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Zionist Organization of America, Zionist Federation of Great
Britain and Ireland, 1946.



המרכז הציוני בבריטניה תנועה ואידלנד

THE ZIONIST FEDERATION

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

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General Secretary,

75 GT. RUSSELL STREET,

LONDON, W.C.1

14th August, 1946.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland,
Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I have pleasure in enclosing a copy of my letter to you of the 22nd July, regarding your article for the first issue of our new quarterly review "The Gates of Zion". I know how busy you are, but I also know that it is essential to have your article in our first issue.

For the sake of Zion I crave of you to be good enough to let us have your article as early as possible. The latest date for receiving any articles for publication is September the 1st, 1946.

With many thanks and Zion's Greetings,

Yours sincerely,

J. Litvin

Dr. J. Litvin.
Synagogue Secretary.

*This was sent
registered & air-mail*

Copy.

JL/FL

22nd July, 1946.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland,
Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I have pleasure in bringing to your notice and kind attention the pleasant fact that the Zionist Federation of Great Britain is publishing a quarterly review - "The Gates of Zion" - organ of the Central Zionist Synagogue Council. The Editor is Mr. Paul Goodman, and I am acting Editor. The first issue will be published in the 2nd half of September so as to reach all synagogues in Great Britain on the eve of the High Festivals.

The purpose of this publication is to spread Zionism and knowledge of Judaism among the synagogues of Great Britain. Many leading Zionist rabbis and lay men are contributing to the first issue, and we think it essential to have an article from you for this issue. Of course, you may write on any topic you like, but if we may make a suggestion we should like to have your article on "The Synagogue in the United States". The size of the article should be about 1,500 - 2,000 words, and the earlier we receive it the better.

Knowing your tremendous influence in Zionist circles all over the world, and your deep devotion to our Cause, I do not doubt that you will not refuse our request as there can be no doubt that your article would contribute greatly to the success of our publication.

With many thanks in anticipation of your most valuable co-operation and Zion's greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. J. Litvin.
Synagogue Secretary.



המרכז הציוני בכרימניה הגדולה ואירלנדיה

THE ZIONIST FEDERATION

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

L. BAKSTANSKY, LL.B., B.SC.(ECON.),

General Secretary,

75. GT. RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, W.C.1.

JL/FL

24th October, 1946.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland,
Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I have pleasure in enclosing the manifesto of the Central Zionist Synagogue Council of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland for the High Festivals 5706 in Yiddish and English, as well as an appeal issued to all shekel holders regarding their participation in the congress elections, and signed by leading rabbis and lay leaders of Anglo-Jewry. All these appeals were prepared and distributed by the Central Zionist Synagogue Council.

Your remarks on these appeals would be highly appreciated.

With best wishes,

Yours in Zion,

Dr. J. Litvin
Secretary, Central Zionist Synagogue Council.

'Barkerism'—and other Unpleasant Matters

by Mrs. Edgar Dugdale

THE Conference between H.M.G. and the Arab States stands adjourned, and a Government spokesman in London has declared that the main reason why it has not been possible to get a quick solution of the Palestine question has been the refusal of the Jews to take part in the Conference. One does not know which Government Departments were chiefly responsible for this most misleading statement, which it must have been hoped that the public would swallow without more ado, while its authors could shelter themselves against any possible suggestion of "suppressio veri" by inserting in another part of the official statement that "consultations with the Jews are actually in progress at this moment".

* * *

THESE are, in fact, the preliminary talks without which it is now axiomatic that no international conference should attempt to begin proceedings, and which are particularly necessary in this case. The Jewish Agency has realised this all along, but it was forgotten, or more probably ignored, when the idea of calling a Conference first struck the Government as a good one. There seems something rather queer about this. To try to drag the Jews into formal conference, without previous soundings not only appears an oddly amateurish method of procedure on the part of the highly experienced departments in Whitehall, but also seems to indicate an alarming lack of perception of the point of view from which the Jewish Agency is bound to approach this Conference. None of us must forget the tremendous part which feelings are playing in this effort to improve British-Jewish relations, after all that has happened in Palestine, and unfortunately is happening still. Terrorism, the hideous offspring of the Government's immigration regulations is now in unholy alliance with what I will call "Barkerism" to poison the atmosphere. Neither, thank God, is typical of any but a small minority of Jews or Britons in Palestine, but both elements are present. And just as Jews should never forget that criminals of their race murdered Lord Moyne, and blew up the King David Hotel, so the British should remember that the Englishman who wields supreme power in Palestine

at this moment is a General who does all he can to inoculate the troops under his command with the germ of anti-Semitism, and has expressed in writing his "loathing and contempt" for the Jewish inhabitants of Palestine.

The Government meanwhile reproaches the Jewish Agency for not co-operating sufficiently with it in stamping out terrorism. Speaking as a British citizen I have a right to ask the Government what it is doing to stamp out the spirit of racial hatred which General Barker so openly professes; and which through him is becoming associated with the British name in the mind of many a Palestinian boy and girl and turning them into the terrorists of to-day or tomorrow? In the House of Commons last July, Mr. Herbert Morrison tried to "dissociate" the Government from the terms of the "Barker letter". But governments cannot so easily shuffle off their responsibilities for what their servants do or say. I might just as well try to "dissociate" myself from the consequences if I keep a dog which makes a habit of biting the legs of my neighbours. It was indeed stated that General Barker's military superiors would deal with the matter, and Ministers probably hoped that during the Parliamentary recess, the incident would be forgotten. And in fact after the House rose it was more or less buried for some time in an indecent silence. For this I fear we Zionists ought partly to blame ourselves.

I felt self-reproachful when I discovered during my recent holiday (passed far away from Zionist circles, but among people who take a lively interest in public affairs) how vague most of them were about the Barker letter. When I persuaded them that it actually contained certain phrases which I quoted, their reactions were strong and indignant. But, so far, the Government has not had to face any serious manifestation of public feeling on the score of Sir Evelyn Barker. Ministers may or may not have been informed how deeply his continuance in his present appointment is felt as an insult by the Yishuv, and symbolic of the Government's attitude towards them. Under the present military regime the Palestine Press is of course gagged, on that as on several other relevant subjects, for Palestine is now administered virtually as a police State—another fact which does not help to create a favourable atmosphere for the Conference.

* * *

Churchill on

"broken promises"

Addressing the Annual Conference of the Conservative Party at Blackpool on Saturday, Mr. Winston Churchill, leader of the Party, in the course of his speech, said:-

"What are we to say of the handling of the Palestine Problem by the Socialist Government? At the election they made lavish promises to the Zionists and their success at the polls excited passionate expectations throughout the Jewish world.

"These promises were no sooner made than they were discarded, and now all through this year the Government stand vacillating without any plan or policy, holding on to a mandate in which they have no vital interest, gaining the distrust and hostility both of Arab and Jew and exposing us to world-wide reprobation for their manifest incapacity."

THE question of the detention of the Jewish Agency members and other leaders, is far more than a matter of atmosphere, though its effect on that is very great. A moral principle is involved here, and one which should touch the British conscience as much as it outrages Jewish feelings. Of course, "Habeas Corpus" being unknown in Palestine under British Mandate, the Government could leave Mr. Shertok and his colleagues behind barbed wire without preferring a charge against them, for the rest of their lives instead of the mere three months they have been shut up already. But the practice of arresting people, without saying precisely why, has been very repugnant to the British people for a long time now, and as prejudices of that kind die hard in this country, I would not be surprised if a number of the Government's followers in the House of Commons, docile as they have proved themselves to be on the subject of Palestine policy, do not all the same feel a bit hot under the collar when they reflect on this particular feature of it. If any of them pass on some of

their discomfort to their Front Bench this week, let us hope it may be with more results than last July attended the two Tory Lords (Cranborne and Altrincham) who hold the honourable distinction of having uttered the only protests heard in Parliament, up to time of writing, against imprisoning the Jewish leaders without a charge.

NOT much imagination ought to be needed to understand the point of view from which the members of the Jewish Agency still at liberty, consider attending the Conference under these circumstances. Of what (they might well ask) are our colleagues supposed to be guilty, for which we are not also held responsible? Let the charges be made known (they might well say) before you ask us to acknowledge your right to pick and choose the individuals out of the body whom the Mandate binds you to consult, who shall be held worthy to explore with you the possibilities of a fresh start in Palestine. The position of the Jewish Agency (they might perhaps go on to say) is not so advantageous that H.M.G. is justified in denying to it absolute freedom of choice about its own delegation.

Whether these things, or anything like them, have been or will be said I have not, of course, the least idea. The whole point of private talks is that they should be private, and it is to be hoped that this is realised as fully in Whitehall as in Great Russell Street. One of the penalties of responsibility is not to be free to say everything that comes into one's head, but being immune from that restriction I have set down here just one or two of the points which it would seem necessary to discuss before British and Jews can exchange views on major policy with any hope of success. To have skipped over this stage in negotiations would merely have illustrated the truth of "more haste less speed" and in any case, the attempt, quoted above, to shift on to the Jews the responsibility for the failure to come to "a quick solution" of this problem, falls unbecomingly from the mouthpiece of a Government whose activities in Palestine during the last fifteen months have produced a situation from which it is now exceedingly difficult to find any exit at all.

C.B.F. means Rehabilitation

for the Jews still on the Continent to whom a New Year has come without joy. They look forward to a bitter winter unless supplies can be sent to alleviate their suffering.

YOU can ensure this by sending a generous contribution now to:

Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons,
NEW COURT,
ST. SWITHIN'S LANE, E.C.4.

— or —

The Central British Fund,
WOBBURN HOUSE,
UPPER WOBBURN PLACE, W.C.1.

The Next Move is Yours

I HAVE become accustomed to hearing at public meetings and in private that plaintive cry which Zionists are wont to utter after one has discussed with them the problems of Palestine and our people. They ask: "What can we do?" and there is usually nothing I can answer except to tell them to go on and to increase their support for our national funds and to redouble their efforts to get our point of view explained to Jew and Gentile. Today there is something else which every Zionist can do and which will help tremendously our political fight of today on which so much depends. Every Zionist can on Sunday exercise his or her right to express an opinion on the policy which the Jewish Agency is pursuing during these critical days. And it is of the first importance that that opinion should be expressed.

There is a danger that the impact of Zionism on the lives of the Jews living in this country will be less real than it is on the lives of those in Europe for whom the realisation of our aims is their only hope of freedom and a new life. Just because we know that we live in a free and democratic country and are welcome to continue to live here in freedom, so many of us are satisfied to give for Zionism and to think that our duty is then done. We forget that our community occupies a special and onerous position just because we are the Jews who live in the land whose Government is the Mandatory Power in Palestine. Our responsibility is by this fact made all the greater and we must not forget it. Our Congress Elections next Sunday will be watched with anxiety by our friends and with anticipatory glee by our enemies. Our friends will be hoping that British Jewry will realise its responsibilities and will record such a poll as will convince the most sceptical that we are deeply concerned about the future of our people. Our enemies, knowing how few people are usually concerned to exercise their right of franchise, will wait and watch eagerly in order to be able to announce how few Jews were concerned enough to take the trouble to record a vote for or against the policies of their leaders.

So my first word to you is: Vote! By voting, you not only take advantage of your democratic right to influence future policy—you also establish that you are one of those who believe in Zionism and who wish to record their solidarity with suffering Jewry in Europe and creative Jewry in Palestine.

Constructive co-operation

WHEN you do vote, I hope you will vote for the General Zionist list. I say this, not because I am against the programme of any of the Zionist parties, but because I think that the overwhelming majority of the Jews in this country agree with me in supporting what I might call the "greater" Zionism as against the circumscribed tenets of party ideology. I am in favour of a great deal advocated by each of the parties which make up the Jewish Agency Executive. I am against their political exclusiveness, their insistence on parts rather than on the whole, and their reduction of the Zionism of Herzl to a group creed rather than an all-embracing movement. The purpose of Palestine for us is that it may take all the Jews who want to live there, of whatever opinion or type or education they may be. We believe that the country will be for us a great melting-pot, into which will go all sorts of Jewish types and out of which will ultimately be distilled a new and revived Jewish people. Our aim ought to be auto-emancipation and auto-development for the renewal of the vigour and the spirit of our stricken people in their own land.

For these and similar reasons, we General Zionists, standing above party, believe in the constructive co-operation of all Jews for the upbuilding of our land. We can justly claim that we are the main supporters of the Palestine Funds throughout the Diaspora, and we give our support to every aspect of Palestine's work. We support

wholeheartedly the labour colonisation of the country and its great collectivist enterprises. We believe in the enlistment of private capital as well as of public funds for Palestine and in the co-operation of public initiative and private enterprise for the building of the country.

We General Zionists are against the infiltration



PROF. S. BRODETSKY addressing an election meeting at Hampstead Garden Suburb.

(Photo by Krongold)

of party strife into the school system of the Yishuv. No system of education can create for us our new and united generation if that system introduces into children's minds differentiations of party belief and distinctions of party affiliation. We stand for a unified educational system which will be progressive, traditional, completely divorced from party

ideology, and which will provide every Jewish child with a sound Jewish education.

Internal differences

BUT I do not believe that in the main, this election is being fought on internal differences. The Zionist groups which are represented on the Executive of the Jewish Agency—the General Zionists, the Poale Zion and the Mizrachi—are agreed on an external policy—and it is this which is the gravamen of the election argument. We are fighting for Jewish Statehood—what we have called a "viable" Jewish State—in as great an area of Palestine as we can obtain. We are struggling in order to achieve what we hope may be attainable in the near future because the independence and international implications of statehood are today essential for our continued existence as a people. The European Diaspora has become a trap out of which we must release our scattered remnants. No shouting of slogans or posturings in threatening attitudes will help in an international atmosphere such as that of the Middle Eastern world today. I know that the Zionist electorate is realistic and appreciates the inescapable realities of the world situation. Therefore I ask you to record your vote and strengthen the hands of those of us who are seeking a constructive solution to our problem.

I ask you then to vote on Sunday for the General Zionist List, Number One on your Ballot Paper. We stand above party for the real Herzlian Zionism—the achievement of the Jewish State and the co-operation of all Jews in the rebuilding of our shattered people and land.

USE YOUR VOTE!

AN ALL-PARTY APPEAL

Brethren of the House of Israel

OVER a year has passed since the war in Europe ended. The whole world knows what terrible sacrifices the Jewish people had to make during the war. Over six million Jews were tortured to death by the Germans and their accomplices. Cruelties unparalleled were perpetrated on our brethren. Without Jewish burial, with their tombs unknown to us, thus have perished the martyrs of Israel. European Jewry, constituting the main reservoir of Jewish life and thought, has lost four-fifths of its members.

The sufferings and sacrifices of all nations are constantly remembered; only the incredible sacrifices, sufferings and losses of Jewry, as well as the services rendered by over one million Jewish soldiers who fought heroically in the Armies of the United Nations, are apparently forgotten. Already the world shows signs of compassion for the Nazis, while yet Jews are being murdered in Poland and Africa, and even in Palestine our brethren are being subjected to attacks and insults. The remnant of Jewry who miraculously escaped Hitler's extermination plan, are still languishing in camps on the Continent. The Land of Israel, the only place where they could heal their wounds and restore the peace of their souls, is closed to them; sick women and orphans are being fished out of the sea and deported to Cyprus on stretchers.

On the 13th October, 1946 the elections to the 22nd Zionist Congress take place. British Jewry has demonstrated its will for Palestine by acquiring over 66,000 shekalim. But to acquire the shekel is not enough. Every shekel holder must participate in the elections to the Congress. Polling stations will be open throughout the country and you can vote at any one of them. Nor need those who have mislaid their shekalim be deterred as arrangements

have been made for them to vote at any polling station. Every shekel holder who abstains from voting on the 13th October is causing the greatest harm to the interests of the Jewish people and of Eretz Israel, the House of our Life. We therefore call upon all Jews and Jewesses who have acquired a shekel to cast their vote on the 13th October, to urge upon every shekel holder whom they know to vote and thus to demonstrate their solidarity with the heroic Yishuv, with our suffering brethren on the Continent, with our Holy Torah and our Holy Land.

Fulfil your duty—vote!

Dayan H. M. Lazarus, Acting Chief Rabbi.
Rabbi K. Rosen, Principal Rav Federation of Synagogues.
Rabbi I. J. Unterman, Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv.
Professor S. Brodetsky.
A. Bornstein.
J. K. Goldbloom.
Paul Goodman.
Ivan Greenberg.
B. Homa.
Barnett Janner.
S. Levenberg.
B. Locker.
Mrs. R. Sieff.
R. N. Wallis.

Congress to be held at Basle

The Zionist Executive has announced officially that the Twenty-Second Zionist Congress will open in Basle on 3rd December, 1946. The latest date for elections is 14th October. Election results should be communicated to Basle not later than 28th October.

A Congress office, charged with all the technical preparations has been opened.

MANIFESTO

ב"ה תשרי תש"ז.

היום הרת עולם

Brethren of the House of Israel!

We are now at the end of a Jewish age. After unparalleled vicissitudes and immeasurable contributions to the spiritual and economic developments of Western civilisation, Israel in Europe has practically ceased to exist. The seven million Jewry of the Russian Empire of half-a-century ago counts no longer in the life of the Jewish people; the thousand-year-old landmarks of culture and traditions of the Jews of Poland have been wiped out. The struggle for civil and political Emancipation has now been succeeded by a wave of anti-Semitism that has engulfed even the erstwhile free lands of Western Europe.

The light that shone upon Israel amidst the darkness of the First World War by the Balfour declaration of the British Government in favour of a Jewish National Home in Palestine has been eclipsed by the recent events, and the once inconceivable attitude of the Mandatory Power of Palestine towards the Yishuv and the millennial Jewish aspirations in the Holy Land needs no comment here.

In these infinitely tragic circumstances the eyes of the Jewish people are once again centred on the Land of Israel, and the experience of nearly three decades has proved abundantly that even with such safeguards of Jewish rights as have been explicitly laid down in the internationally recognised Palestine Mandate of the League of Nations the only effective protection left to the Jews lies in the establishment of a self-governing Jewish polity. And, with God's help, we may in our own days be in sight of Theodor Herzl's vision realised.

As before in the days of national disaster, the Jewish people is moved by those spiritual forces for our national regeneration that find their lofty expression in our sacred literature and in our houses of worship. Zionism has brought about a synthesis of study and prayer combined with collective action for the achievement of the hallowed, age-old ideals of Israel in the Golah as well as in Zion. It is with the object of promoting these ideals through the Synagogues of this country that, with the active co-operation of our religious and lay leaders, we appeal in this time of tribulation and destiny to every worshipper in our synagogues to support, morally and materially, our spokesmen on behalf of Jewish Palestine.

We now, therefore, appeal to you on the eve of the Twenty-Second Zionist Congress to join, individually and collectively, the organised Zionist Movement, which represents the united Jewish effort to re-establish our people in a self-governing Eretz Israel.

לשנה הבאה בירושלם!
בברכת שנת נאולה וישועה!

The Central Zionist Synagogue Council, Zionist Federation of Gt. Britain & Ireland.

75, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

ברוז

ב"ה תשרי תש"ו.

היום הרת עולם

אחינו בני ישראל.

אשרעקלעכע צייט לעבן מיר איבער. מיר שטייען ביים סוף פון א וויכטיקער תקופה אין דער יידישער געשיכטע. הרוב געווארן איז דאס אייראפעאישע יידנטום וואס האט אין משך פון הונדערטער יארן געשפילט אזא וויכטיקע ראל אינעם עבר פון אונזער פאלק.

מיליאנען יידן זיינען אויסגעשאכטן געווארן. מיליאנען קהילות זיינען צערשטערט געווארן. יידישע הייזער, ישיבות און בתי־מדרשים זיינען רואינירט געווארן. די פאליאקן און די דייטשן ימח שמם האבן אויסגעלאזט דעם פוילישן יידנטום וואס איז געווען דער מקור פון יידישקייט איז דער וועלט אין משך פון א סך דורות. און דער ביטערער גורל פון די פוילישע יידן איז באפאלן אויך די יידן פון ליטע, די באלקאנישע לענדער, אונגארן, און פון אלע אנדערע אייראפעאישע מדינות. און איצטער, נאכן סוף פון דער מלחמה, מאטערן זיך די רעשטלעך פון אייראפעאישן יידנטום אין די לאגערן אין דייטשלאנד, עסטרייך און איטאליען, אדער זיי ווערן אויסגעקוילעט פון די פוילישע און אנדערע רוצחים.

אפגעשניטן פון אינז איז דאס רוסישע יידנטום—אין דער גאנצער פארגאנגענהייט דער מעכטיקסטער און איינפלוסרייכסטער צווייג פון יידישן פאלק—מיר הערן נישט זיין שטימע, וועלכע פלעגט אונז אמאל אזוי דערווארעמען. און אויך אין ארץ־ישראל קומט פאר אן ארגאניזירטער מיליטערישער אנגריף אויפן ישוב.

ברידער יידן! אין דעם איצטיקן טראגישן מאמענט מוזן מיר שעפן קראפט און האפענונג פון אונזער אלטער הייליקער ירושה: פון אונזער הייליקער תורה און הייליקע תפלות, פון אונזערע בתי־מדרשים אין שולען, זיי זיינען אונזערע פעסטונגען און אינזערע לעבנסקוואלן.

אונזערע ליידענדע ברידער איין אייראפע האבן נאר איין האפרנונג, איין וואונטש און איין ציל—ארץ־ישראל. נאר א יידישע מלוכה אין ארץ־ישראל קען היילן זייערע וואונדן, נאר א יידישע מלוכה אין ארץ־ישראל קען זיכערן אונזער צוקונפט און די ווייטערע עקזיסטענץ פון אונזער פאלק. לאמיר שטיצן אונזערע פירער וועלכע קעמפן פאר איידישער מלוכה, לאמיר—ערב דעם 22טן ציוניסטישן קאנגרעס—זיך אלע איינשליסן אין דער ציוניסטישער באוועגונג, לאמיר זיך אלע פארייניקן אין דער הייליקער ארבעט פון בויען א יידישן אונאפהענגיקן ארץ־ישראל במהרה בימינו אמן.

לשנה הבאה בירושלם!

בברכת שנת גאולה וישועה!

דער צענטראל ציוניסטישער שול ראט.

די ציוניסטישע פערעראציע פון גרויס בריטאניע אוי אירלאנד.