 OGLESBY AVENUE
CHICAGO 49, ILL.

April 25
1947

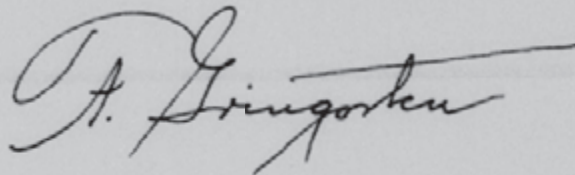
Dr. Abba-Hillel Silver,
19810 Shaker Boulevard,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Due to an oversight on the writer's part, an error was made in Mr. Epstein's letter to you of April 21st, viz: On page 2, paragraph 1, the name following that of Dr. James Heller should read "Mr. E. I. Kaufmann" (past President of the Z.O.A.).

Begging your indulgence, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Freda Gringorten". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Freda Gringorten
Secretary to Mr. Epstein

May 12, 1947

Mr. Albert K. Epstein
6715 Oglesby Avenue
Chicago 49, Ill.

My dear Mr. Epstein:

Please pardon the delay in answering your letter. As you know, I have been extremely pre-occupied with the work connection with the presentation of our case before the UN.

I read your letter with much interest, but I am afraid there is very little that I can say to you in reply. All the people whom you have mentioned, occupy important positions in the official family of the present administration of the ZOA. No one has been purged. If they, of their own volition, choose to resign or absent themselves from attending the important meetings of the Executive and Administrative Committees of the ZOA, where every important issue is fully discussed and democratically resolved, then clearly the responsibility is theirs. There is nothing that I can do about it. The Zionist Convention will be held this year early in July, and an opportunity will be given to all those who are dissatisfied with the work of the present administration to state their case and to suggest such re-organization as they may desire.

Everyone who wishes to work for our cause through the ZOA is most cordially welcomed by the administration, and has the fullest opportunity for such work.

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

ALBERT K. EPSTEIN
6715 OGLESBY AVENUE
CHICAGO 49, ILL.

May
20th
1947.

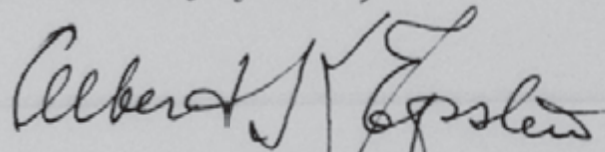
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street at
Ansel Road,
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

In all humility, but with absolute frankness, I must state that your reply of May 12th to my letter of April 21st is in every way non-satisfactory and does not meet the issues I raised.

With Zion's greetings, I remain

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Albert K. Epstein". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'A' and 'E'.

Albert K. Epstein

fmg

May 22, 1947

Mr. Albert K. Epstein
6715 Oglesby Avenue
Chicago 49, Ill.

My dear Mr. Epstein:

I replied to your earlier letter as a matter of common courtesy. I did not expect that it would be satisfactory to you.

I am not at all impressed by your "humility" and your "absolute frankness." Somehow I never associated "absolute frankness" with you. I cannot help but recall the manner in which you peddled that forged telegram at the Zionist Convention in Atlantic City, as well as your persistent hostile propaganda concerning which Zionists in Chicago have written to me time and again.

Sincerely yours,

AHS:EK

MORRIS ESPO & CO.
PUBLISHERS' AGENTS

38 CHURCH STREET
PAWTUCKET, R. I.

May 27, 1947

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Zionist Organization of America
41 West 42nd St.
New York, N.Y.

AHS
5/29/47

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 23rd.

I neglected to mention to you in my letter of the 15th, that no little part of the success attained in our membership drive was due to your visit here.

Our community was stirred and its response to your speech was reflected in the results we obtained.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Morris Espo

Morris Espo

ME/ls

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

June 9, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o The Temple
E. 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Regarding your speaking engagement in Boston on June 15th, I would greatly appreciate your giving me, by return mail, the answers to the following three questions:

1. Will you travel to Boston directly from Cleveland, and do you wish me to secure travel accommodations?
2. Will you be in New York for the weekend, and do you wish to secure reservations from New York to Boston?
3. At what time do you desire returning to Cleveland, and what reservations shall I make?

I would greatly appreciate your letting me have your reply by air mail- special.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Judith Daniel

Mrs. Howard Daniel
Secretary, Speakers' Bureau.

HD:hg

cc: Dr. Silver - Emergency Council

June 11, 1947

Mrs. Howard Daniel
Zionist Organization of America
41 E. 42nd St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Daniel:

Thank you for your kind letter of June 9.
I would appreciate it if you would make reservations
for me on the sleeper from Boston to New York, Sunday
night, June 15. Will you also kindly make reservations
for me on the early train out of New York for Cleveland
on Monday evening, June 16 -- the one that leaves New York
at 8:15 P.M. I have already arranged for my transportation
from Cleveland to Boston.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:EK

COPY

Elias Epstein

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
PO Box 1159
Jerusalem, 12th June, 1947

Ref. No. 84

Dr. Israel Goldstein
c/o Confederation of General Zionists
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

I observe that the General Zionists in Tel Aviv have suggested that August is not a suitable month for your visit to Palestine. I appreciate that you are not free at any other time. It is true that people take their holidays in this month, but important people who are vacationing in Palestine itself, can be reached, and if they are abroad, then even the postponement by a couple of weeks of your visit would not make much difference.

More serious, I think, is the fact that you have not allowed adequate time for covering your whole programme, since besides seeing the country, which itself absorbs many days, there are so many problems to study, involving interviews, etc. However, I trust that you will be able to negotiate some of the more immediate issues.

I again attended in Tel Aviv the regular meeting of the Merkaz Olami. Your reference to the second issue of the bulletin was reported with appreciation.

This meeting was marked by a rather grave manifestation of the underlying friction or incompatibility between the older General Zionist Organization and the Oved Zioni. It arose from the fact that Transylvanian General Zionists had organized under the aegis of the Oved Zioni, and so reported to the Palestine Office of the Confederation. Mr. Serlin proposed to inform them that they had acted wrongly. He quoted a decision at Basle which, according to him, recognized the Oved Zioni organization only in Palestine. Abroad, there was to be only one General Zionist Organization, including all types and including youth, Chalutzim, etc. He charged the Oved Zioni with inconsistency in participating in the Merkaz Olami, and at the same time stimulating the organization of separate General Zionist bodies abroad as branches of the Oved Zioni.

You know, of course, that the two sections of the movement - Oved Zioni and the other General Zionists - have not merged and only cooperate within the Confederation. At almost every meeting of the Merkaz, the conflict of outlook and interest emerges in more or less measure. Last night, on the issue mentioned, a tense atmosphere was created, because Mr. Serlin made it a matter of principle.

Mr. Zvi Herman replied, taking up an equally adamant position. He said that there were countries like U.S.A. where separate bodies of General Zionists were recognized. The conditions in Europe were such that the General Zionists in many countries could only find their platform in the Oved Zioni. He regarded the Oved Zioni as an integral part of General Zionism, equal with any other group. They would cooperate in the Confederation, because they felt their place was there, not less than any other section. He then continued that Mr. Serlin had been given their confidence as chairman of the Palestine Office of the Confederation, but his proposed letter to the Transylvanian

General Zionists constituted a breach of trust, and he, Mr. Herman, would hence have to withdraw his confidence from Mr. Serlin.

Mr. Serlin wanted to insist upon a vote of confidence being put to the meeting, but finally it was decided that this motion would be postponed, pending a thorough fundamental discussion of the whole issue at a future meeting.

I think that you should be aware of this rift, which, unless mended, is likely to get worse.

Personally, I doubt whether Mr. Serlin's attitude can be maintained in face of the opposition of the Oved Zioni. But, on the other hand, it is essential to create a better understanding between the two sections. Particularly in English speaking countries, there is a Zionist youth which is not necessarily a Chalutz movement and they constitute the youth reservoir of the General Zionists. The Chalutz element ought to be a section of this youth and not break away into a separate organization, such as the Oved Zioni. Of course, conditions in Europe are not the same as in America.

Earlier in the meeting there was another clash because Mr. Kolodny had said that the Oved Zioni would not be bound by the decision of the General Zionists in Palestine not to participate in the meeting of the Zionist General Council, if it was held on the date originally convened, in spite of the request for its postponement. It was said that there was no point in taking decisions at meetings in which the representatives of the Oved Zioni participated, if those decisions did not bind those representatives.

The Merkaz also discussed the allocation of funds to the sector for absorbing immigrants. This raises the question as to who really should allocate the funds of the Constructive Fund - the Merkaz or the Committee responsible for the fund (Keren).

The Merkaz also appointed a sub-committee to draw up the rights and duties of the honorary officers vis-a-vis the Merkaz. A control committee was also elected. These matters will be more fully reported in the minutes which will no doubt reach you in due course.

Sincerely yours,

(s) ELIAS EPSTEIN

Hadassah

1819 BROADWAY • NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-6585

June 13, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
19810 Shaker Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Just before you went to Palestine last March to attend the meeting of the Jewish Agency Executive, I wrote asking for a meeting of representatives of the Zionist Organization of America and Hadassah to discuss various organization problems which had arisen, and which we believed lent themselves to discussion, and perhaps, solution through the medium of a conference.

During your absence we had such a meeting at which Dr. Neumann, Rabbi Miller, Mr. Greenleaf and Dr. Sidney Marks were present. It was the opinion of all of us that the first meeting called for a second. Some weeks later, I wrote Dr. Neumann asking for a second appointment which he was unable to make owing to the pressures of preparing for the United Nations' opening session, a situation which we all understood fully. Now the UN session is behind us, but the problems still remain.

We would appreciate very much your giving us a time convenient to you for the second meeting. I would like very much to have you present, and, therefore, would be glad to arrange it for any day when you are in New York.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Neumann and Dr. Marks.

Very sincerely yours,

Judith P. Epstein
Mrs. Moses P. Epstein
National President

JGE/bbs

FOUNDER

MISS HENRIETTA SZOLD

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT

MRS. EDWARD JACOBS

PRESIDENT

MRS. MOSES P. EPSTEIN

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MRS. LOUIS ROTHENBERG

MRS. ABRAHAM STRAUSS

TREASURER

MRS. ABRAHAM TULIN

SECRETARY

MRS. ELLIOT F. GLASSBERG

RECORDING SECRETARY

MRS. EMANUEL HALPERN

WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE

MRS. RAPHAEL TOBROVER

PRESIDENT, JUNIOR HADASSAH

MISS ZELDA FUNK

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MISS JEANNETTE N. LEIBEL



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OBJECT IN AMERICA: Fostering Zionist ideals through Jewish education. Participation in a program of democratic action.

ACTIVITIES IN PALESTINE: 1. Newest Project: Administrative health arm, Jewish Agency for Palestine Immigrant Medical Services Department; 2. Countrywide hospitalization, public health, child welfare, vocational education programs. Headquarters: Rothschild-Hadassah-University Hospital which is part of Hadassah Medical Center, Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem; 3. Joint sponsorship with American Friends of the Hebrew University of a campaign for funds with which to erect the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School; 4. Reclamation and afforestation of land in Palestine through the Jewish National Fund; 5. Education and maintenance of Jewish refugee children brought to Palestine through the Youth Aliyah movement of which Hadassah is the official American representative.

JUNIOR HADASSAH: Maintenance of Meier Shfeyah Children's Village and Pardess Anna Training Farm.

JOINT ACTIVITY WITH SENIOR HADASSAH: Maintenance of Henrietta Szold School of Nursing; Junior Agency for Youth Aliyah.

June 18, 1947

Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, National President
Hadassah
1819 Broadway
New York 23, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Epstein:

Permit me to acknowledge your letter of June 13. I should very much like to attend the meeting to which you refer, but I do not know when I will have the time. I am leaving on Monday for Montreal to attend the sessions of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, of which I am President. I will be there through the week, returning to Cleveland for a few days before attending the convention of the ZOA which begins on July 3. I will not be in New York before that time. At the ZOA convention, a new President will be elected, and I believe that it would be desirable that the discussions be carried on with the officers of the new administration.

With all good wishes, I remain

Cordially yours,

AHS:EK

Arthur I. Darnman, Pres.
see

Robert Darnman
Zionist District

WRHS

