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United Palestine Appeal, 1941.

Western Reserve Historical Society 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106 (216) 721-5722 wrhs.org

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (KEREN HAYESOD) JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (KEREN KAYEMETH) For the Defense and Upbuilding of the Jewish National Home in Palestine

June 18, 1941

41 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK CITY

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Honorary Chairmen Albert Einstein Herbert H. Lehman Julian W. Mack Henry Monsky Nathan Straus Henrietta Szold

National Chairman Abba Hillel Silver

National Co-Chairmen Stephen S. Wise Chairman, Administrative Committee

Louis Lipsky Chairman, Executive Committee

Solomon Goldman Israel Goldstein Edmund I. Kaufmann Morris Rothenberg

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Executive Director Henry Montor Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

This will acknowledge receipt of the telegram addressed to you by Mr. Willard G. Stanton, Chairman of the American Friends of a Jewish Palestine.

(1) When Colonel Wedgwood came to the United States Dr. Wise told me that the United Palestine Appeal would have exclusive control over his engagements. It has had nothing of the kind, for Colonel Wedgwood has accepted engagements wherever he found them and from whomever asked him. We have had to exercise the most careful control so that there would be as little as possible of overlapping and friction.

(2) When several Revisionists called him to accept a certain date, he did, since it had not been made clear to him that they were Revisionists but "friends of Palestine." He thought that must be the United Palestine Appeal - at least according to his explanation. Subsequently, Colonel Wedgwood very clearly stated to the American Friends that he could not and would not participate in their function.

(3) The American Friends of a Jewish Palestine in typical style sent out notices to the newspapers that Colonel Wedgwood would definitely appear on June 25th. He cannot possibly be there because arrangements have been made for him to address the United Jewish Fund of Pittsburgh the same evening. I think all will agree that his appearance in Pittsburgh is much more important.

(4) The Emergency Committee has begged of Colonel Wedgwood that he should not address the June 25th demonstration of the American Friends even by telephone from Pittsburgh.

I am sorry that we started with Colonel Wedgwood so that we were put in the position of refusing the American Friends his participation in their function.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Henry Montor Executive Director

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LOUIS LIPSKY 386 Fourth Avenue New York, N.Y.

August Kth. 1941

My dear Silver:

I have suggested on various occasions that some of us get together in advance of the Z.O.A. Convention to discuss what should be done; but nobody seems to be interested.

I think it my duty to give you -- for what it is worth -- my impression of what would happen if nothing is done to interfere with the tactics of control of the group in the Z.O.A. administration. From Szold's article in "The New Palestine" of July 18th, it is clear that attempts are to be made by force of numbers to get control in Keren Havesod and the Emergency Committee. They are already in a position to block action in the Jewish National Fund. This will make it possible for them, first, to secure a larger subvension from the U.P.A., and second, to name the U.P.A. leadership. The spirit they are introducing in all phases of the lionist movement is a spirit of lawlessness and partisanship. It will be extremely difficult to establish a united Zionist front with the Z.O.A. leadership resentful and vindictive. I am convinced that if it is allowed to go without challenge, it will organize a nasty form of opposition to Dr. Weitzman.

I still think that about ten people whom I could name could prevent the reelection of this group. I think these men should be called together not by me but if you are not interested, I shall go no further in this matter. Personally, I am bored stiff by the chicanery and mediocrity of those who hold the Z.O.A. reins in their hands. I am longing for a chance to get into the open road of the Zionist movement. I think you owe it to what you have done in the U.P.A. in the last years not to allow the Z.O.A. situation to get worse. I am willing to help.

Very cordially yours,

P.S. I am sorry you gave a negative reply to the question of the presidency. I am convinced that you could be elected without difficulty. In advance, however, without any further commitment, this discussion I suggest should be held.



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August 11, 1941

Mr. Louis Lipsky 386 Fourth Avenue New York, N.Y.

My dear Lipsky:

Thank you for your kind letter of August 7. I fully understand the situation of the 2.0.A. as you describe it in your letter, but I am afraid that there is nothing that I can do about it. I can not project myself into a political controversy at this time. It would hurt the U.P.A., and frankly, I am not particularly interested to lead in such a move. From what you say nobody else seems to be interested. I shall probably be in New York before long and we may have an opportunity to discuss this matter more fully.

With best wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS: BK

LOUIS LIPSKY 386 Fourth Avenue New York, N. Y.

Report Augus

August 27, 1941.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

In view of the fact that it is quite apparent that the same group will name either Kaufmann or, at the last moment, Solomon Goldman, it becomes important to have a candidate in readiness.

I have spoken to any number of people who are agreed that your acceptance would first make impossible the alternative proposal of Solomon Goldman, and, secondly, deter them from offering Kaufmann.

In the event you are still obdurate about the matter, there are many here who think that at the last moment we should be prepared to name Dr. Wise. Dr. Wise could be named in such a way as to provide for the same cabinet effect that we were speaking of in Pittsburgh. I think he would not accept unless some such cabinet form of government were agreed to, in which the ZOA membership in the Emergency Committee would appear.

I would appreciate very much if you would let me know what you would suggest at this time.

With Zion's greetings, I am

Very cordially yours,

LL/RW

August 28, 1941.

Mr. Louis Lipsky, 386 Fourth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Lipsky:

In reply to your letter of August 27, I would suggest that before you proceed any further you have a talk with Dr. Wise about his position in the entire matter. I think that you should not plan for him, but with him. His unfortunate tactics of not declaring himself until the last moment on candidates and on vital organizational matters was responsible, you will recall, for much of the scandalous chaos at Detroit three years ago and at Pittsburgh a year ago.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Very cordially yours,

AHS:me

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (KEREN HAYESOD) JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (KEREN KAYEMETH) For the Defense and Upbuilding of the Jewish National Home in Palestine

September 2, 1941

41 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK CITY

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Honorary Chairmen Albert Einstein Herbert H. Lehman Julian W. Mack Henry Monsky Nathan Straus Henrietta Szold

National Chairman Abba Hillel Silver

National Co-Chairmen Stephen S. Wise Chairman, Administrative Committee

Louis Lipsky Chairman, Executive Committee

Solomon Goldman Israel Goldstein Edmund I. Kaufmann Morris Rothenberg

Treasurer Charles J. Rosenbloom

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Executive Director Henry Montor

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am wondering whether you are planning to be at the Zionist Convention in Cincinnati.

From the rumors which reach me vaguely, I understand that the fund-raising agencies may be among the principal topics of discussion at the Zionist Convention. It is usually considered good strategy to divert attention from ones own deficiencies by concentrating attention upon some other organization. Possibly some of the people in the Z.O.A. may decide that it is much more convenient to discuss the U.P.A.

It seems to me that much more is at stake than defending the U.P.A., which needs none. Rather, it is important that the prestige of this primary fund-raising arm for Palestine should not in any way be diminished by the thoughtless or malicious public speaking of people occupying the platform of the Z.O.A. Convention. There is no one, of course, who is so closely identified with the U.P.A. as yourself. Your very presence at the Convention will undoubtedly act as a deterrent against superficial and harmful remarks that can only hurt the U.P.A. in its relationship to the United Jewish Appeal and to the Jewish community of America as a whole.

I trust you will forgive my intrusion upon what is your personal preferences as to whether you wish to attend or not to attend a Zionist convention, but from the point of view of the U.P.A. you know that your presence would have extraordinarily great value.

I do hope that I shall have the great pleasure of seeing you in Cincinnati. With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Henry Montor Executive Director

September 2, 1941

Mr. Henry Montor United Palestine Appeal 41 East 42nd St. New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Montor:

In reporting on the UPA at the ZOA convention, I believe a few facts should be stressed in view of the fictitious issue which is being raised and agitated concerning the so-called coordination of Zionist activities. Part of the conspiracy is to make the UPA an instrumentality not of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, but an adjunct of the notoriously efficient ZOA of Washington. The object is to seize control both of the Keren Hayesod and of the UPA so that the ZOA will be able to dip into the till more often to cover its mounting deficits.

While not going into any controversial matters, your report ought to call attention

(1) to the success which the UPA has achieved in the last four or five years in raising much larger sums for Palestine than in previous years;

(2) the composition of the UPA is predominantly made up of ZOA members: all the six national chairmen of the UPA are former presidents of the ZOA, and one is president now, that of the nine vice-presidents, seven are members of the executive board of the ZOA, that all the key positions of the UPA are manned by leaders of the ZOA. The UPA, as the instrumentality for the Jewish Agency must, of course, make provision within its governing body for representation of other Zionistbbodies besides the ZOA such as the Mizrachi, Poale Zion and Hadassah as well as for non-Zionist elements, for the Jewish Agency, nominally, at least, is composed both of Zionists and of non-Zionists. Bringing the UPA under the direct control of the ZOA will destroy this necessary arrangement Henry Montor

called for by the very nature of a United Palestine Ap eal;

(3) The UPA, because it is the money-raising agency for the JNF and the KH, is, in the last analysis, responsible to the Jewish Agency for Palestine with which the UPA is in constant touch and in continuous consultation;

(4) The Executive and Administrative officers of the UPA as well as its Honorary Vice-Chairmen are chosen by joint agreement between the JNF and the KH, subject to the approval and ratification of the annual Washington Conference of the UPA. A perusal of the membership of these bodies will indicate that its large representation reaches into every important community of the United States, and that meetings both of the Administrative and Executive committees are held frequently, where every subject affecting the interests of the UPA are thoroughly discussed and acted upon. Thus every step in UPA negotiations with the JDC was not only reported on at these meetings, but these meetings gave instructions to the megotiators. Similarly with the opposition which the UPA led in this country in the Referendum fight against National Budgeting;

(5) Much has been made of "over-lapping" activities of the UFA and ZOA. There is nothing to that. The combined propaganda activities of the UPA and the ZOA are still inadequate. When one sees the amount of publicity and the number of regional conferences which are held by a non-political organization like the JDC which has no ideology to defend, but merely raises funds for a cause to which nobody objects, and when one studies the flood of publications, circulars, etc. which the MRS has let loose, and comp res all that with the meager publicity of the UPA as well as of the ZOA, one realizes that rather than complain of over-lapping, there should be emphasis on intensification. The JDC has organized nine regions in the United States, each one having a complete set of officers, and at least that many regional conferences are held each year exclusive of the large annual conference. The number of regional conferences held by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds is also larger than that held by the UPA, which has to fight for its position among the many moneyraising agencies nowclamoring for attention on the American scene andwhich must build up prestige for itself in order to impress an Allotment Committee where large sums of money are distributed. You might call attention to the group meetings which the NRS is holding in many communities throughout the United States and also the projected visit of the chairman of the Board of the JDC to many of the communities to meet with their leaders in order to create good will for the JDC.

(6) The UPA has indicated to the ZOA more than once during the past that it is ready and willing to have the Director of the UPA sit down with the Director of the ZOA and plan the programs of their respective regions so that they do not over-lap in time or place; also therouting of speakers, etc.;

(7) Stress should be laid on the major victory which was scored

Henry Montor

during the year by the UPA in two fields, (a) negotiations for the 1941 campaign resulting in the initial allotment of proportionately a much larger amount to the UPA than in previous years, and b) the defeat of National Budgeting.

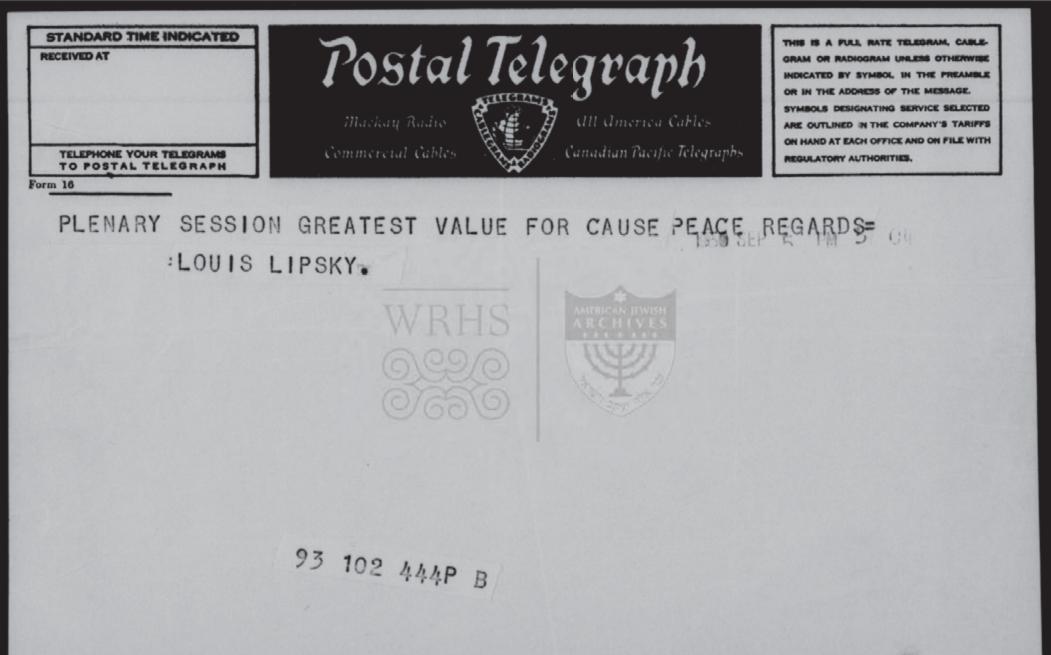
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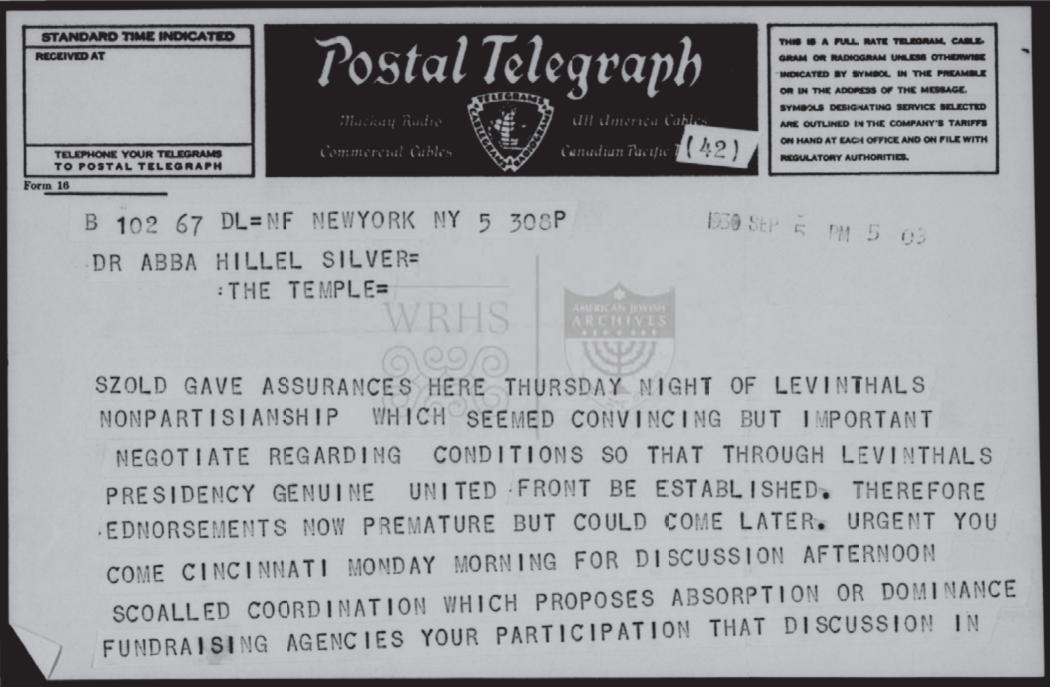
With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AnS: BK







October 20, 1941

Dr. Stephen S. Wise 40 West 68th St. New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Wise:

I did not have the opportunity to reach you late Friday after the conclusion of the meeting of the Allotment Committee. I left for home the same evening. By now you probably have received the report of the findings of the Committee. I was deeply pleased with the results. We received from this Allotment Committee a larger share of the money available for distribution than in any previous year. Of the \$2,800,000 distributed, the JDC receives \$1,275,000, the UPA \$800,000, and the NRS \$725,000 (\$50,000 of which is ear-marked for a special project of the NRS which if not carried out, reports to the UJA).

Inasmuch as we received on the original allocation \$2,525,000, the UPA will receive in 1941 \$3,325,000. This does not include an additional \$500,000 from traditional JNF collections. The total for the UPA therefore for the year will be \$3,825,000, only \$75,000 short of our banner year in 1939 when the UJA raised nearly \$16,000,000.

In relation to the JDC, the position of the UPA has been greatly improved this year. We receive nearly a half million dollars more than we did last year, and the JDC receives nearly a half million dollars less than it received last year. The NRS receives three quarters of a million dollars less than last year.

What pleased me most was the complete vindication of our position on the subject of the NRS. Ginzberg's report on the NRS was devastating. The country's responsibility should be no more than one million dollars, he indicates. You will recall that the NRS adopted, prior to the Atlantic convention, a budget for 1941 of four and a quarter million dollars. They actually received, in 1940, three and a half million dollars from the UJA. This year they received only two and three quarter million dollars.

October 20, 1941

Dr. Stephen S. Wise

The neutral members of the Allocation Committee -- Greenman, Deinard and Markell -- were excellent. I was greatly impressed with Mr. Greenman, although at first, as you know, I was considerably worried about his attitude towards land purchasing in Palestine. He came through in fine shape as did the others. They did not permit themselves to be hoodwinked by fictitious figures and manipulated budgets. The decision of the three neutral members to allocate \$800,000 to the UPA was unanimous. The JDC representatives of course voted against it as they voted against the decision of the neutral members last year.

The results of the Allocation Committee put us in a far better bargaining position at the forthcoming negotiations with the JDC for the 1942 campaign.

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With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS: BK

P.S. I read the ZOA release on Brandeis which you sent me. I fully understand your sense of outrage and indignation. The action of Goldman is to me to surprise whatsoever.

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Lee ZOR file 1941

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (KEREN HAYESOD) JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (KEREN KAYEMETH) For the Defense and Upbuilding of the Jewish National Home in Palestine

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Barnett R. Brickner Leon Gellman James G. Heller Edward L. Israel Louis E. Levinthal Charles Ress Elihu D. Stone Joe Weingarten David Wertheim

Executive Director Henry Montor November 5, 1941

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Tenth and Ansel Roads Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

At the meeting of the Administrative Committee of the U.P.A. on October 28, 1941, the following resolution was moved, seconded and carried:

That the application of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs for a loan of \$25,000 on account of the 1942 campaign should be referred with approval to the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth.

Sincerely yours,

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HM:JB

Henry Montor Executive Director

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA 1720—16th Street, N. W. washington, d. c.

November 18, 1941.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Mr. Edward A. Norman, the President of the American Palestine Fund, Inc., spent some time with me on Armistice Day. He said that he and his associates are sincerely anxious to have a large number of good and true Zionists serve as part of the official family of the American Palestine Fund. He claims that he does not have the slightest desire to oppose the UPA or the ZOA, but, on the contrary, is anxious to enlist the aid of so-called non-Zionists who are willing to help the agencies included in the American Palestine Fund, but who are unwilling to help the UPA.

He went so far as to say that he would be willing to give the majority of the places on the Board of Trustees and on the Board of Directors to reliable and representative Zionists. He also said that there would be no serious objection to changing the name of the American Palestine Fund if the Zionists insisted on a change.

Under these circumstances, what do you think of the advisability of our participating in the work and management of the American Palestine Fund, Inc.?

With kind personal regards, I am

Cordially youns,

November 24, 1941

Judge Louis E. Levinthal, President Zionist Organization of America 1720 -- 16th St., N.W. Washington, D.C.

My dear Judge Levinthal:

Answering your letter of November 18 with reference to Mr. Norman's approach on behalf of the American Palestine Fund:

I suggest that we move very slowly in this matter. This Fund has a long history and not a very savory one. It is still uncertain what the motives were behind the formation of this Fund. Some of the agencies which are said to be members of this Fund, like the Haifa Technicum and the Hebrew University, have organizations of their own in this country and are raising funds on their own. It is questionable whether they have any intention of giving up their own independent sources of income. I am afraid that they are thinking of this Falestine Fund as a supplementary source of income.

Many communities have contingent funds for yeshivath, orphanages, homes for the aged, etc. for Europe and Palestine, and are already contributing to them. Some of these welfare funds are in direct contact with the Vaad Leumi in Palestine which is distributing these funds for them and supplying them with information about the institutions. The Vaad Leumi, you will recall, did not approve of the formation of this American Palestine Fund.

My own guess is that this was an effort on the part of the so-called non-Zionists to get for themselves a financial position in Palestine by getting control of the funds of the agencies outside of the United Palestine Appeal which are now collecting funds in America. This would put them in a powerful position vis-a-vis the Jewish Agency. The real intent is not to raise more money for these agencies, but to control the fund-raising and the funddistribution. This is, you know, a well known Wall Street device -the holding company.

Mr. Norman's eagerness to get the cooperation of the Zionists at this time is, I am afraid, motivated not by his sense

Judge Levinthal

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November 24, 1941

of fairness or his love of the Zionists. He never consulted the Zionists when he first set out, at the behest of his friends, to organize the American Palestine Fund. The Fund has not been a success and he now wishes the Zionists to help him. He is of course offering all sorts of inducements now. But I fear these gift-bearing Greeks... The question as to whether such a Fund is at all necessary or desirable should be re-opened and thoroughly canvassed.

With all good wishes, I remain

WRHS:

69690

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL 41 East 42nd Street New York City

MEMORANDUM

December 8, 1941

From: Henry Montor

Subject: MINUTE OF A MEETING WITH W. G. HAYTER, OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D.C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1941, PM

In pursuance of an invitation previously addressed to Lord Halifax by Dr. Silver to speak at the National U.P.A. Conference in Cleveland, I met with Mr. W. G. Hayter at the British Embassy. In an acknowledgment of Dr. Silver's invitation, Lord Halifax had been non-committal rather than negative. Before going to Washington, I was informed that there was little likelihood that Lord Halifax would speak but that it might be helpful to convey our point of view to Mr. Hayter, who is in charge of Palestine affairs at the Embassy.

Mr. Hayter said neither the Ambassador nor anyone at the Embassy could be expected to attend the U.P.A. Conference. In the first place, the message addressed to the 1941 U.P.A. Conference by Mr. Neville Butler, although it had been considered innocuous, was exploited by the Axis powers among the Arabs. There was no wish to make the job of the Axis any easier in anti-British propaganda. In the second place, a number of resolutions had been adopted at the 1941 U.P.A. Conference critical of Britain. There was no objection to the adoption of such resolutions but the Ambassador could hardly be associated with a meeting at which such action was taken.

I presented our point of view at length. There was a rising feeling among a large body of Jews in America against Britain. The destruction of millions X of Jews in Europe had created a hopeless feeling. The Jews placed reliance in England. But if Britain ignored the Jews and made them feel that they were outside the considerations for which the war was being fought, there was little to choose from as between Germany and England. The Jews wanted to know that when the war had been won, Britain stood for full equality for them wherever they lived. It was recognized that millions of Jews were uprooted from European life and they would have to be resettled and rehabilitated. True, no specific blueprints could be drawn for the future but how could Jews be other than embittered if Britain so religiously avoided any reference to the Jewish position. The Jews had no more rights than the rest of mankind, but obviously they carried special burdens as Jews far beyond any other of Hitler's victims. Was it not in place, and desirable from England's point of view to say now and publicly that the Jews were one of the forces for whose liberation and restitution the struggle against Hitler was being conducted.

Mr. Hayter said, "yes, we have done badly in recent months. It is quite true we have overlooked the Jews. It has been called to our attention that the Prime Minister never has mentioned the Jews when he speaks of the yoke on Hitler's victims. But that is probably accidental. He looked over the map and could think only of specific countries seized by Hitler. The Jews, of course, were not on that map, and they were overlooked." Mr. Hayter referred to the message which Mr. Churchill had sent to a Jewish paper (London Jewish Chronicle). The Embassy had no copy and was sending for one.

During our conversation, I pointed to the Jewish Army situation which was creating a storm in American Jewry. All that the Jews had left was honor and that was being impugned. Didn't the British feel that they had to take some step to meet this problem?

Nr. Hayter said that thought had been given as to how the Ambassador might assure American Jews that the interests and plight of Jews were recognized. There had been many written and telegraphic exchanges with London on the subject. It was not felt, however, that the U.P.A. Conference was the place at which such a declaration could be made. All the Ambassador could say at the Conference would be certain platitudes on Palestine which would not meet the situation I had described.

The British, he said, were appreciative of American Jewry's interest in Palestine. They were also appreciative of the fine cooperation they had received from the Jews of Palestine. They had to think of the whole problem.

I reminded Mr. Hayter that in the Middle East, Britain had had to buy, bribe or capture support, except for the Jews in Palestine who were unreservedly loyal despite anything the British might do.

Even if we have had to "buy, bribe or capture" the support of the Middle East, we certainly could not do without it, Mr. Hayter observed.

As regards the Jewish Army, he said, there was not enough material to go around. The British were routing a large part of their supplies from America to Russia.

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I remarked that that did not account for the fact that there were Jews in the British forces in Palestine. They were equipped. They were fighting. All that was involved was calling them a Jewish Army and treating them accordingly. As it was, they were being treated differently than any other segment of the whole British Army. They were sequestered into "companies" of 250, with no battalions or brigades or a division, even though there were enough men for the latter. And as for supplies, if the British would only assent to a Jewish Army, representations might be made whereby that army could be equipped with American lease-lend aid. The reasons given by Britain didr't appear cogent.

Again Mr. Hayter reiterated that they had not properly understood the need of emphasizing the British recognition of the Jewish plight and an effort would be made to deal with that. It had been assumed that it would be understood but perhaps too much had been taken for granted.

It was very remote that anyone would participate in the U.P.A. Conference from the Embassy, Mr. Hayter here said.

I asked whether he might consider it possible for the Prime Minister to address to the Conference the same kind of message as he had sent to the London Jewish Chronicle. At least it had spoken of recognition of Jewish suffering on the day of victory, although it had been couched in general language and said nothing about Palestine.

Mr. Hayter did not believe that possible. They had to remember what had happened to the Butler message and they would take no risks.

But surely the Axis powers didn't have to be supplied with pretexts for anti-British propaganda. They were capable of forging documents if necessary, I said.

But why should we facilitate their task, Mr. Hayter asked.

Since they have all the material they want, the British silence will not halt them. On the other hand, it can only be interpreted as a rejection of the help being given by the Jews most generously. Surely they are entitled to a word of hope, especially when they don't ask that anything be said against anybody else. The British were masters at reconciliation. They could at least express their sympathy with the Jews without in any way alienating the Arabs.

The conversation was along the above lines, with reiterations and repetitions. It was clear that Mr. Hayter had instructions to smile, to listen and to be adamant.

HM: JB

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THIS IS A FULL RATE TELEGRAM, CABLE-

STANDARD TIME INDICATED

REGRET ONLY GOTSHAL MYSELF APPEARED AT JONAH WISE MEETING SUNDAY EVENING STOP OTHER UPA MEMBERS HAD PROMISED TO ATTEND BUT FAILED STOP AGREEMENT REACHED TO INCLUDE IN BYLAWS SPECIFIC= PROVISION LIMITING PURPOSES NEW AGENCY COLLECTION FOR UPA JDC AND MRS ADDITIONAL BENEFICIARIES ONLY WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT STOP IN EVENAT DISAGREEMENT NATIONALLY BYLAWS WILL PROCIDE RIGHT OF NATIONAL AGENCIES TO COME TO SPECIAL AGREEMENT FOR GREATER

CARE DR LOUIS L MANN CHICAGO ILL=

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CHICAGO SINAI CONGREGATION=

G52 162=KZ NEWYORK NY DECEMBER 7 1941 1237P



THIS IS A FUEL RATE TELEGRAM, CABLE-GRAM OR RADIOGRAM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED BY SYMBOL IN THE PREAMBLE OR IN THE ADDRESS OF THE MESSAGE. SYMBOLS DESIGNATING SERVICE SELECTED ARE OUTLINED IN THE COMPANY'S TARIFFS ON HAND AT EACH OFFICE AND ON FILE WITH REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.



December 12, 1941

Rabbi Jonah B. Wise 35 E. 62nd St. New York, N.Y.

My dear Rabbi Wise:

I was amazed to receive your telegram, this morning, stating that "you cannot call a meeting until the New York organization problem is settled."

As Co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, I suggested to you the urgency of calling a meeting of our Executive or our Administrative Committee in view of the radically new situation which developed by our country going into war against Japan, Germany and Italy. Jews everywhere are bewildered, and Jewish communities who are holding or planning drives for the United Jewish Appeal are seriously in need of guidance. The members of the Executive and Administrative Committees of the United Jewish Appeal themselves need to take stock of the new situation and seriously consider the next step. A meeting is clearly indicated.

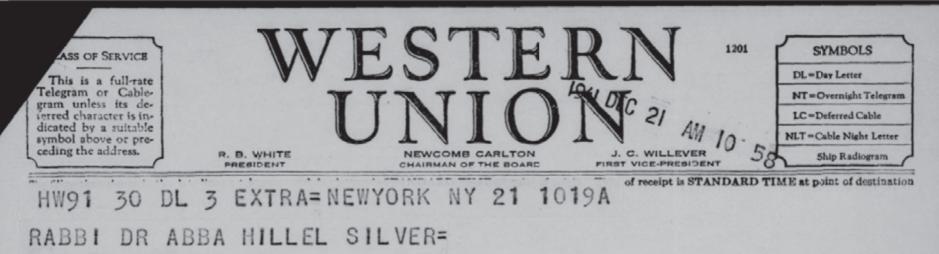
To this suggestion of mind, which any right-thinking man would endorse, you reply that you can not call a meeting until the local organization problem in New York City is settled. What in the world has that to do with the purpose of the meeting which I suggested? I am afraid that you have become somewhat hysterical about your local New York problem, and you have confused your position as Chairman of the New York Campaign with that of Co-chairman of the National United Jewish Appeal.

If the purpose of your refusal to call the meeting was to compel the United Palestine Appeal to agree to rush the charter application to Albany, you will not succeed. The New York United Palestine Appeal will not be stampeded into any permanent set-up until such time as it is completely convinced that its interests are amply protected.

Very elacerely yours,

arge to the account of CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED ESTERN CHECK DOMESTIC 1206-B CABLE TELEGRAM ORDINARY URGENT DAY LETTER ACCOUNTING INFORMATION DEFERRED SERIAL OVERNIGHT NIGHT LETTER SPECIAL RADIOGRAM TIME FILED Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will transmitted as a telegram or R. B. WHITE J. C. WILLEVER NEWCOMB CARLTON ordinary cablegram PRESIDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to 12-21-#1 en S. Wise h.

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:THE TEMPLE=

VIEWING NEW SITUATION WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CLOSED TO RELIEF FEEL WE MUST RECONSIDER UJA SITUATION STOP URGE YOU CALL MEETING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPA PRIOR TO SIGNING AGREEMENT=

WISE GOLDMANN LIPSKY GOLDSTEIN.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

[undoted]

RELEASE ON RECEIFT

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL 41 East 42nd Street New York City

> A SYMBOL FOR WORLD JUSTICE A Tribute to the Jewish Community Settlements in Palestine By General Sir Arthur Wauchope Former British High Commissioner for Palestine

For almost seven years Sir Arthur Wauchope, famous soldier and administrator, represented Great Britain in Palestine and Trans-Jordan. He had intimate contact with every aspect of the upbuilding program in Palestine. In a recent speech in London, now made available in the United States by the United Palestine Appeal, Sir Arthur paid high tribute to the communal settlements which are the chief contribution of the Jewish pioneers to the reconstitution of the Jewish Mational Home. The funds for these settlements are provided by the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth, the two agencies which constitute the United Palestine Appeal, American Jewry's central instrument for the upbuilding of Palestine.

The Editor

LONDON: -- After having lived for nearly seven years in Palestine, I believe I have a more intimate knowledge of these communal settlements than most people.

We are all interested not only in the war, but also in any social or economic changes that may take place after the war, especially those needed to bring about a more equal distribution of wealth.

Many economic changes have been proposed, but some of these suggestions seen to me rather theoretical than practical. I cannot myself believe that any form of Utopia will follow on immediately after the war.

But I thought it might be of some general interest were I to explain today how 30,000 Jewish settlers have, not only in theory but in actual practice, solved the problem of the equal distribution of wealth by the simple, if drastic, method of having none. Not that I suggest that this system, whereby no man or woman may own or acquire any personal possession, is in any way suited to the spirit of this country or to the traditions and ideals of ny countrymen; but I do suggest if changes in our social or economic structure are to be discussed, then it is worth while to consider, if only for a few minutes, the one example of such a system where people actually do live on an equal economic basis. And this example is of a people who can be judged by their deeds rather than by their theories, and who have made a success of their life for more than a generation.

As you know, similar experiments have been attempted mainly in America and Australia, but none has succeeded. I do not count any experiments that are being made in Russia, for little is known of them except that they are State-controlled; it is questionable if they are purely communal, and the one fact we can be sure of is that their future is very precarious.

The earliest experiment I know of was made nearly 2,000 years ago in the Early Christian Church: it is best known to us by the story of Ananias and Sapphira who, you remember, came to rather an abrupt and painful end. The members of this early Church held all things in common.

I will read how that society is described in the Acts of the Apostles:

"They held all things in common. Neither was there any among them that lacked for anything. For as many of them as were possessors of lands or houses, sold them, and brought the prices of what they sold to the Apostles; And distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."

Though we hear no more of this communal life in the Early Christian Church after the death of Ananias and Sapphira, I have recalled its existence because the principles of their method of living seem to have been very similar to those of the communal settlements in Palestine which I speak of today.

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It is generally said that without the incentive of personal gain little work would be done, many would idle, others remain incompetent to carry out their duties, and the people of such a community would soon starve.

But the very reverse of this has happened and is happening today in Palestine, as even a most cursory study of the condition of Jewish agricultural settlements shows.

During the last 20 or 30 years the Jewish immigrants have proved nost successful farmers. The villagers generally prefer mixed farming. They own many herds of dairy cattle, the number of their sheep and poultry increases every year. They produce over half the oranges grown in Palestine.

At this season of the year the valleys and foothills are covered with green fields of young wheat and barley and lucerne - with many vineyards and orchards, so that the country now occupied by Jewish settlers more than justifies the words of those spies who long ago reported to Joshua that Canaan was a land flowing with milk and honey.

Over 80 Communal Settlements

Some 200 of their farm settlements are run on ordinary lines of individual ownership, the land usually being divided into small holdings, and the produce sold for the profit of the individual cultivator.

But in over 80 well-established settlements the land is held in common; and not only the land, but also the produce, the means of production and transport, are all owned by the community as a whole.

For no individual owns a field, a cow, or a hen; no worker receives any wages, no man gains profit from the fruit that he gathers; no woman from the cow that she milks. But whatever is needed is shared equally by all the villagers, and the surplus sold for the good of the community as a whole.

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In other ways these settlers live much as our villagers do in this country. All the grown-up people work over eight hours every day, bar the Sabbath, which is kept as a nuch-needed day of rest.

Indeed they live laborious days, and as women work in the fields with the men, the snall children are looked after in communal nurseries by trained helpers; all the young boys and girls spend the whole day with the school teachers till the evening comes, when the day's work is done, and they all very happily rejoin their fathers and mothers. I have often been witness to these meetings. The children's cries of joy and their unrestrained signs of affection show at once that the daily separation during the hours of labour causes no lessening of devotion on one side or the other. On the contrary, I believe the relationship between parents and children is peculiarly happy in these communal communities.

Each year a committee is elected by popular vote, and this committee decides how the profits of the past year shall be spent, and determines what tasks shall be allotted to each labourer for the coming year. The first profits of a new settlement are usually spent in building the school and communal nursery, for care of children is one of the noticeable features of these communal villages.

In succeeding years, additional farm buildings and equipment, tractors, the purchase of new herds, the planting of new orchards - all add to the productive capacity of the community. The villagers I speak of look on wealth not as a snare, but as an illusion so far as happiness is concerned.

There is, of course, no compulsion. A man is free to join either a communal settlement or a settlement where the principle of individual ownership is maintained - just as he pleases. And should he find after experience that the communal life does not suit him or his family, he is always free to

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quit. And if he quits, he has no bother about settling accounts or packing up his goods, for he has no impedimenta to trouble him.

Hardship Their Garment

We may consider the economic ideas of these people fantastic, but I can assure you they are very human. For instance, if a young man feels he wants an outing for a few days, the committee will give him a pound or two provided he does not ask too often. Or, if a girl wants a new frock, if she is a good worker, she will get one. In fact, an annual holiday of a week or ten days is quite usual in most of these settlements.

As you may imagine, when the community is first formed the hardships are great, the labour severe, and as for luxury or confort, there is little or none. The settlers live not to be sheltered from dangers, but to be fearless in facing them. Hardship is their garnent, but constancy their shield. Their manner of living compels then to bear and forbear. No people carry out so thoroughly that precept of the Talmud which says that he who fails to teach his son a trade teaches his son to steal. The sacrifice of personal wealth, the surrender of personal possessions having once been made, then all must of necessity work and their children taught the need and dignity of labour.

But as the years pass, the land is improved and where necessary irrigated, more vegetables are grown and the resources of the villagers increased. The settlers can then afford to build a library or village hall for meetings, concerts, lectures or occasional dances. Amenities are naturally far greater in a settlement after a dozen years of labour and constant cultivation than when it was first founded by the pioneers.

It is easy to understand how much self-sacrifice is needed for this method of living, and how much each individual must give up to share in this

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communal life. But without visiting and talking to the settlers it is harder to realise how much they gain by their disregard of personal wealth.

They have no fear of want; no envy of another man's possessions; if labour is arduous it is regular; there is, of course, no unemployment, and a livelihood for every family is assured.

For there is more gained than only material advantage. These people are free to form and live up to their own set of values. They are not bound by those shackles that grip many whose chief aim is wealth and great possessions. Freedom of thought is far from leading to anarchy. If it be better to give than to receive, then perhaps more happiness comes from living for the good of the community than for self alone.

As I said earlier in this talk, in other countries and in other centuries similar experiments have been tried and all have failed. But, as we say in Scotland, "Facs are chiels that winna ding." Facts that stare us in the face cannot be brushed aside. These communal settlements increase in number and prosperity every few years. Formerly a good many members grew dissatisfied and walked out, for every man is always free to do so; but now few quit, and many sons follow in their fathers' footsteps or form new communal settlements.

The Spirit of the Pioneers

What is the reason for this astonishing success? The reason is to be found in the spirit of the settlers. The spirit that fills them is the faith of a people believing themselves to be more happy leading a simple life without money, than if they joined in the general world-struggle for wealth and yet more wealth.

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Such a faith demands great unselfishness in the individual, as well as great devotion to the community.

Should that faith ever fail, should they ever, like Lot's wife, look back, then will this economic experiment in plain living also fail: it would soon prove to be but Dead Sea fruit.

And so will it be in whatever form of reconstruction may be made after the war in this country. Faith in our country and our ideals is essential. Wealth must be the servant, not the master of the people. As Mr. Winant, the American Ambassador, said the other day: "People in future must either cooperate, dominate, or perish."

These communal villages in Palestine are an example of cooperation working in its extreme form. Not the best form suited for this country, but worthy of study as a society where wealth is unknown, but where "Distribution is made unto every man according as he has need."

We shall win this war by our determination to see it through. By that same spirit of determination, I am confident, we shall bring about, in one form or another, a just settlement of our social and economic needs after victory has been gained.
