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American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, Minutes,  
1942.

MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Monday, January 5, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee was held on January 5, 1942 at 5:30 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT: Judge Levinthal (presiding), Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Pool, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weisgal.

BY-LAWS

It was agreed that Judge Levinthal and Mr. Neumann should submit a set of by-laws to the next meeting of the Committee. If thought desirable, Mr. Garfein or Judge Rothenberg should be consulted.

OFFICE COMMITTEE PERSONNEL

It was agreed that Mrs. Jacobs should receive invitations to the meetings of the Office Committee.

JEWISH ARMY COMMITTEE

A letter from Mr. Wechsler dated January 5, 1942 was read, and a reply - based on a draft by Mrs. Halprin - agreed upon.

VISIT OF MR. CHURCHILL

Mr. Neumann reported that he had been in touch with Senator Wagner with regard to a letter to Mr. Churchill on the army matter. Senator Wagner was uncertain whether he would be able to do anything in the matter and he said that he wished to explore the situation further in Washington.

It was agreed that if Mr. J.M. Martin was still in Washington, Mr. Lourie should try to see him there.

WASHINGTON PRESS CORRESPONDENT

At Mrs. Pool's suggestion it was agreed that efforts be made to ascertain the possibility of arranging for representation of an overseas Jewish publication at the White House Press Conferences.

WASHINGTON OFFICE

The names of possible nominees to represent the Emergency Committee in Washington, and to open an office there, were considered. It was agreed that Mr. Neumann should consult Mr. Kaufmann and Rabbi Breslau with regard to Mr. S. and also ascertain the possibility of his obtaining a few months leave from his present employment. Inquiries should also be made as to whether a non-Jew of first class qualifications might be available to run the American Palestine Committee.



Mr. Neumann read a memorandum outlining major budgetary proposals. It was agreed that a sub-committee to consist of Mr. Neumann, Mrs. Pool and Mr. Szold report back to the Committee with regard to:

- 1) Nominee for Washington
- 2) Non-Jewish appointee to direct American Palestine Committee
- 3) Suitable research man

Mrs. Halprin referred to a telegram sent by Mr. Ben-Gurion to Palestine from which it appeared that Mr. Ben-Gurion contemplated opening a separate office of the Executive in Washington. It was the feeling of those present that this would be undesirable, and should be taken up with Mr. Ben-Gurion without delay.

It was also reported that Mr. Ben-Gurion had arranged to meet with a small group of Jewish Government officials the following day, and Mr. Neumann was instructed to participate in this meeting.

It was unanimously decided that:

- 1) The Emergency Committee open a political office in Washington.
- 2) This should be the only Zionist office for political activity in Washington.
- 3) Dr. Wise be authorized to name a small political committee (it was suggested that the committee have a membership of 3) to coordinate all political activities in Washington, this committee to act not as a policy-making body but as a liason.

1/7/42.

A. Lourie

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR  
ZIONIST AFFAIRS

January 8th, 1942

A meeting of the full Committee of the Emergency Committee was held on the evening of January 8th at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT: Mr. Lipsky (in the chair); Messrs. Publick, Cruso, Furmansky, Gellman, Wolf Gold, Paul L. Goldman, Grossman, Kowalsky, Segal, Wertheim; Mesdames Benjamin, Epstein, Halprin, Jacobs, Leibel, Schoolman, Pool, Shulman;

Messrs. Ben Gurion, Goldmann, Lourie, Neumann;

Messrs. S. Bernstein, Joseph Cohn, Mereminsky, Naiditch, Weisgal.

BY-LAWS

Pursuant to the resolution on the reconstitution of the Emergency Committee a draft set of by-laws were submitted to the meeting by Mr. Neumann on behalf of the by-laws sub-committee, and after discussion and amendment were adopted as follows, subject to further editorial changes if found desirable and to be confirmed later.

ARTICLE I

NAME - The name of the organization shall be the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS - The American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) shall engage in such activities as it may deem advisable in the interest of the Zionist cause, more particularly in the field of public relations; it shall frame its own policies in relation to the work it carries on; its activities shall be those which are of common interest to the four American Zionist organizations represented in its composition, and it shall at all times endeavor to avoid duplication of effort.

(The above Article was adopted in substance as read subject to editing by the Office Committee).

ARTICLE III

Sec. 1 MEMBERSHIP - The Committee shall consist of the following twenty-six persons:

- (a) Five members designated by the Zionist Organization of America.
- (b) Five members designated by Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America.
- (c) Four members designated by Poale Zion.
- (d) Four members designated by Mizrahi Organization of America.
- (e) Eight members named at large as follows:

Solomon Goldman  
Israel Goldstein  
Rose Jacobs  
Louis Lipsky

Morris Rothenberg  
Abba Hillel Silver  
Robert Szold  
Stephen S. Wise

Sec. 2 Members designated under groups (a) (b) (c) and (d) shall ordinarily be designated for a period of one year, but each of the organizations concerned shall be entitled to change its representatives on giving two weeks notice. If any member designated by any of the four organizations herein before referred to shall cease to be a member of the Committee, he may be replaced by the organization which designated him. Group (e) members, shall be permanent members of the Committee and shall serve throughout the Committee's existence. If any member of the Committee shall fail to attend three successive meetings, without an excuse acceptable to the Committee, his seat may be declared vacant by the Committee.

(It was agreed to strike out a suggested provision for filling vacancies among members at large).

Sec. 3 The Committee may by resolution invite representatives of other Zionist groups to attend its sessions as observers without vote. Representatives of all Zionist groups entitled to sit at Emergency Committee meetings in the capacity of observers may submit written applications for full membership. All members of the Committee are to be given two week's notice of such application, which may be approved by a majority vote of the members of the Committee.

#### ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS - The officers of the Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer and such other officers as the Committee shall, from time to time, elect.

#### ARTICLE V

Sec. 1 MEETINGS - Regular monthly meetings of the Committee shall be held on a fixed day to be designated in the first week of each month. Additional special meetings may be held from time to time as may be determined by the Committee, or upon call of the Chairman or upon written request of seven members of the Committee. Notice to all members shall be sent three days in advance of each special meeting.

Sec. 2 A quorum shall consist of ten members.

#### ARTICLE VI

Sec. 1 OFFICE COMMITTEE - Between meetings of the full Committee, the business of the Committee shall be conducted by an Office Committee to be elected by the Committee and to be composed as follows: two members representing the Zionist Organization of America; two members representing Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America; one member representing Poale Zion; and one member representing Misrachi. The representatives of the four organizations which shall compose the Office Committee, shall be designated by the respective groups (a) (b) (c) (d) from among the members of the Committee. In addition to the six thus designated, the following shall also be members of the Office Committee, to wit, the Chairman and Treasurer of the Committee and three members of the Committee to be elected by the Committee. The Office Committee shall elect its own Chairman and such other officers as it may see fit.

Sec. 2 Regular weekly meetings of the Office Committee shall be held at the Office of the Committee in New York City. Special meetings of the Office Committee shall be held from time to time as may be determined by the members of the Office Committee, or upon call of the Chairman of the Office Committee, or upon request, in writing, by three members of the Office Committee.

Sec. 3 A quorum of the Office Committee shall consist of five members.

Sec. 4 The Office Committee, acting under authority from the Committee as a whole, shall have power to open a banking account or accounts in the name of the Committee, to engage executives and other employees and to enter into such other contractual obligations as shall be necessary to carry on its work provided the Committee shall have no power to bind members personally in respect of any obligation undertaken by the Committee.

(This section is to be redrafted by the Office Committee. It shall be made clear that the powers herein designated are exercised by the Office Committee only as agent for the Emergency Committee).

Sec. 5 The Committee and the Office Committee respectively shall have power to pass rules from time to time for the regulation of their respective procedures.

#### ARTICLE VII

FINANCE - The expenses of the Committee shall be met out of funds supplied to it from time to time by American Zionist organizations or agencies and/or other Jewish groups or institutions organized and operating in the United States under the laws of the United States or of the several states; it may also receive contributions from individuals. The Committee shall not conduct any business undertaking nor operate with a view to profit.

#### ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS - Any amendment of these by-laws shall be affected either:

- (a) By unanimous vote of the Committee at a meeting of which at least one week's notice in writing shall have been given to members of the Committee together with notice in writing of the proposed amendment or
- (b) By a resolution adopted by a majority vote at a meeting of which one week's notice shall have been given and which shall further have been ratified in writing by 2/3 of the total membership of the Committee.

(This article is to be amended in accordance with the following motion made by Mr. Segal which was unanimously adopted: If two groups oppose any amendment, no vote can be taken and the matter in question is to be postponed. With this addition the article was accepted as read).

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It was unanimously agreed that a Nominating Committee consisting of one member designated by each organization shall be constituted immediately and bring in its recommendations for the officers of the Committee. Upon motion made and carried it was agreed that the Office Committee be requested to submit to the full Emergency Committee, at the earliest possible moment, a full list of standing committees.



## NEGOTIATIONS WITH NON-ZIONISTS

Dr. Goldmann reported on the history of the negotiations with non-Zionists up to date. At the last meeting the Zionist representatives had submitted a draft program for united action by American Jewry.

Dr. Goldmann outlined the proposals contained in this draft, which included in its terms support for a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine and for the formation of a Jewish army to be recruited in Palestine. To neither of these proposals was serious objection taken by the non-Zionist members. Indeed, one of their representatives had made an impressive plea in support of the Commonwealth aim. Another, while commending the Commonwealth idea, expressed scepticism as to its realization in the face of Arab opposition. A good deal of discussion revolved about the question of procedure during the transition period. Finally it was decided to name a special committee of three non-Zionists and three Zionists who should, on the basis of the program submitted, redraft the program in line with the discussion. Dr. Goldmann believed that there was reason to hope that the negotiations would result in an acceptable united program.

## JEWISH ARMY

Mr. Neumann reported on the negotiations with the Committee for a Jewish Army to date. The situation now is as follows: the Office Committee had written a letter setting forth in the most explicit terms the conditions under which the Emergency Committee could cooperate with the Jewish Army Committee.

1. That all political negotiations be under the jurisdiction of the Jewish Agency and the Emergency Committee.
2. That there be no recruiting in America and no propaganda for such recruiting.
3. That the Emergency Committee have a majority representation on the Army Committee.

Mr. Ben Gurion made the point that one sentence in the letter sent to the Jewish Army Committee implied that there should be no recruiting for a Jewish army anywhere except in Palestine. Clearly, it was within the jurisdiction of the Emergency Committee to deal with recruiting in America; it could not deal with proposals for recruiting abroad, e.g. in England or South Africa, and he assumed that the sentence must be interpreted in that sense.

Mr. Cruso questioned whether the Office Committee was authorized to write a letter on behalf of the full Committee which might lead to cooperation with the Jewish Army Committee.

Mr. Grossman associated himself with the view that before the letter was sent it should have been submitted to the full Committee. He said he believed that the record of the negotiations between the Emergency Committee and the Jewish Army Committee was a record of indecision, evasiveness and insincerity. The Jewish Army Committee had behind it a number of young and energetic but inexperienced persons lacking in responsibility. Their methods were unlikely to achieve their purpose but they might do great harm to the Zionist Organization here. He criticized the Emergency Committee for its failure to initiate effective action of its own on a clear-cut and definitive policy. He said that he himself was opposed to any army recruit from Palestine but he wanted 50,000 Jews from America to go to Libya for example.

He urged that an early meeting of the full Emergency Committee be called to discuss action for a Jewish army.

Dr. Goldmann in reply to Mr. Grossman said that Mr. Grossman's criticism that the letter should not have been sent to the Jewish Army Committee without having been discussed by the full Emergency Committee was justifiable; nevertheless the set-up of the Emergency Committee hitherto had been lacking in clarity. He hoped that in the future questions of this nature would be avoided and the position as between Office and full Committee regularized.

The letter had been a compromise between those who were in favor of negotiating with that Committee and those who were against any negotiations. Its purpose had been to formulate the conditions under which the Emergency Committee would cooperate with the Jewish Army Committee so definitively that there could be no question of a doubt. Regarding our own action for a Jewish army, Dr. Goldmann said that it was apparent that the responsible Zionists in America were categorically against recruiting a Jewish army in America at this time, and this had to be accepted as a fact. It was highly desirable however that the matter come before the full Committee for discussion and decision.

After further discussion it was agreed that a full meeting be called next Tuesday or Wednesday night to take a definite decision on the Committee's attitude to the Jewish army question.



MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE  
OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

January 9th, 1942

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Friday afternoon, January 9th, at 41 East 42nd Street, N.Y.C.

PRESENT: Dr. Wise (presiding) Messrs. Publick, Goldstein, Wertheim; Mesdames Halprin and Pool.

Messrs. Ben Gurion, Goldmann, Lourie, Neumann.

Mr. Ben Gurion reported as follows:

1. Washington

He had met with various Zionists, and with a number of named persons in official life in Washington. His discussion had revolved around three major points.

- (a) How to carry on our political work in America.
- (b) How to win over American public opinion.
- (c) How to strengthen the Zionist movement.

He felt that the two chief objectives of the Zionist movement now were a Jewish army in Palestine during the war and a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine after the war. He said that certain of the more prominent individuals whom he had seen seemed to him over-optimistic concerning the future of Palestine; but they had been friendly and assured him of the sympathy of leaders of the administration.

He further reported that he had asked Mr. Schulson of the Washington office of the Zionist Organization of America to call together a group of young Zionist intellectuals in Washington so that he might explain to them the nature of the political task confronting us. He believed that hundreds of such young intellectual Zionists could be found in America and that their work would be of the utmost significance. He had visited the Congressional Library and found there a fine collection of Zionist literature although there were some glaring omissions. For example, there were no copies of the Hebrew Daily Press.

CAIRO

Mr. Ben Gurion reported on interviews which Mr. Shertok had had with Mr. Bullit, Mr. Lyttleton and other British officials.

The question was raised of a cable sent by Mr. Ben Gurion to the Agency in Jerusalem with reference to expenditures which he might make here. Mr. Ben Gurion said the cable had not been officially submitted to the Office Committee and he therefore did not consider it a matter for discussion. In this connection the whole question of Mr. Ben Gurion's activities in America was raised. He reiterated to the Committee his intention to work in close cooperation with them and to keep them informed of all his activities in Washington. It was agreed that these and other matters be further discussed at a meeting to be held the following day at the Astor Hotel.

A. Lourie



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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE  
OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

January 10th, 1942

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Saturday, January 10th at 6 P.M. at the Hotel Astor.

PRESENT: Mr. Robert Szold (presiding) Messrs. Bublick, Goldstein, Levinthal, Wertheim, Wise; Mesdames Halprin, Jacobs, Pool.

Messrs. Ben Gurion, Goldmann, Lourie, Neumann.

BY INVITATION: Mr. Shetzer

Mr. Ben Gurion said that he was officially submitting to the Office Committee his cable to the Jewish Agency requesting authorization to spend up to \$1,000 a month for his expenses in America. He again repeated that he wanted to work in close cooperation with the Emergency Committee and asked for their specific direction. He said he was prepared to report directly to any Committee which they might designate for this purpose but the one thing he would not do was to be responsible to one person or to clear his appointments through him. He further requested that the Office Committee authorize Miss Cohen to act as his secretary for a period of ten days.

There was considerable discussion on the manner in which cooperation between Mr. Ben Gurion and the Emergency Committee could best be effected.

Judge Levinthal moved and Mrs. Pool seconded the following motion: That the Chairman appoint three members of the Office Committee to be known as the "Steering Committee" and that this Committee invite all individual members of the Emergency Committee and also Mr. Ben Gurion/consult with them<sup>and</sup> to inform them of any plan any one of them may have in connection with Zionist political activity. It was further agreed that Miss Cohen act as Mr. Ben Gurion's secretary for a period of ten days; the Committee to continue to be responsible for Miss Cohen's salary.

Mr. Neumann reported on his interview with Mr. Steinhardt. He said that Mr. Steinhardt was reluctant to meet with any group officially representing the Zionists but had said that he would meet with one or two of the leaders of the movement separately.

A. Lourie

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

January 14, 1942.

A meeting of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Wednesday, January 14th at 9:00 p.m. at the office of the Committee at 41 E. 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.

PRESENT: Mr. Louis Lipsky (presiding), Messrs. Bublick, Cruso, Furmansky, Gellman, Paul Goldman, Kowalsky, Sagal, Wertheim, Wise; Mesdames Benjamin, Halprin, Jacobs, Schoolman and Shulman. Messrs. Mereminsky, Naiditch, Weisgal.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann.

Dr. Josef Cohn, Mr. Isreeli, Dr. Rosenbluth

RECONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE

It was agreed that official notices on the reconstitution of the Committee be sent to the various organizations concerned and that they be asked to nominate their representatives in accordance with the by-laws. As agreed, the ZOA shall, within a reasonable time, be entitled to ask for reconsideration of any of the by-laws since that body was not represented at the meeting at which the by-laws were adopted. The by-laws are still to be examined by a legal sub-committee and submitted to the full Emergency and Office Committee for acceptance.

The Secretary was asked to obtain the names of the party representatives on the Nominating Committee, to which each organization would name one delegate.

JEWISH ARMY PROPOSAL

The Chairman said that it was desirable that the Emergency Committee define its policy more clearly in regard to the Jewish Army proposal.

Dr. Goldmann reviewed briefly the line adopted by the Executive of the Jewish Agency in its negotiations with the British Government. The proposal finally had been for a fighting force of 10,000 men of which 3,000 would be from Palestine and the rest from other countries, to fight wherever needed. This proposal was rejected by the British Government. The Emergency Committee should go on record as agreeing in principle with this proposal - i.e. in favor of a Jewish army the nucleus of which should come from Palestine, but also to include Jews from abroad who might be free to enlist in such an army.

Mrs. Schoolman said that Hadassah has gone on record as favoring the establishment at this time of a Jewish Military Force based on Palestine, and to include Jews from Palestine as well as other Jews who are free to enlist, but was against any recruiting in the United States at this time.

Mr. Bublick said that Mizrachi also favored the establishment of a Jewish Army based on Palestine, to be recruited elsewhere than in the United States.

Mr. Mereminski said that the military force should be recruited from Palestine and from those in a position to enlist with the consent of their governments; and that we should recruit in America when we receive the authority from the U.S. government.

Mr. Segal contended that "Based on Palestine" is not clear.

Mr. Gellman stated that the resolution as adopted at the Commodore Hotel was submitted to and accepted by Mizrahi and if there were any changes made, at this time, the new proposal would have to be submitted back to his organization.

Mr. Weisgal submitted that the formula adopted by the Jewish Army Committee was an acceptable one, but it depended on the manner of its execution.

Mr. Furmansky referred to the work of the Hechalutz in training young Jews in this country who are ready to go to Palestine to fight or to work, and some of whom are at this time actually on their way to Palestine.

Mr. Neumann put forward a proposal based on the following four points:

1. That we favor and shall exert our best efforts to bring about the creation of a Jewish Army or Jewish Military Force to fight against the forces of aggression, side by side with the U.S.A., Britain and their Allies, and under Allied Command.

2. That we favor that the Jewish Army be organized to operate in Palestine and the Near East with Palestinian Jews as a nucleus.

3. That we favor the enlistment in the Jewish Army of Jews from all parts of the world, whose services are not required by the countries of their citizenship or domicile and whose enlistment in a Jewish Army may be permitted and favored by the governments of their respective countries.

4. That no campaign or propaganda for enlistment in the U.S.A. should be undertaken unless and until conditions here are right for it.

Mr. Neumann added that American Jews should not be encouraged to enlist in a Jewish Army until we get the approval of the government.

Discussion followed on the danger to Zionism in general in the attitude of those who felt that American Jews should not be encouraged to enlist in a Jewish fighting force, even if the American Government were favorable to such enlistment. The point was also made that if we approach Great Britain with the idea that the Army be composed of a nucleus of Palestinian Jews, and the remainder of Jews who for various reasons were not accepted by their countries of residence, it might prejudice our chances of getting a Jewish Army.

Mr. Grossman said that the opinions expressed by those members who oppose recruiting in the United States represented a danger to world Zionism. He appreciated that it might be difficult for American Zionists to approach the American Government with the idea of a Jewish Army, but it should be the duty of the Jewish Agency to do so.

Mr. Cruso said that he was fully in agreement with Mr. Goldmann and Mr. Grossman, and is opposed to points 2 and 4 of Mr. Neumann's proposal.

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Mrs. Halprin urged that the proposal for an Army based on Palestine; but there should be no thought of recruiting in this country in present circumstances. She thought that in this matter only American Zionists should speak for American Jews to the American Government, and that the Jewish Agency or any other body had no right to speak for us.

It was agreed that the following proposal be edited by the Office Committee and submitted to the various organizations incorporated in the Emergency Committee and returned to the Committee for confirmation:

"To favor an effort to secure the right to form a Jewish army, mobilized and organized in Palestine, to be composed, first of the nucleus of Palestine Jews who have already enlisted or will enlist and, second of other Jews in the world who may legally be free to enlist in such an army, which shall fight under Allied Command for the survival of the Jewish people and the preservation of democracy."

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

A. Lourie





MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

January 15, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on January 15, 1942 at 4:30 p.m. at 41 East 42nd St., NYC.

PRESENT:

Dr. Wise (presiding), Messrs. Gellman, Goldstein, Levinthal, Wertheim; Mesdames Halprin, Jacobs, Shulman.

Messrs. Goldmann, Lourie, Neumann, Weisgal.

REPORT FROM MR. BEN-GURION

Dr. Goldmann gave a resume of a written report from Mr. Ben-Gurion on conversations he had had with members of Colonel Donovan's office in Washington.

LETTER FROM JEWISH ARMY COMMITTEE

A further letter from the Jewish Army Committee dated January 14, 1942 was circulated. Judge Levinthal reported that the ZOA Executive at its recent meeting had unanimously resolved that the Emergency Committee be urged to seek an agreement with the Army Committee on the basis of Mr. Lipsky's proposal; that proposal aimed at securing an executive for the Army Committee which should be acceptable to the Emergency Committee. Judge Levinthal also reported that many resolutions and letters had been received from Zionist districts protesting against the failure of the ZOA to associate itself with the Army Committee campaign. Many editorials had appeared in Zionist papers in support of the Army Committee and he had only just succeeded in stopping the Masada from printing an editorial in their journal attacking the Zionist leadership "for letting the Revisionists steal the show."

Mr. Wertheim urged that there be no further negotiations with the Jewish Army Committee.

Mr. Weisgal and Dr. Goldmann supported the proposal that discussions continue with the Jewish Army Committee with a view to arriving at a list of executives, all of whom should be acceptable to the Emergency Committee.

Mr. Gellman added that this was a Revisionist enterprise and that if it was desired to kill Revisionism it was essential that the Emergency Committee should participate in the Army Committee and take over effective control.

Mr. Neumann said that one had to accept as a fact that the Army Committee had won the sympathy of the Jewish "man in the street." The Yiddish press was giving them full support, and they took the line that while they knew who were in effect behind the Jewish Army Committee, it was necessary for the Zionists to get in and take control. The attitude of the ZOA Executive when speaker after speaker had supported the proposal in favor of an agreement with the Army Committee, was illuminating and it should be added that a motion had been adopted there, that if the Emergency Committee discontinued negotiations the ZOA should, on its own, seek an agreement with the Army Committee.

Mr. Wertheim said that under no circumstances would the Poale Zion associate themselves in an agreement with the Army Committee people even if this meant withdrawal of the Poale Zion from the Emergency Committee. The Poale Zion was ready to fight the Army Committee in every city.

Mrs. Halprin said that Hadassah was also very strongly against an agreement with the Army Committee, but she deprecated both the idea of separate negotiations by the ZOA, and the attitude of the Poale Zion in threatening withdrawal. This line of action could only lead to chaos and the disruption of the Committee.

Dr. Goldmann supported this point of view. There was no use talking of Zionist unity if we retort with threats of withdrawal every time an important issue came up. On the other hand, an unfortunate position would arise if the ZOA pursued discussions on its own. He added that he was entirely in favor of negotiations with the Army Committee but did not see how these were possible against the opposition of two of the groups represented on the Committee. Accordingly, he felt the best way out was the creation of our own Army Committee.

Judge Levinthal said that we should not be afraid to sit down with the Army Committee people though we should be suspicious of them and we must be sure that we obtain the necessary safeguards and that it was not merely formal but actual control which must be sought. He had seen Mr. Ben-Gurion in Washington and the latter had told him that if Mr. Lipsky's condition was fulfilled, i.e. the executive personnel were acceptable to the Emergency Committee, he would not raise any objection.

Dr. Goldstein considered that it was a little surprising that a member of the Emergency Committee should make a proposal for the ZOA to continue discussions on its own against the view of the Emergency Committee. He urged that the only way to escape from the cul de sac in which we now find ourselves was to initiate real action.

Mrs. Jacobs urged that everything reasonably possible be done to achieve unity and to do away with the spectacle of internal dissension.

Mr. Neumann referred to a remark of Mr. Wertheim's in which the latter had said that he was not averse to seeking an arrangement with the Revisionists whereby they return to the Organization. Mr. Neumann thought that the time was ripe for some step in this direction. He mentioned a talk with Dr. Akzin in this connection.

Mrs. Halprin said that Hadassah also thought that this might be a good time to discuss with the Revisionists the question of their return. As to the Army Committee matter, the attitude of the ZOA and Poale Zion had brought in new factors. She suggested that the members of the Committee go back to their groups with a view to seeking new instructions and that the matter be dealt with again at the Office Committee meeting on the following Thursday.

#### PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Neumann reported on behalf of this Committee which consists of himself, Mrs. Pool and Mr. Szold. The Committee was not yet prepared to make a recommendation regarding a man for Washington, but it was agreed that an administrative assistant be secured to relieve Mr. Neumann as far as possible of routine work. Two names were suggested, one of which met with some opposition. It was agreed that Mr. Neumann investigate further the possibility of engaging Mr. P.

Dr. Wise said that in the circumstances disclosed the salary offered should not exceed \$3,000 per annum.

HADASSAH ACTION RE AID TO UNITED STATES IN MIDDLE EAST

It was reported that Mrs. Pool had been in Washington that day. She had met with George Moore of the Red Cross and also Major Riggs and Colonel Chickering of the Near East Division of the War Department and had discussed with them ways in which the Hadassah might provide effective help to American missions in the Near and Middle East. It was suggested that these discussions might be of interest to the Hechalutz who were seeking to send members of their organization to Eritrea, Egypt, etc. in connection with American directed army and quasi-army works in those areas.

It was agreed that the Office Committee meet again on the following Thursday, January 22, 1942 at 4:30 p.m.

Arthur Lourie.





MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

January 22, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee was held on Thursday, January 22, 1942 at 4:30 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT: Mr. Lipsky (presiding); Messrs. Rublick, Oruso, Goldstein, Levinthal, Szold; Mesdames Halprin, Jacobs, Pool.

Messrs. Ben-Gurion, Goldmann, Lourie, Neumann, Weisgal.

By invitation: Mr. Kritzer, Mr. Isreeli.

The meeting was called for 4:30 but owing to the lack of a quorum did not begin until 5 p.m. Mr. Lipsky read a lengthy agenda and it was agreed that there should be a further meeting of the Committee the following day, at 1:45 P.m.

NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL

The Anti-Zionist editorial in the New York Times was fully discussed. It was urged that that editorial had created an atmosphere which offered an opportunity for a vigorous campaign on behalf of the Jewish Army. It was agreed that:

- 1) A letter be prepared for publication in the New York Times, to be signed by Dr. Wise.
- 2) A public meeting<sup>to</sup> be devoted primarily to the Army issue be arranged for Carnegie Hall on Wednesday, February 4.
- 3) An energetic propaganda campaign in favor of the Jewish Army idea be initiated by the Emergency Committee through the organizations.
- 4) Telegrams should be sent out over Senator Wagner's signature to members of the American Palestine Committee enlisting their support for the Jewish Army idea.
- 5) An advertisement which might be linked up with the Carnegie Hall meeting should be placed in the New York Times, or possibly some other newspaper. Mr. Szold and Mrs. Pool voted against this proposal. Mr. Ben-Gurion was against the use of the name of the Emergency Committee in connection with such an advertisement.
- 6) An appropriation not exceeding \$10,000 be made for the purposes of the campaign, and a sub-committee to consist of Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weisgal, Dr. Goldmann and Mrs. Halprin plan the budget in respect of the campaign, for submission to the meeting the next day.

JEWISH ARMY COMMITTEE

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Jewish Army Committee indicating that its most recent proposals embodied in a letter dated January 14th are not acceptable to the Emergency Committee, and putting an end to further negotiations.

Mr. Ben-Gurion asked to have recorded with the minutes of the previous meeting, a letter which he had sent to Judge Levinthal on this question.

A. Lourie

CONFIDENTIALMINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

January 23, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee was held on Friday, January 23, at 1:45 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT: Dr. Goldstein (presiding); Messrs. Cruso, Szold; Mesdames Halprin, Jacobs, Pool.

Messrs. Ben-Gurion, Goldmann, Lourie, Neumann, Weisgal.

MASS MEETING AND ARMY PROPAGANDA

It was decided that a Zionist mass meeting devoted primarily to the question of a Jewish Army should be held in Carnegie Hall on February 4th. A sub-committee composed of Mr. Weisgal, Mrs. Halprin, Dr. Goldmann and Mr. Neumann shall arrange the program.

The whole question of propaganda and publicity for a Jewish Army was discussed. It was agreed that a vigorous campaign was essential. Whether or not advertising space be taken in connection with the campaign was to be left to the discretion of the sub-committee after seeing how far they are successful in obtaining publicity in other ways.

The sub-committee was authorized to prepare a program on the basis of a budget not to exceed \$10,000 in connection with the campaign for a Jewish Army. They are authorized to spend \$5,000 of this immediately (inclusive of the mass meeting at Carnegie Hall) without further authorization from the Office Committee.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Public Relations Committee was authorized to appoint a sub-committee to deal with the publication of headline books. This Committee was authorized to spend up to \$2,500 for the purpose of such publications.

ECONOMIC ADVISER

Mr. Szold suggested that the Committee consider the advisability of having a man in Washington who should be able to inform the Emergency Committee of economic and industrial developments as affecting Palestine. In this connection the U.S. Near Eastern missions in Eritrea, Egypt and Iran might be of great interest to us.

It was decided that the Office Committee should meet again on the following Monday, January 26, 1942.

A. Lourie

MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETINGAMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRSMonday, January 28, 1942

A meeting of the Office Committee was held on Monday, January 28, 1942.

PRESENT: Dr. Israel Goldstein, presiding; Mr. Cellman, Mr. Cruso, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Pool.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann.

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR CHIEF RABBI SCHORR

It was agreed that the Emergency Committee participate officially together with the World Jewish Congress and the Polish-Jewish Federation in a memorial service to the late Rabbi Schorr, to be held at the Congregation Kehillath Jeshurun next Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. Dr. Wise would speak as Chairman of the Emergency Committee.

YIDDISH PRESS CONFERENCE

Mr. Neumann reported on a luncheon conference with Yiddish editors in which he and Mrs. Halprin had taken part and at which there had been a full discussion on the action taken and to be taken by the Emergency Committee in regard to the Jewish Army issue.

The representatives of the Yiddish press had asked that they be shown privately the exchange of correspondence between the Emergency Committee and the Army Committee. This was agreed to, subject to the condition that the correspondence should not be published. Moreover, copies should not be sent to the editorial offices, but should be shown to them personally at a suitable opportunity.

The Yiddish editors had also suggested that their papers run a campaign for signatures to a declaration in favor of the Jewish Army. Following a discussion in which it was urged that it might be desirable that there be a large-scale campaign of this kind conducted under the aegis of the Emergency Committee, but that the matter should be discussed at a larger meeting of the committee, it was agreed that the proposal that the Yiddish press conduct a petition in their columns be approved. The declarations are to be returnable to the papers themselves and not to the Emergency Committee. It was further agreed that there be a call to action to Zionists in regard to the Army Committee matter to be drafted by Dr. Wise, Mrs. Halprin and Mr. Neumann.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE FOR JEWISH PRESS

Mr. Cellman reported that he had just returned from the Middle West where he had found that in general very little was known of the work, or even of the existence of the Emergency Committee. It was unanimously agreed:

1) That the editors of the various Zionist journals be asked to print communiques from time to time dealing with the work of the committee and to be issued to them by the committee;

2) That arrangements be made to distribute a confidential report on the work of the committee to a select list.

### JEWISH ARMY RESOLUTION BY CONGRESSMAN SOMERS

Mr. Neumann reported that statements had appeared in the Jewish press that Congressman Somers was proposing to push forward with his resolution on the Jewish Army and that he claimed to have substantial support in Congress. Mr. Neumann had subsequently spoken to Congressman Somers' secretary and had expressed doubts as to the advisability of trying to push the resolution at this time. He had also explained to him the position with regard to the Jewish Army Committee, on whose behalf Congressman Somers was speaking that day in Philadelphia. Mr. Neumann expected to be in Washington on Wednesday and asked for directions in taking the matter up further with Congressman Somers.

It was agreed that efforts should be made in Washington to ascertain the chances of passage of such a resolution. It should be indicated to the Congressman that it would be desirable to be sure in advance that the State Department would not put obstacles in the way of the resolution for in that event the rejection would constitute a set-back which might cause serious harm.

### DELEGATION TO VISIT ENGLAND

Dr. Goldmann reported that a request had come from London that a leading American Zionist visit England to open the Keren Hayesod campaign and at the same time to take the opportunity to conduct political conversations.

It was moved by Mrs. Pool and unanimously agreed that Rabbi Silver, who had already been approached<sup>and</sup> might be available for a visit of two or three weeks, be urged to undertake this mission.

### 20th ANNIVERSARY U.S. CONGRESS RESOLUTION

On the proposal of Mr. Neumann, it was decided in principle that a plan should be prepared for the suitable recognition of the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Congress resolution approving the Balfour Declaration.

### CARNEGIE HALL MEETING

Mr. Neumann raised the question of speakers for the meeting at Carnegie Hall on February 4th. The meeting decided against an invitation to Congressman Somers. It was agreed that Mr. Neumann and Mrs. Halprin should have a talk with Mr. Van Paassen, and if satisfied that it would lead to cooperation on his part with the Emergency Committee and would not be used by Mr. Van Paassen to further the interests of the Army Committee, they should invite him to speak at the Carnegie Hall meeting.

It was also agreed that either Rabbi Silver or Rabbi Liebman of Boston be asked to speak at the meeting; also Mr. Ben-Gurion, alternatively- Dr. Nahum Goldmann.

### STATUS OF MR. NEUMANN

It was agreed that this matter should be the first item on the agenda of the next meeting.

### SIGNATURE OF CHECKS

It was agreed that pending the appointment of a treasurer and of a functioning budget committee, Mr. Gellman be authorized to sign checks on behalf of the committee, together with the existing signatories.

A. Lourie



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1942, 8:30 P.M.  
AT THE HOME OF MR. A. TULIN, 330 W. 72ND STREET

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PRESENT: Mrs. Halprin (in the chair) Mrs. Poel, Judge Kross, Mrs. Rosenschn; Messrs. Chaim Greenberg, Gurfein, Neumann, Rosenblatt.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:

Mr. Neumann reported a letter had been received from Judge Rifkind definitely declining to serve, while Mr. Sachs stated that he would like to discuss the matter.

It was decided to recommend to the Office Committee to consider the naming of Mrs. Tourover of Washington, D. C., and possibly also Mr. Mark Eisner.

COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN CLERGY:

Mr. Neumann reported that Rabbi Ira Eisenstein and Rabbi Theodore Lewis had agreed to cooperate with Dr. Milton Steinberg in mapping out a campaign of education among the clergy. A meeting of this special committee is to be held shortly.

SHORT-WAVE BROADCAST TO PALESTINE:

Mr. Neumann reported that Prof. W. F. Albright and Dr. Arthur Upham Pope had agreed to serve on a small committee to supervise short-wave broadcasts to Palestine in Hebrew. The matter would now be pursued further.

REPRINTS:

1. Chapter XI - Wythe Williams book: Mr. Neumann reported that Mr. Wythe Williams had agreed to make a condensation of Chapter XI of his book, "Riddle of the Reich", and that a reprint would be made thereafter in accordance with the previous decision.

X 2. Reprint of Dr. Akzin's article in Harper's - "The Jewish Question After the War" - were available and would be distributed.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR. BILLIKOPF:

Mr. Neumann reported that Mr. Billikopf was following the work of the Committee closely, returning the minutes with many interesting and valuable annotations. He hoped to have a meeting with Mr. Billikopf soon to discuss several of the suggestions made by the latter.

CONFERENCE WITH MR. EDWARD BERNAYS:

Mr. Neumann reported on a conference he had with Mr. Bernays following

the suggestion of Judge Levinthal. Mr. Bernays suggested that the proper method of procedure was to engage a firm of public relations specialists to make a survey for the Emergency Committee and formulate a general plan of action and specific recommendations.

The Committee felt that such a survey would involve a considerable cost, while it is difficult to judge its ultimate value in advance. No action.

DR. DAS ON NEAR EAST:

Mr. Neumann reported that Dr. Das, who is giving graduate courses at City College on the political problems of the Near East, intends to prepare a summary outline of a book that he would like to write on that subject. The outline would be made available to the members of the Committee if and when it is prepared.

ZIONIST ARTICLES:

Mr. Neumann reported:

1. Life Magazine - Ben-Gurion article - An article on Jewish war efforts in Palestine, over the signature of Mr. Ben-Gurion, had been submitted to Life Magazine, which is now considering it.

2. Wythe Williams - LIBERTY Magazine - Wythe Williams has agreed to write an article for Liberty magazine on the same subject, in the near future.

3. Dr. Niebuhr's paper, Christianity and Crisis, has accepted an article on the Jewish Question and Zionism, written by Eugene Kohn and edited by Mr. Israel Goldberg.

4. The Nation has a series of two articles on the Jewish Question, by Dr. Niebuhr. These articles had been seen by one of our friends before their submission to The Nation. They will appear in the near future.

NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL, JANUARY 22, on the "Zionist Army": In connection with this editorial, Mr. Neumann reported:

1. Dr. Petegorsky had drafted Dr. Wise's reply which was revised by Mr. Lipsky and Mrs. Halprin, and printed in The Times on January 26th.

2. An editorial was prepared by Mr. Neumann which was submitted to Mr. Uhl and printed in PM on January 23rd.

3. A letter for the signature of Senator Wagner has been drafted.

4. Mr. Samuel Grafton of the Post has promised Mr. Weisgal to write a column on the Jewish Army question.

5. Boake Carter has undertaken to write a column in The Mirror.

6. Hugh Johnson also has promised to do a column on this subject.

7. Mr. Frank Gannett, owner of a chain of newspapers, has advised his editors to favor our position on the Jewish Army.

8. Arrangements are being made for a mass rally in Carnegie Hall on February 4th.

9. Reprints of Dr. Wise's reply and the two editorials are being made.

PUBLIC RELATIONS MATERIAL:

A kit is being prepared for Zionists throughout the country, containing editorials for out of town papers, addresses, radio speeches and other material for public relations committees, including a manual on public relations.

HEADLINE BOOKS:

Mr. Neumann reported that the Committee on Publications was in favor of commissioning Marie Syrkin to write a book on "Palestine and The War". The Committee felt that an effort should be made to get either Mr. William Hard or Mr. H. Powell, or some other writer to do that particular book, and that Miss Syrkin be invited to write some of the other headline books. In this connection Mr. Gurfein was to communicate with Mr. Powell.

N. Y. U. FORUM OF THE AIR:

Mr. Neumann had reported that Mr. Gurfein had secured the consent of the Forum to place a half hour at our disposal on the evening of February 17th. The offer was accepted and arrangements are being made for a discussion on the "Situation in the Near East", or "Palestine and the War".

YIDDISH JOURNALISTS PRESS CONFERENCE:

Mr. Neumann reported that he had arranged for a press conference with the principal Yiddish writers on Monday, January 26th. Other press conferences will be arranged.

PROF. W. F. ALBRIGHT:

Mr. Neumann reported on a successful luncheon addressed by Prof. Albright in Cleveland - at the UPA National Conference - which was attended by academicians and publicists. Prof. Albright had declared publicly that he had been converted from cultural to political Zionism. Efforts should be made to utilize his influence in academic circles.

NEAR EAST QUARTERLY:

There was further discussion on this subject, following a report of Prof. Albright's affirmative opinion on this project. It was agreed that the matter should be pursued further and particularly that an effort be made to find a group of scholars interested in Near Eastern problems who are friendly to the Zionist cause and willing to cooperate in producing such a Quarterly.

RADIO:

A discussion took place on the importance of developing a com-



prehensive program of activities over the radio networks. Judge Kross and Mr. Garfein volunteered to study the matter and bring their recommendations to the Committee.

STANLEY HIGH:

✓ It was suggested that Mr. High be consulted with a view to securing his advice on our public relations work and possibly his services as a writer. ?

FUTURE MEETINGS:

In view of the fact that Rabbi Milton Steinberg could not attend meetings on Monday night, it was decided that future meetings be held on alternate Monday afternoons at 5:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned.

EMANUEL NEUMANN



CONFIDENTIAL

#51 (O.S.)

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE  
OF THE AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

January 29, 1942

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee was held on January 29th, 1942 at 4:30 P. M.

PRESENT: Dr. Wise (presiding) Messrs. Cruss, Gellman, Goldstein; Mesdames Halprin, Schoolman.

Messrs. Ben Gurion (later), Lourie, Neumann

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

It was agreed that Mrs. Turover be nominated to the Public Relations Committee; also Mr. Mark Eisaner and Professor Fineman, if willing.

STATUS OF MR. NEUMANN

Mr. Neumann said that he had been with the Committee for some months now but that his status had not been clarified. In addition there were questions of salary which had to be settled. It will be recalled that he had been originally engaged on a part time basis with a possibility in mind that he might also continue his private law practice. In fact, he had been giving all of his time to the work of the Committee. It was agreed that Dr. Wise should name a sub-committee to deal with these questions and to report to the next meeting of the Office Committee.

CARNEGIE HALL MEETING

Mr. Neumann reported that the Hall had been engaged, tickets were being distributed and action taken to publicize the meeting. In regard to program, Dr. Wise would preside; Senator Pepper had agreed to speak and also Mr. Ben Gurion. Neither Dr. Silver nor Rabbi Lieberman of Boston were available that night owing to previous engagements. As additional speakers a number of names were suggested as follows: William Green, Max Lerner, George Backer, Frank Kingdon, President Shuster of Hunter College, Waldo Frank and Nahum Goldmann. Opinion was against invitations being sent to Congressman Somers and Mr. Van Patten. The latter was, in any case, speaking elsewhere on behalf of Hadassah that evening.

Mr. Neumann reported that the Legionnaires wished to attend the meeting as a distinctive group and to make a statement. It was agreed (Mrs. Schoolman contra) that they be allowed to make a brief statement prepared in advance in consultation with the Committee.

JEWISH ARMY RESOLUTIONS IN CONGRESS

Mr. Neumann read a letter from Congressman Somers from which it appeared that the Army Committee had not had anything to do with his initiative in setting down the Congress resolution on the Jewish Military Force. As regards pressing the Army resolution, the desirability was again emphasized of ascertaining the chances of acceptance of such a resolution by Congress. It was also suggested that in sounding out the Administration it would be well to await the return of Mr. B.

Mr. Neumann reported that Mr. Boake Carter was writing a syndicated column on the Jewish Military Force the following day.

#### EMERGENCY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RE ARMY

A draft resolution on the attitude of the Emergency Committee to the Jewish Military Force based on the proposal adopted subject to revision at the last meeting of the Full Committee was considered. It was agreed that Mrs. Halprin, Mr. Neumann and Mr. Lourie should prepare a further draft in the light of the discussion for submission to the next meeting of the Full Committee. It was also agreed that for the Carnegie Hall meeting a resolution be prepared supporting the right of the Yishuv to fight as a separate military force under its own flag.

#### CALL TO ZIONISTS

Mr. Neumann read a draft "call to Zionists" to be signed by Dr. Wise and the heads of the organizations. There was some discussion as to the nature of the action in favor of the army proposal that should be undertaken at this time. It was suggested that what was needed first was a campaign of education amongst the Zionists themselves but it was pointed out that work along these lines had been going on for the last year in the Zionist press and on the Zionist platform. Thus in January, 1941, the United Palestine Appeal convention had adopted a resolution in favor of a Jewish Military Force. Similarly at the Zionist Organization convention in September and at other meetings. The statements by Dr. Weizmann, Mr. Ben Gurion and Dr. Bernard Joseph on the subject had also been given wide publicity. It seemed to be agreed that what was wanted now was to educate non-Zionist opinion. As to the action to that end, the point was made by Mrs. Halprin that the time was not ripe for a dramatic call involving deluging of Congressmen with telegrams. The work, she urged, should be undertaken over ordinary public relations lines which might, of course, include public meetings and suitable approaches to the press. It was agreed that Mrs. Halprin, Mr. Gellman, Mr. Cruso and Mr. Neumann be constituted a sub-committee to reformulate the call to the Zionist public.

#### REPORT BY MR. BEN GURION

Mr. Ben Gurion reported on an interesting though still highly confidential request to the Jewish Agency by the Navy.

*Smaller* He also referred to the recent terrorist acts in Palestine which had resulted in the killing of three police officers. The body responsible for this was a section of the Irgun Zvai Leumi. That body had split and it was members of the ~~similar~~ section which had perpetrated these acts. That section had a Nazi orientation. It had sent a man to Syria some time ago to establish ~~where~~ a base for its activities. This man Stern was mentioned in a recent news dispatch as a suspect for whom the police was searching. On the occupation of Syria these people had returned to Palestine. The majority section of the Irgun was not responsible for the murders but were taking advantage of the terror created by the other faction to extract money by threats. In answer to a question he said that these groups were not today affiliated with the Revisionists.

#### LETTER FROM DR. SILVER

Mr. Neumann read a letter from Dr. Silver urging that action be taken with the American Jewish Committee with reference to the letter of Professor Morris Cohen supporting the Times editorial.

It was agreed that there be a meeting of the full Committee on Thursday ~~at~~ February 5 at 8:30 and a meeting of the Office Committee on Friday, Feb. 6 at 1:15

CORRECTION OF MINUTES

In the minutes of the Office Committee meeting of January 26 under the heading of "Jewish Army Committee" it should have been recorded that Judge Levinthal voted against termination of the negotiations with the Jewish Army Committee.

A. Lourie



MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Friday, February 6, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee was held on Friday, February 6, 1942 at 41 E. 42nd Street, New York City.

PRESENT: Dr. Wise (presiding), Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Wertheim, Mesdames Halprin and Jacobs.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann.

REPORT OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. VAN PAASSEN

Mrs. Halprin stated that Mr. Van Paassen had informed one of the Hadassah board members that he had completely revised his opinion of the Jewish Army Committee. He had discovered that letters and telegrams had been sent out under his name without his approval. He knew nothing of the negotiations which had been proceeding between the Army Committee and the Emergency Committee. He was now satisfied that the people behind the group were fascist in character. He was resigning from the Army Committee on Monday.

CONFIRMATION OF BY-LAWS

It was agreed, in accordance with a verbal communication from Judge Levinthal to the secretary, that a clause be inserted in the by-laws which should come up for final confirmation at the next meeting of the full committee, that the organizations represented on the committee be allowed to name proxies to attend in the place of representatives of any group unable to attend at a particular meeting.

STATUS OF MR. NEUMANN

The chairman stated that he was appointing Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Mahum Goldmann and Mrs. Halprin who, together with himself, would act as a sub-committee to make a recommendation in this matter.

POLITICAL MATTERS

(a) Mr. Neumann reported that Ambassador Steinhardt would be leaving this week-end to take up his duties in Turkey. A number of memoranda had been submitted to him for his consideration. It had been suggested to him that he might find it of interest to make contact with Mr. Shertok, and he had also been informed that Mr. Elishu Epstein was in Ankara as a representative of the Agency.

(b) Army resolution before Congress: It was agreed that inquiries be made among our friends in Washington as to the possibility of favorable action by Congress on a resolution in support of a Jewish army; also that the matter be discussed with Mr. Sumner Welles. Mention was made of the fact that Congressman Somers was known for his anti-New Deal position.

(c) Jewish Army Campaign: A letter from Senator Johnson of Colorado in answer to the Times editorial had been circulated by Mr. Neumann's department. The Times had failed to publish Senator Johnson's reply. The editorial in PM and certain other material had also been circulated. It was proposed to release on



Tuesday or Wednesday messages which Senator Wagner had received in reply to his recent telegram on the Jewish Army. Mr. Neumann's department had prepared a kit of material for distribution, including points for letters, radio talks, feature writers, etc.

d) Call to Zionists : A revised draft was ready. It was agreed that the final version should go out on Monday, signed by the heads of the organizations. Certain amendments were proposed including one emphasizing the importance of the work being carried on through and with the official Zionist bodies.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Wertheim referred to a meeting of Zionists which Mrs. Pool had called in Chicago for public relations purposes. Judge Fisher had put up a strong opposition to the establishment of any public relations committee there. He regretted to say that Mrs. Pool's proposal had been negatived, and urged that the matter be taken up again with the Chicago Zionist leaders.

#### TELEGRAM FROM DR. GOLDMAN

Mrs. Halprin said she understood that letters had been received by the Committee prior to the Carnegie Hall meeting from Dr. Solomon Goldman and from Judge Fisher. She felt that these should have been circulated to the members since they bore on the desirability of organizing such a meeting at all. Mr. Neumann stated that as far as he was aware no such letter had been received from Judge Fisher. A wire had come from Dr. Goldman when the preparations for the meeting were well advanced, speakers had been engaged, and the office was working at full pressure, and he regretted that by an oversight the wire had not been circulated.

#### INFORMATION LETTER

Reference was again made to the proposal which had been favored at the previous meeting for a regular (possibly monthly) summary of current developments which should be circulated in the form of a confidential bulletin.

With regard to the distribution of such a bulletin Mr. Neumann said that he was loath to deal directly with the constituencies (i.e. the various public relations Committees) although Rabbi Breslau had urged last year that the Emergency Committee should undertake such direct communications.

It was agreed that the maintenance of contacts with the Public Relations Committees through this bulletin should be given consideration by the Organizations.

#### ANNIVERSARIES OF ZIONIST SIGNIFICANCE

It was stated that in the current year there would be celebrated:

- a] the 25th anniversary of the Jewish Legion
- b] the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Congress Resolution on the National Home policy.
- c] 25th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

With regard to the first, Mr. Neumann asked for directions as to whether an effort should be made to get Congress to reaffirm its position as of 1922. The changed political situation would make such action more difficult, though on the other hand it might be easier in one way since what would be asked was a reaffirmation of a policy previously adopted.

Dr. Goldmann said that if it would require months of concentrated work to obtain the passage of such a resolution he doubted the desirability of putting all the stress of our political work on this one job. It would be more important if we could obtain approval for a resolution on the Jewish Military Force.

After further discussion it was agreed that there would be no objection to consulting the majority and minority leaders on the matter. So far as the State Department was concerned, however, the only point to be taken up with them at this stage should be that of the attitude of the administration to the resolution in regard to the Jewish military force. It was also agreed that it would be desirable to arrange for speeches in Congress on the anniversary of the passage of the resolution.

It was further agreed that efforts should be made to arrange a national radio hook-up in commemoration of the anniversary of the Congress Resolution.

As regards the second, the Jewish Legion Anniversary, it was proposed that a dinner be organized under the auspices of the Committee. It was agreed that Dr. Goldmann, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Halprin and Mr. Wertheim, together with Mr. Neumann, should give consideration to this proposal with a view to the possibility of arranging a dinner celebration, and report back to the Committee.

#### LETTER OF PROF. MORRIS COHEN TO TIMES RE JEWISH ARMY

Two letters had been received from Dr. Silver urging that in view of Professor Cohen's official position on the Peace Institute of the American Jewish Committee, the matter of his letter to the Times should be taken up officially with the last-named body.

It was agreed that a communication be addressed to the Chairman of the American Jewish Committee to inquire whether the Professor's letter had been written with the sanction of the American Jewish Committee or of their Peace Institute of which he was the chairman.

#### COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION ON JEWISH MILITARY FORCE

A revised draft of the resolution provisionally adopted at the last meeting of the full committee was read as follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, representing the organized Zionist movement in America, records its wholehearted endorsement of the proposal for the formation in Palestine of a Jewish military force to fight side by side with Great Britain, the United States and the other United Nations. The Emergency Committee will use its best efforts to secure for the Jews of Palestine the right to raise such a military force, to comprise Palestinian Jews, including those already serving with Jewish units in the Near East, and such Jews from other countries, including stateless Jews, as may be legally free to enlist in such a Force. "

A letter was read from Judge Levinthal criticizing the inclusion of the reference to "stateless Jews". It was pointed out that at the meeting of the full committee at which the matter was considered, a heated discussion had taken place on this point, and it was then decided to include such a reference in the resolution. The resolution as read was recommended for adoption to the full committee.



### PRESS ITEMS

Mr. Neumann reported that Mr. Frank Gannett had come out in wholehearted support of a Jewish Military Force and had published an excellent leader on the subject (which will be circulated) in his chain of newspapers. A press conference was also planned on the same subject in the near future.

### COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY

Mr. Neumann reported that from information received by him, the Committee apparently had a good deal of money to spend. To the five rooms they were already occupying, they were now adding a further three. He had been informed that they had \$25,000 with which to work and were spending at the rate of \$10,000 a month. Mr. Strelsin had given them money and had also secured money for them from others and they were now forming an Executive Committee of fifteen members. Following the Emergency Committee conference with members of the Yiddish press, Mr. Grossman - on behalf of the Army Committee, had called a similar conference and read to them the exchange of correspondence between the Emergency Committee and the Army Committee. He understood however that Mr. Meckler of the Morning Journal would take the position that the parity proposal put forward by the Army Committee was one the Zionist leadership could not be expected to accept.

Mr. Neumann added that the Zionists should be apprised of the character of the group behind the Army Committee, but that he thought an open fight with them was undesirable.

There was some discussion on Mr. Grossman's action in joining the Army Committee. It was pointed out that he had been invited to attend the meeting of the Office Committee at which a final decision was to be taken on the negotiations with the Army Committee, but that he had failed to attend. Mrs. Halprin added that the Army Committee, in their approach to people, were going out of their way to poison them against the Zionist leadership.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr. Grossman signed by Dr. Wise, asking for an explanation of his action in joining the Army Committee once he was aware of the attitude to that body of the Emergency Committee; and asking further how he could reconcile his position as a member of the Army Committee with membership of the Emergency Committee.

It was agreed that Dr. Goldstein and Mr. Neumann should try to see Mr. Van Paassen, if possible before Monday, as it was understood that he was leaving town that day. Reference was made to Mr. Van Paassen's letter to the "Reconstructionist" in which he stated that the Zionist leadership had last year interviewed Lord Halifax and informed him that they were against raising a Jewish force. The Secretary was instructed to search the minutes in order to see if there was anything in the record which might have a bearing on this allegation.

### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Letters were read from the Order Sons of Zion and the Hapoel Hamizrachi asking for representation on the Committee. It was stated that the Order Sons of Zion has an agreement with the ZOA in terms of which they enjoy certain representation on the committees of that body, but that they operate as a separate organization. It was pointed out that if representation were accorded the Order Sons of Zion, other bodies like the National Workers Alliance would also

seek representation; again, if the Hapoel Hamizrachi were included in the Committee, groups like Habonim and Junior Hadassah would also claim representation. It might open the way for an embarrassing number of other applications.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the bodies concerned expressing regret that the Committee was unable to accede to their request, placing stress on the political side of the Committee's work and urging that they seek representation through the Mizrachi and ZOA respectively.

#### HECHALUTZ LOAN

A letter was read from the Hechalutz requesting that the balance of \$840 of an original loan of \$1,840 made to the Hechalutz by the Emergency Committee in May 1940 be converted into a grant in aid. Criticism was expressed of the failure of the Hechalutz to carry out its obligations. It was finally agreed that they be absolved from further payments but that the opinion of the Committee, that their attitude indicated an improper appreciation of their responsibilities, be incorporated in the letter to them.

#### DISCUSSIONS WITH NONZIONISTS

Dr. Nahum Goldmann reported on the meeting which had taken place on Friday, January 30 between subcommittees of the Zionist and non-Zionist negotiating bodies. He read the draft proposals as they now stood.

Unanimous agreement had been reached on the Galuth issues. As regards the Palestine matters, Mr. Maurice Wertheim (the non-Zionists had been represented by Mr. Wertheim, Mr. Medalie and Mr. Held) said that the non-Zionist negotiating committee wished the negotiations now to assume a more formal and official character; accordingly they were appealing the American Jewish Committee officially of the negotiations and further discussions would be conducted on behalf of the Committee itself. A sub-committee had now been appointed by the American Jewish Committee to make recommendations to the full Executive Committee and only after consideration by that body would the discussions with the Zionists be resumed. That might take several weeks.

Mr. Wertheim had urged that the Jewish Army proposals should be taken off the agenda on the ground that they had nothing to do with the Peace Program. He added that there was great opposition within the Committee to that proposal. It was pointed out that since a united program of action was envisaged, the failure to come to an agreement on this particular matter might be a source of friction, as it was not one which the Zionists could give up. It had also been made clear by Dr. Goldmann that so far as the Commonwealth issue was concerned, if the non-Zionist representatives came back with a negative attitude to this also, it was as well that they should know that there would be no basis for further discussions.

#### VAAD BITACHON

A letter was read from the Vaad Bitachon stating that it had transmitted close to \$45,000 to Palestine but that there was still outstanding \$4,000 due from Mizrachi (balance on a note), \$8,500 from the Labor Group, and, contingent upon the collection of these sums, Hadassah was retaining \$15,000 promised to the Vaad Bitachon.

Mr. Wertheim said that it was impossible to talk of going out now for a further separate campaign for the Vaad Bitachon. They had had a combined campaign

with the Hechalutz of the proceeds of which, \$17,000 or \$18,000 had gone to the Hechalutz and the rest to Bitachon. They could not do any more.

It was agreed that the matter should be referred to Mr. Ben-Gurion.

#### EXPENSES OF COMMODORE HOTEL MEETING

It was agreed that Rabbi Heller should be re-imbursed for expenses incurred by him in respect of the meeting called by Dr. Wise on December 16 at the Hotel Commodore.

#### POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Halprin urged that a political committee be set up to give consideration to a number of fundamental problems. There were a host of committees which were giving thought to post-war questions and it was desirable that the Zionists should also do some thinking - e.g. on such matters as the Federation idea, the implications of the Commonwealth proposal, etc. The Committee as presently constituted was swamped by matters of detail and would always be so swamped. Possibly this committee might be called a post-war aims committee.

It was agreed that the matter be deferred to a fuller meeting and the hope was expressed that Mr. Ben-Gurion, Judge Levinthal and Dr. Silver would be present at a discussion of this subject.



A. Lourie

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1942, at 5 P.M.  
At 41 East 42nd St., New York.

PRESENT: Mrs. S. W. Halprin (in the chair), Mrs. David de Sola Pool,  
Dr. Milton Steinberg, Messrs. A. Tulin, D. Wertheim, Emanuel  
Neumann; Dr. D. Petegorsky, by invitation.

Excuse for absence was received from Mr. M. Garfein.

CALL TO AMERICAN ZIONISTS ON JEWISH MILITARY FORCE

The final draft of the call to be issued by the Emergency Committee to all American Zionists on the subject of a Jewish Military Force in Palestine was read and certain changes suggested.

✓ COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN CLERGY

✓ Dr. Steinberg suggested that Rabbi Philip Bernstein, of Rochester, who has a very intimate and extensive acquaintanceship among the Christian clergy, be asked to take the chairmanship of this Committee, on which Rabbi Ira Eisenstein and Rabbi Theodore Lewis had already agreed to work with Dr. Steinberg.

✓ Mr. Neumann reported that Rabbi Bernstein was prepared to come to New York for a few weeks to participate in this work.

It was moved by Mrs. Halprin and seconded by Mrs. Pool that Rabbi Philip Bernstein be asked to come to New York to meet with Dr. Steinberg and work out a program of action on the spot. This motion was unanimously approved.

✓ Dr. Petegorsky suggested that Rabbi Max Arst, who is now lecturing as the Jewish representative for the Conference of Jews and Christians, be co-opted on the Committee which is to deal with Christian clergy. Mr. Neumann proposed that Prof. Albright's help be solicited, since he would be in New York during the coming few weeks when he was to give a series of lectures, and that a small number of key people among the clergy should be asked to meet Prof. Albright. It was agreed that it was most important to contact the key people among the Christian clergy.

✓ NEW YORK CHAPTER OF AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE

Mr. Tulin reported that he had the nucleus of a New York Chapter prepared. He planned to use his personal friendships which he had built up in New York. He suggested the names of Charles Burlingham, Grenville Clark and Walter Pitkin, with perhaps one of the first two mentioned as chairman. He believed that these names would guarantee the interest of others.

It was decided that Mr. Tulin and Mr. Neumann meet the following day to discuss the matter further and that Mr. Tulin would invite Judge Kross, Mr. Rosenblatt and Mr. Garfein to be present at this meeting.



### RADIO TIME

Mr. Neumann reported that we were to have a half-hour on the N.Y.U. Forum of the Air, on Station WEVD, on February 17th, from 10:00 to 10:30 P.M., and that Prof. Albright and Dr. Fope will participate in the broadcast, together with Dr. Nachum Goldmann and Mr. Neumann. It was agreed that a recording should be made of this broadcast.

Mr. Neumann further reported that Judge Levinthal had urged that radio programs on a much larger scale should be arranged. He had further suggested that all the various Zionist groups might join in buying radio time for a year.

With regard to the broadcast which is being arranged for April, on the 20th Anniversary of the United States Congress Resolution approving the establishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine under British Mandate, Mr. Neumann reported that the suggestion had been made to obtain the services of Mr. Corwin, the radio script writer who had prepared the excellent Bill of Rights broadcast. Mr. James Wise, with whom Mr. Neumann had discussed this program, was of the opinion that Dorothy Backer would be the best person to work with Mr. Corwin. Mr. Wise had also suggested Merrill Dennison, another radio script writer, if Mr. Corwin cannot undertake it. Another name suggested was that of Mr. Phil Cohen, who is also doing some work for Mr. MacLeish.

Mr. Neumann is to discuss the whole question of the Anniversary radio program with Mr. Israel Goldberg.

### HEADLINE BOOKS

At the previous meeting of the Public Relations Committee it had been decided that an effort should be made to get either Mr. William Hard or Mr. H. Powell to write the book on "Palestine and The War". Mr. Neumann reported that Mr. Hard had been away on a tour but would return to Washington Wednesday. The earliest he could be seen would be Friday. Mr. Jarfein, who was to have contacted Mr. Powell, had not yet done so since he understood that Mr. Hard was to be approached first.

Mr. Neumann suggested that in the meantime Marie Syrkin should be asked to start with the book on the Arab question. Mrs. Pool and Mrs. Halprin thought that the first book to be published should be written by a non-Jew of note. Dr. Petegorsky pointed out that in the case of a headline book the most important thing was the subject and the fact that the material presented was authoritative, rather than the name of the author. He was of the opinion that the advantage to be gained by having the book prepared by someone who was thoroughly familiar with the subject matter would be much greater than that derived from having the name of an outstanding non-Jew attached to the book. He also stressed the importance of setting several people to work on headline books simultaneously, pointing out that if four people were given assignments two books would result, and if two people were asked to do books we might get none.

Dr. Petegorsky also pointed out that the Penguin people were beginning to publish books in the United States and that it might be possible to have them accept a manuscript.

No decisions were taken.

Feb 9  
1942ZIONIST YOUTH COMMISSION'S REPRINT OF EXTRACT FROM PEEL COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Neumann reported that Dr. Bardin had had a reprint made for the Zionist Youth Commission of that part of the Peel Commission report which dealt with the historical survey of Zionism up to the Balfour Declaration. Mr. Neumann felt that this was a very useful pamphlet and he suggested that the Public Relations Committee order it in large quantities. The cost would be 5½ cents per copy.

It was decided to ask Dr. Bardin to hold the type a little longer, pending the study of the pamphlet by other members of the Public Relations Committee.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Since meetings in the afternoon could not be attended by a number of members of the Public Relations Committee, it was decided to revert to the evening meeting, possibly holding an occasional meeting in the afternoon. The next meeting is to take place Monday evening, February 23rd, and the following one a week after that.

Meeting adjourned.



MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 12, 1942

A meeting of the Office Committee was held on Thursday, February 12, at 4 P.M., at 41 East 42nd Street, New York City.

PRESENT: Messrs. Szold (in the chair), Publick, Goldstein, Levinthal, Wertheim; ~~Messrs.~~ Halprin, Jacobs and Pool.

Messrs. Ben-Gurion, Goldmann, Lourie and Petegorsky.

RESIGNATION OF MR. RESS

Exchange of correspondence between Mr. Ress and the secretary was read. In a letter dated February 11th Mr. Ress informed the Committee of his resignation.

ASSISTANCE TO MRS. JABOTINSKY

It was reported that Mr. Naiditch, in a letter to the Committee, copy of which had been sent to the Hadassah, had urged that the payments of \$50. per month agreed to by the Committee should be increased to \$100. This was apart from the \$35. monthly provided by the Matz Foundation.

Mr. Ben-Gurion said that he would cable to the Zionist Executive in Jerusalem urging them to allocate a pension of \$100. a month to Mrs. Jabotinsky. He felt that these payments should not be made by the Emergency Committee, which had received funds for specific work not covering allocations of this kind.

Mrs. Pool stated that Hadassah had had the matter before them at their last Board meeting but that they could not spare monies for this purpose.

It was agreed that pending a reply from the Jerusalem Executive, Mr. Ben-Gurion and Mrs. Pool should decide between them how the next payments should be provided.

STATEMENT BY MR. BEN-GURION

Mr. Ben-Gurion read to the Committee the text of a telegram which he had received from Jerusalem in reply to his own cable with reference to the allocation of funds for work in Washington, as follows:-

"EXECUTIVE APPRECIATES IMPORTANCE YOUR SETTLING WASHINGTON APPROVES YOUR PROPOSAL BUT TRUSTS COORDINATION EMERGENCY COMMITTEE ASSURED WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION THIS REGARD ALSO VIEW REVISIONIST PUBLICITY REGARDING OPEN CONFLICT BETWEEN YOURSELF AMERICAN FRIENDS SUGGEST USE FAR AS POSSIBLE ZIONIST OFFICES WASHINGTON...."

Mr. Ben-Gurion also reported that the J.T.A. and the Jewish Press Service had issued mischievous reports in regard to his setting up a separate office in Washington, the source of which should be traced. The Revisionist papers had embellished these stories, and from wires received from England and ~~South Africa~~

*Truskin*

it appeared that a good deal of concern had been aroused abroad on the basis of false information.

Adherence to United Nations Declaration: Mr. Ben-Gurion referred to the notice issued by the State Department with reference to the adherence of various authorities which are not governments to the United Nations Declaration. Mr. Ben-Gurion had cabled the Jewish Agency Executive in London asking whether they propose to take action in this connection, and the same day had received a cable from Dr. Weizmann asking that action be deferred until his arrival in America. Following a consultation with friends whom he (Mr. Ben-Gurion) had seen in Washington, who agreed that the Agency should record its adherence to the Declaration, a formula had been worked out, as follows:

"The Jewish Agency for Palestine notes with satisfaction that the American Government, as the depository of the Declaration of Principles of the United Nations, invites the support of all liberty loving peoples to the principles of that Declaration. I am authorized by the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, which was established and exists by virtue of Article IV of the Mandate for Palestine, to file with you a statement of adherence to the principles of that Declaration."

The text of this had been cabled to Dr. Weizmann.

In answer to an inquiry, Mr. Ben-Gurion said that the statement of adherence would be signed by Dr. Weizmann and that following transmission to the State Department it would, after a suitable interval, be given publicity.

Mr. Ben-Gurion went on to say that the main purpose of his going to Washington was to study what could be done there and in what way. Apart from the State Department, he had tried to find out whether there were other agencies which might help in shaping policy on Palestine. One such Department was that of Col. Donovan, Co-ordinator of Information. He had already reported on an interview he had had with that Department. He had offered them the cooperation of the Jewish Agency in various directions so far as their work in the Middle East was concerned. Naturally, though, as he had explained, this could not be behind the back of Great Britain. The Department had sent a special man to the Middle East and he was in contact with representatives of the Jewish Agency.

Mr. Ben-Gurion reported further on an interview which he had had with Mr. Bullitt. One point of interest which had emerged was that for the time being the Federation idea was dead. Apparently neither among the Arabs nor among the British was it seriously considered at present.

Mr. Ben-Gurion had also seen Judge Rosenman and at the latter's request had sent him a memorandum on the problem in Palestine.

Discussions with non-Zionists: Mr. Ben-Gurion said that the Zionist movement in this country, with the full approval of the Zionist Executive, was conducting negotiations with the American Jewish Committee. He did not know whether those negotiations would succeed, but he believed that there was a real possibility. Were unity on post-war aims to be achieved with the American Jewish Committee, it would be a matter of the first importance. Mr. Ben-Gurion had received a copy of the Congress Bulletin, the editorial of which made



reference to the American Jewish Committee and the effect of which might be very injurious to any prospects of unity. Directing the Congress were leading members of the Emergency Committee, who must be deemed responsible for such an editorial, even if they had not read it. It was a mischievous article which could do great harm to Zionism. Mr. Ben-Gurion repeated that it would be of the greatest importance if we could get the support of the American Jewish Committee and although the Congress was of course not under the direction of the Emergency Committee, the American Jewish Committee knew that the Congress leaders were on this Committee and he did not see how they could conduct two policies.

This view was generally endorsed by those present.

Dr. Goldmann said that the editorial arose out of an address by Mr. Wertheim, the new chairman of the American Jewish Committee, in which he referred to that body as the power house of moral strength of the Jewry of this country. The editorial was intended to contest the claim of the Committee to be a dominant factor in Jewish life here. Dr. Goldmann agreed, however, that the article was, to say the least, unnecessary.

It was agreed that the matter should be discussed with Mr. Lipsky and Dr. Wise, urging that it was undesirable to go into polemics with the American Jewish Committee at this time. It was also <sup>agreed</sup> ~~agreed~~ that the Emergency Committee organizations represented in the Congress should take up the matter there.

The question was discussed as to whether a letter disassociating the Emergency Committee from this editorial be sent to the American Jewish Committee or, alternatively, that Mrs. Pool convey to them informally the feeling of the Emergency Committee that the editorial did not represent the views of the Committee. It was decided that before such action be undertaken the matter be discussed with Mr. Lipsky and Dr. Wise.

Dr. Goldstein pointed out, in conclusion, that Mr. Wertheim, as chairman of the Committee, was undoubtedly facing great difficulties in his own group in regard to the discussions with ourselves, and that it was of real importance that we should do whatever we could to strengthen Mr. Wertheim's hands.

#### UNITED STATES NORTH AFRICAN MISSIONS

Mrs. Pool reported further on Hadassah's action in regard to the North African missions (see Minutes of Meeting of Jan. 15, 1942). Colonel Chickering and Major Riggs were now in Cairo. The Hadassah representatives in Jerusalem had been informed of the contact established here. Mrs. Pool added that Hadassah was contemplating an offer to the Red Cross to represent them in Palestine.

#### PAN-ARAB CONFERENCE

Dr. Goldstein stated that reports had appeared in the Yiddish press of a proposed Pan-Arab Conference among the sponsors of which would be Saudi Arabia. Mr. Ben-Gurion said that he had no information at all on this subject and it was agreed that inquiries should be made. It was also agreed that press items of special interest should be circulated to members.

DARIEN REFUGEES

A report which had been received from Palestine on the deplorable condition of the interned refugees from the Steamship "Darien" was read to the meeting; also a telegram from Dr. Wise to Lord Halifax requesting that he receive a delegation on this subject, and the reply from Mr. Malcolm stating that Lord Halifax was at present away from Washington but that the matter would be put before him on his return. It was reported further that the matter had been taken up with Lord Moyne in London, but that the latter had given a negative reply to the representations made to him for the release of these people, and even to the request that the threat of deportation which continues to hang over them should be withdrawn. There was reason to believe that the situation in Palestine was much more tense even than the report indicated. An additional reason for approaching Lord Halifax had been that it was believed that he had been helpful in obtaining the reversal of the decision with reference to the "Patria" refugees.

The question arose as to whether it was desirable to ask Senators on the American Palestine Committee to intervene. It was urged that everything possible to emphasize the gravity of the matter be done because if, as a result of the existing situation, a crisis developed in Palestine (which was by no means impossible), it might do grave harm to the British cause. Doubt was expressed as to whether the aid of the Senators should be invoked at this time, in view of their official position, but it was finally agreed that the matter be put to Senator Pepper and to Senator Wagner as to whether an intervention on their part with the Embassy would be proper and if the answer was in the affirmative the final decision be left with the officers.

In addition, it was agreed that the intervention of Mr. William Green be sought and also the aid of Mr. Pickett of the Quakers, Mr. James MacDonald and Dr. Atkinson of the World Church Peace Union. Dr. Petegorsky mentioned that Prof. Tawney had come to Washington as an unofficial advisor to the British Embassy on labor matters and might be helpful.

STRUMA REFUGEES

A cable from Dr. Ebner, head of the Rumanian Immigrants Organization in Palestine, describing the terrible plight of the 700 refugees on the Steamship "Struma", which had been stranded outside Istanbul for the past two months, was read. Mr. Lourie reported on the conversations between Dr. Rosenbluth and himself, and Mr. Levitt of the J.D.C., in which it had been suggested that a joint delegation on behalf of the J.D.C. and of the Emergency Committee should interview the Turkish Ambassador with a view to obtaining the right for the to land. Mr. Levitt had pointed out that one difficulty would be that the J.D.C., which had already sent remittances to maintain the refugees on board, might be asked by the Turks to give an indefinite undertaking to maintain these people in Turkey. He did not know whether the J.D.C. would be in a position to give such an undertaking.

It was agreed that representatives of the Emergency Committee should see the Turkish Ambassador on this matter, if possible with J.D.C. representatives, otherwise alone.

#### LETTER FROM COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY

A letter from the Committee for a Jewish Army, dated February 9th, was read, ~~but no action was taken.~~ *It was decided to take no action.*

#### LETTER FROM MR. VAN PAASSEN TO DR. WISE

The Committee was informed of the contents of a letter from Mr. Pierre van Paassen to the Committee for a Jewish Army announcing his resignation from that body. Copies of this letter had been sent to Dr. Wise and to Miss Juliet Benjamin. Mr. van Paassen had subsequently, in answer to a telegram from Dr. Wise, asked that no publicity be given his letter as he proposed to make a statement.

Judge Levinthal reported that a press reporter had telephoned Mr. van Paassen while he was in Chicago to inquire as to whether he had in fact resigned from the Committee. Mr. Brainin had spoken to the reporter and informed him that Mr. van Paassen had not resigned but that if he did do so it would be only because of lack of time.

Dr. Goldmann referred to a conversation he had had with Mr. Strelein of the Committee for a Jewish Army. There was now a possibility of getting such people as Strelein and van Paassen to cooperate with us, but in that case arrangements must be made to enable them to participate actively in the work on behalf of the Jewish army. It was agreed that if Dr. Goldmann's surmise proved correct it would be desirable to establish a sub-committee to take charge, under the general direction of the Emergency Committee, of the Jewish army campaign.

#### WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE RE U.S.A. NEAR-EASTERN MISSIONS

The chairman said that he thought it might be of value to have in Washington a representative whose business it should be, not to lobby in political matters on our behalf, but to inform the Committee of matters that were going on which might be of interest to it. He thought that this might be of sufficient importance to justify the appointment of a full time representative. It was agreed to take the matter under advisement for fuller discussion on another occasion.

#### KING-CRANE COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Judge Levinthal said that Miss Pearl Franklin had taken part in a discussion at the University of Chicago on the King-Crane Commission, in which several members of that Commission had also participated. Miss Franklin had been alone in supporting the Zionist point of view. In the course of the discussion it had been repeatedly stated by some of the speakers that they were in touch with the State Department and that use was being made of data which had been collected by that Commission. Miss Franklin would be sending him a full report of which he would inform the Committee.

The Chairman remarked that he himself had appeared before the Commission in Palestine and that a more unjudicial body it would be difficult to imagine.

LETTER TO AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

It was decided, in view of a report from Mrs. Pool, that the letter to the American Jewish Committee which it had been agreed to send in reply to Prof. Morris Cohen's letter to the Times, be not sent.

HERALD TRIBUNE REPORT

Reference was made to a report which had appeared in the Herald Tribune January 31st, from which it appeared that Dr. Weizmann had favored the creation of a Jewish unit in the American army. Mr. Ben-Gurion said that this was of course false. Mrs. Pool urged that a letter be sent to the American Jewish Committee informing them that that was so. If the Committee knew that the Zionists themselves were opposed to the idea of a Jewish unit in the American army we might be able to calm much of their fears.

It was agreed finally that Mrs. Pool be authorized to inform the American Jewish Committee of the fact that when the matter was raised in the Emergency Committee the whole Committee was unanimous in its opposition to such a proposal.

MR. VAN PAASSEN'S LETTER IN THE "RECONSTRUCTIONIST"

It was agreed that the question of a suitable reply be left to the officers.

COMMUNICATION FROM DR. WISE

A communication was read from Dr. Wise informing the Committee that to his regret he would probably not be able to attend any meetings for a period of two or three weeks, due to his absence from New York on doctor's orders.

NEXT MEETINGS

It was decided to hold a meeting of the full committee Thursday night, February 19th, at 8.30; the date of the Office Committee meeting to depend on interviews to be arranged in Washington.

ARTHUR LOURIE



MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN EMERGENCY  
COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 19, 1942

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Thursday, February 19th at 1:15 p.m. at 41 East 42nd Street, New York.

**PRESENT:** Dr. Goldstein (presiding); Mesdames Halprin, Jacobs, Schoolman, Mr. Wertheim.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weisgal.

DELEGATION TO EMBASSY RE "DARIEN" REFUGEES:

As reported at the last meeting, Lord Halifax had been asked to receive a delegation from the Emergency Committee with reference to the refugees interned from the S.S. "Darien." Mr. Malcolm had informed Mr. Neumann when he was in Washington on Wednesday that all that the Ambassador could do, would be to transmit to London such facts as might be submitted to him, as he himself had no information on the subject. It was nevertheless felt desirable that the delegation should call on Lord Halifax and an appointment had been arranged for Tuesday morning, February 24th at 11 A.M.

It was agreed that the delegation consist of Judge Levinthal and Dr. Goldstein. If Dr. Goldstein was unable to participate, Mr. Neumann should take his place.

Mr. Wertheim reported that he had been in touch with Mr. William Green of the American Federation of Labor. The latter had been much moved by the report on the state of the refugees and was planning to communicate with Mr. Bevin.

It was agreed that Mr. Pickett be invited to write to the Ambassador with reference to the refugees. It was also agreed that James MacDonald be asked to join the delegation, and that Mr. Neumann should inquire from Senator Wagner and Senator Pepper as to whether they would find it possible to intervene with the Embassy.

OPEN LETTER FROM MR. MONTOR TO AMBASSADOR:

It was reported that considerable offense had been taken by the Embassy to Mr. Montor's "Open Letter" to Lord Halifax, published in the Jewish Press Service. The opinion was expressed that an intolerable position was created when the Executive Director of an important Zionist body felt himself at liberty to publish letters of this kind without any consultation with the responsible political leaders. It was impossible to separate such an official from the office which he held.

It was agreed that the matter be discussed in the light of this criticism with Mr. Montor personally by Dr. Goldmann. The Chairman suggested further that when a new chairman was elected to the Office Committee, it would be desirable for him to call together the various Zionist administrative officials for a discussion of "Zionist morale."

S.S. "STRUMA" REFUGEES:

Mr. Neumann reported on a conversation he had had with the Turkish Ambassador with reference to the "Struma" refugees. The Ambassador had suggested that this was a matter in which the Red Cross and the Red Crescent should interest themselves. These bodies had international status and backing and there was some possibility in the Ambassador's view that their intervention might be effective. It was agreed that the Joint Distribution Committee be informed of this conversation.

Mr. Neumann had also had a talk on Zionism with the Ambassador; he had found the latter far from well-informed on the development of the Jewish National Home and in general negative in his approach.

JEWISH ARMY CAMPAIGN:

Mr. Neumann reported on various action which had been taken as follows:

1. Reply by Dr. Wise to the "Times" editorial
2. The Carnegie Hall meeting
3. Publication of telegrams of support in response to Senator Wagner's telegram
4. Mr. Shertok's statement in the "Times", publication of which was due to action taken by officers of the Committee
5. Editorials and articles in the papers of Mr. Frank Connatt, as a result of the initiative of Rabbi Philip Bernstein.
6. There had also been a good many references to the Jewish Army matter by radio commentators including Messrs. Hershey, Steele, Boake Carter, Wythe Williams, Albert Warner and the Trans-Radio News.
7. A full kit of information material had been prepared by the Public Relations Department and distributed to the organizations.

Mr. Neumann suggested that it might be worth while to try to arrange a nation-wide hook-up on the Jewish Army subject. The time for such a program probably could be obtained gratis though expenditure might have to be incurred for speakers. These should, if possible be recognized military experts.

It was agreed that a sum not exceeding \$500.00 be authorized for the purpose of this broadcast.

COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY:

Dr. Golimann said that in consequence of a meeting he had had the night before with members of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, it was his impression that not enough had been done to make clear to the public that the Zionist organizations were not connected with the Committee for a Jewish Army. The letters sent out by Hadassah and the Zionist Organization of America to their key people were not sufficient from this point of view.

It was agreed that a statement be prepared for publication, on behalf of the Emergency Committee, in the New Palestine and other Zionist publications, and possibly the general Jewish press, to the effect that in answer to inquiries that had been received it was desired to make clear that the Zionist bodies were making no appeal for funds in connection with their campaign on behalf of a Jewish military force.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE RELEASES:

Mr. Neumann drew attention to the fact that the official Zionist publications were not always ready to respond to requests for the publication of important Emergency Committee releases; thus - the editor of the New Palestine had not been able to promise him that the "Call to Zionists" would appear in the current number. The Yiddish press was being very cooperative as far as the Emergency Committee was concerned. It had given excellent publicity to the "Call to Zionists."

MR. VAN PAASSEN AND THE JEWISH ARMY COMMITTEE:

Correspondence between Dr. Wise and Mr. Van Paassen on the Jewish Army Committee was reported to the Committee. Mr. Van Paassen had sent a letter to the Jewish Army Committee informing them of his resignation which was stated to be final and irrevocable. It was now learned that Mr. Van Paassen had withdrawn his resignation. It was agreed that the secretary communicate with Mr. Van Paassen with reference to the latter's allegation that the official Zionist bodies had informed Lord Halifax of their opposition to the raising of a Jewish Army.

Mrs. Halprin reported on a conversation that Mr. Ben-Gurion and herself had had with Mr. Streisin.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR. GROSSMAN:

Correspondence with Mr. Grossman regarding his membership on the Committee for a Jewish Army was reported.

It was agreed that the matter be reported to the full committee with a view to its being referred back to the Office Committee for further action.

LETTER FROM MRS. POOL TO AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE:

A revised draft of a letter from Mrs. Pool to Mr. Maurice Wertheim of the American Jewish Committee with reference to the report in the Herald Tribune regarding a Jewish unit in the American army, was read and approved.

PAYMENT OF AUDITOR:

It was agreed that Mr. Zvi Levavy be appointed auditor to the Committee at a fee of \$100.00 for the 1941 audit, and of \$40. per quarterly audit for 1942.

A. Lourie

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN  
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

February 26, 1942

A regular meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Thursday, February 26, 1942 at 41 East 42nd Street,

PRESENT: Judge Levinthal (presiding) Mrs. Epstein, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Shulman; Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Wertheim, Mr. Seld (late).

Mr. Ben-Gurion

Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann

REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH LORD HALIFAX

Judge Levinthal reported on the interview with Lord Halifax in connection with the release of the prisoners of the "Darien" from internment camps at Atlit. The Emergency Committee had been represented by Judge Levinthal, Dr. Goldstein and Mr. Neumann. They had presented a memorandum setting forth the facts in the case. (memorandum attached).

The Ambassador seemed to be impressed with the facts as presented and promised to make a faithful report to his government. He said that he did not fix policy, but that he would communicate with London at once. It had been pointed out that the labor shortage in Palestine should be considered in addition to the humanitarian reasons for releasing the Darien prisoners. Also that 135 prisoners from the Patria had enlisted with the British Army as soon as they were released, and that the first casualty at Tobruk was one of these prisoners. In the course of the conversation, it was indicated by the Zionist representatives that pending a reply from London nothing would be done to give publicity to the matter.

S.S. "STRUMA"

The question of protest action in regard to the S.S. "Struma" which sank off the coast of Istanbul with 750 refugees from pogrom in Rumania, bound for Palestine, was discussed from the following angles: would publicity in this case be regarded as a breach of faith by the British Embassy, inasmuch as in the course of the interview on the "Darien" the delegation had committed itself to withholding publicity critical of the behaviour of the Palestine administration in regard to the refugees. On the other hand American Jewry could hardly be expected to maintain silence in the face of this shocking tragedy. Mr. Neumann said that it had been indicated by the Embassy (in a conversation between Mr. Berlin and Mr. Lourie) that the Embassy would regard an attack on the basis of the "Struma" as a "declaration of war" between them and ourselves and we must be prepared to face this.

Mr. Ben-Gurion emphasized that the Darien and the Struma were identical cases. He felt strongly that any undertaking given the British Ambassador had to be kept and said nothing be done which might be construed as a breach of faith. However, he said, the matter cannot be passed over in silence, not because we are Jews or Zionists but because we are human beings. America, he asserted, must be considered equally guilty with Great Britain, as one of the most powerful of the United Nations. He referred to the forthright statement issued by the Jewish Agency in London and urged that Americans appeal to their own government in the name of common humanity. He urged further that messages be sent to the Prime Minister of



England and to the President of the United States expressing the indignation and horror of Americans that such incidents as the Struma and the Darion could be allowed to happen in the middle of a war being fought for the principles of democracy and freedom.

This recommendation was accepted.

Mr. Ben-Gurion further recommended that a letter be sent to Lord Halifax informing him that since the interview with him, news of the sinking of the Struma had been received. Reference should be made to the statement of the Jewish Agency published in England. Lord Halifax should be told that the feelings of American Jewry are so aroused, that it is imperative that he communicate with His Government immediately urging them to order the release of the prisoners of the Darion.

This recommendation was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Wertheim reported that the Poale Zion was calling a meeting for Sunday and he urged that the Committee should call a meeting under its own auspices.

#### JEWISH ARMY COMMITTEE

The following motion was unanimously carried: that a statement be issued to the press stating that the Emergency Committee has no connection with the "Jewish Army Committee". Also, that it is opposed to the collection of funds for the army campaign. Moreover, the work of the "Jewish Army Committee" does not help, but on the contrary can be very harmful to the cause of the Jewish army.

Judge Levinthal was obliged to leave early and vacated the chair. After a brief adjournment the meeting reassembled under the chairmanship of Mr. Szold.

#### REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON

The Chairman reported on a recent visit to Washington by Mr. Baroway of the PEC. The PEC were interested to assist Palestine Potash in obtaining the services of an expert on the production of magnesium of which there were vast quantities in the waters of the Dead Sea. In present circumstances it was extremely difficult to find such a man. In the course of his inquiries Mr. Baroway had made a number of contacts of interest and importance from the Palestine point of view. In describing some of these Mr. Szold emphasized the urgent need for a man in Washington who should keep in touch with developments which might concern our work in Palestine and in this connection both Mr. Szold and Mr. Neumann recommended that Mr. E. be approached.

#### INTERVIEW WITH SUMNER WELLES

Mr. Neumann reported that he and Dr. Nahum Goldmann when in Washington the previous day had seen Mr. Welles and in the course of their conversation had expressed the desire of Zionists to be of help to the war effort in the Near East. Mr. Welles had thereupon arranged an appointment for Mr. Neumann for the week-end with General Lee, head of the Intelligence Branch of the War Department.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF OFFICE COMMITTEE  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 3, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on March 3, 1942 at 2:30 p.m. at 41 E. 42nd Street.

PRESENT:

Dr. Silver (presiding), Messrs. Biblick, Goldstein, Wertheim; Mesdames Halprin and Pool.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann.

"STRUMA" DISASTER

In accordance with the action of the previous meeting a cable to Prime Minister Churchill of England had been drafted and was submitted for the approval of the Committee. The cable was accepted in substance and authorization was given for sending it, subject to further editing. A similar cable is to be sent to the President of the United States.

It was further decided that as Dr. Silver is leaving for London, it would be well to have his name in addition to that of Dr. Wise signed to the cable. It was agreed that Dr. Silver's name as Chairman of the meeting be included.

Mrs. Halprin requested the opinion of the Committee on the proposal of Hadassah to send a separate cable concerning the children on the Struma who were entitled to Youth Aliyah certificates. The Committee authorized Hadassah to send a separate cable on behalf of its National Youth Aliyah Committee, at its discretion.

With regard to further action, there was a discussion on the desirability of:

1. Holding a large mass meeting, or alternatively a memorial service.
2. Arranging for a formal delegation to call on the Acting Secretary of State to present a memorandum requesting that the United States Government intervene with Great Britain with a view to obtaining a change in policy on the part of the Palestine administration to avoid any repetition of the Struma disaster.

The latter proposal was unanimously accepted.

As regards a meeting, it was resolved that there be no mass meeting in New York, but that an impressive religious service be held - if possible in Temple Emanu-El, and if that could not be secured, in Temple B'nai Jeshurun. In New York the question of a mass meeting should be considered again only after the memorial meeting had taken place. In addition, the leading communities throughout the country are to be informed of the memorial meeting, and requested to hold similar meetings. Reference may be made in the material to be sent out, to the possibility of arranging public meetings if the local communities should so prefer, but without making any recommendation in that connection.

Mr. Neumann was authorized to proceed with the arrangements and program for the memorial meeting.

#### DR. SILVER'S TRIP TO LONDON

It was reported that Dr. Silver is leaving for London on Friday to open the Keren Hayesod campaign there and to represent the Zionist cause in discussion with English political leaders. Dr. Silver said that he would be glad to have any instructions or suggestions. Mrs. Pool suggested :

✓ 1. That Rabbi Silver make every effort to counteract reports made in London by Rabbi Lazaron. ✓

2. That he ascertain what sort of studies are being made in London in regard to Zionist Peace Aims and that he bring back whatever material he could secure.

#### INDEPENDENT JEWISH PRESS SERVICE

Dr. Goldmann reported that he had discussed with Mr. Montor his open letter to Lord Halifax which had appeared in the Independent Jewish Press Service. Mr. Montor had taken the position that he had a right to publish any articles he chose in his personal capacity. Moreover, he pointed out that the Emergency Committee had never taken any interest in the Independent Press Service. It was decided that press releases issued by Mr. Montor allegedly in his personal capacity were to be discussed by the UPA inasmuch as he was employed by them.

The Falcor statement under a London date-line on Viscount Cranborne was discussed. There was good reason to believe that the statement issued here gave a wrong impression of the new Colonial Secretary. Moreover, the telegram had apparently been concocted locally and had not come from London. It was decided that Mr. Ben-Gurion be asked to write a letter to the Falcor Office requesting that items of a political nature be communicated to a responsible officer of the Emergency Committee before publication.

#### DR. GOLDMANN'S REPORT

Dr. Goldmann reported that he and Mr. Neumann had a discussion with the Acting Secretary of State in which the following matters were discussed:

a.) The visit to Lord Halifax on the release of the Darien internees.

b.) The attitude of the United States Government to a Jewish Army. On this point Mr. Welles said that the matter was to be judged on the basis of military rather than political considerations and should be considered with the United States Military authorities before any position is taken.

c.) The capacity of Palestine to absorb the bulk of the post-war Jewish emigration from Europe. Mr. Welles, with all his admiration for what had been achieved in Palestine, expressed his skepticism at the possibility of absorbing there perhaps 5,000,000 refugees. He was informed that the studies of the Institute of Jewish Affairs indicated that there would not be more than one and a half million Jews who would go to Palestine from post-war Europe. The Under-Secretary said that in any event the more Palestine could absorb the better. But he believed that the possibility of other countries should be investigated. A memorandum on the findings of the Institute of Jewish Affairs is to be sent to him.

d.) Pan-Arab Conference. The Under-Secretary said that if any negotiations were being carried on in this direction this government would be informed and he



would / have communicated in that connection with the responsible Zionist authorities. However, at the moment, he did not know of any such negotiations but would inquire.

e) Mr. Welles was informed of the wish of the Zionists to be helpful in any way possible in the war-effort in the Near East, and as an instance, important intelligence work which the Jewish Agency had carried out for the British authorities was mentioned. Mr. Welles was much interested and said he would arrange for Mr. Neumann to see the right people in the War Department.

#### MR. NEUMANN'S REPORT

Mr. Neumann reported on an interview he had with Mr. Bullitt. A separate note has been made on his conversation.

At the instance of Mr. Sumner Welles, Mr. Neumann subsequently saw Colonel Cunningham of the Chief of Staff's office of the Military Intelligence Service who had just returned from West Africa. He found him interested and sympathetic and discussed with him various possibilities for cooperation.

Mr. Neumann further reported that he had met with Mr. Stone, one of the editors of the "Nation" in Washington who had said he would try to have an editorial on the "Struma" in the "Nation" and possibly an article in the "Free World". He may, if he has time, also prepare one of the "Headline Books" for the Public Relations Department.

Mr. Neumann also talked with Pierre Cot who is very sympathetic to the Zionist program.

#### ARAB-JEWISH RELATIONS

Mrs. Pool referred to the fact that some time ago a special Committee on Arab-Jewish Relations had been appointed by the Emergency Committee but it had not been functioning. A Committee to study this problem had been set up by Hadassah under the chairmanship of Mrs. Jacobs. However, Hadassah believed that this was not a function of any one organization but should be undertaken by the Emergency Committee. She reported that Dr. Wise, with whom she had discussed the matter in Florida, agreed with her and she asked that the matter be brought up for discussion at the next meeting.

#### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN SYRIA

Mrs. Halprin reported that the Bikur Cholim in Damascus had asked Hadassah for medical supplies. A recent reply from the British High Command in Syria had informed Hadassah that its generous offer to send medical supplies and personnel to Syria was very much appreciated, but it would be impossible for Jewish doctors from Palestine to secure entry visas to Syria at this time.

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT BY MR. NEUMANN

Mr. Neumann said he had informed Dr. Wise some time ago that he would be unable to continue his work with the Emergency Committee under existing conditions. No action had been taken in regard to his request and he had now to inform the Committee that he would like to be relieved of his duties within a month. The Chairman expressed the keen regret of those present that circumstances should have arisen such as to cause Mr. Neumann to reach the decision of which he had informed the Committee. It was agreed that the sub-committee consisting of Mrs. Halprin, Dr. Goldstein and Dr. Goldmann should meet with Mr. Neumann as soon as possible in order to arrive at some definite proposal for submission to Mr. Neumann and to the Committee.

A.L.



MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE  
FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

March 11, 1942

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Wednesday, March 11th at 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Judge Levinthal (presiding) Madames Malgrin and Pool; Messrs. Publick, Greenberg, Szold, Wertheim, Wise.

Messrs. Ben-Gurion, Goldmann, Neumann, Weisgal

"STRUMA" DELEGATION

Dr. Goldmann reported on an informal meeting which had been held that morning with the representatives of the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Labor Committee to discuss a memorandum to be submitted to the State Department on behalf of the Emergency Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Labor Committee, requesting the government of the United States to use its good offices with the British government to the end that Palestine be opened to Jewish refugees, and a repetition of the "Struma" disaster avoided:

1. There was general agreement on the tenor of the draft memorandum submitted. But the suggestion was made that a letter, which might be published, be prepared, and a memorandum attached.
2. The proposal had been made that the delegation to Mr. Welles be composed of one member of each organization. Dr. Wise and Dr. Goldmann, on behalf of the Emergency Committee objected to this arrangement, and it was agreed that two members of the Emergency Committee, Mr. Wertheim of the American Jewish Committee, a designee each from B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Labor Committee compose the delegation.

After Dr. Goldmann's report there was considerable discussion on the following points:

- a. Representation of all parties on the delegation.
- b. The inclusion, as a matter of principle, of a woman in the delegation.

The opinion was expressed that the composition of each delegation must be considered on its merits - it is not always possible for each party to be represented; sometimes, further, it is important that a woman be part of the delegation, sometimes it is not. In this particular case, the feeling was that a woman should be part of the delegation, not representing Hadassah as a party, but representing American Zionist women. However, the actual designation of the additional member of the Emergency Committee is to be left to Dr. Wise, who is to head the delegation.

Mr. Publick recorded the dissatisfaction of Mikracchi at not being included in the delegation.

MASS MEETING RE "STRUMA"

Mr. Neumann reported the program for the mass meeting in Mecca Temple. The following are the scheduled speakers: Senator Johnson of Colorado, Professor Niebuhr

Mrs. Lowdermilk, Rabbi Heller, Mr. Ben-Gurion and Rabbi Brod of Antwerp. Dr. Wise is to preside. Mr. Neumann said that he had been asked to include a representative of Hadassah and the parties in the program.

Mr. Bublick recorded the protest of Mizrahi that Rabbi Brod had been selected to represent orthodox Jewry without previous consultation with Mizrahi. It was explained to Mr. Bublick that Rabbi Brod had been selected, not as a representative of orthodox Jewry, but as a refugee and recent arrival from Europe.

Dr. Wise pleaded that the Emergency Committee consider urgent political problems and not waste its time considering petty matters concerned with party rivalries.

It was agreed that Mr. Neumann be instructed to proceed with the program of the meeting and to include among the speakers a Zionist woman representative.

Mr. Neumann further reported that:

- a. The sub-committee for contacting clergymen had been set up and was functioning.
- b. Arrangements were being made to have a number of Senators protest against the Struma disaster from the floor of the Senate.
- c. A cable had been sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury asking him, as a Christian clergyman, to protest against the Struma incident.
- d. A memorial meeting in Temple B'nai Jehshua is being arranged for Sunday. Mr. Neumann was authorized to proceed with the arrangements.

#### POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Ben-Gurion said that America was becoming more and more the important factor in this war, and that not only the present, but the future of Palestine was involved in the political action taken now. He did not believe that the present set-up of the political work of the Emergency Committee was satisfactory. Apart from this there were certain instances where political action had been taken where consultation with himself might have been desirable but where he had not even been informed as to what was pending until afterwards. He had cooperated with the Emergency Committee, and he requested that it also cooperate with him, as a member of the Executive. He recommended that a small body be set up for political work, representative of American Zionism as a single unit, without regard to parties, which together with the members of the Zionist Executive, meet and work daily. He suggested that Dr. Wise as chairman of the Emergency Committee, and he, as chairman of the Executive be empowered to appoint a sub-committee to bring in recommendations for the organization of such a political committee. The present lack of coordination within the Emergency Committee, and between the Emergency Committee and the Executive was injurious to Zionist interests.

Mrs. Halgrin recalled the decision to set up a political steering committee, to work with Mr. Ben-Gurion but said that this would not be adequate for the work that had to be done. She supported Mr. Ben-Gurion's suggestion for an active political committee.

It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman of the Emergency Committee and the Chairman of the Executive be authorized to appoint a sub-committee and bring back recommendations for the setting up of a political committee to direct all political work.

#### CHAIRMAN OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE

The suggestion was made that the election of a Chairman of the Office Committee and the personnel of the political committee be left until the arrival of Dr. Weizmann. However, the consensus of opinion was that to bring Dr. Weizmann into a discussion of personnel would be a great disservice to him and that it would be well to have this matter settled so that he could work with a fully organized committee when he came.

Judge Levinthal was unanimously elected as chairman of the Office Committee.

The question of electing someone to serve in his absence was tabled.

#### DR. WEIZMANN'S VISIT

It was agreed that at the end of April a three day conference of all American Zionists be called to discuss purely political matters with Dr. Weizmann. In connection with this conference, there is to be a dinner, as proposed by the ZOA Administrative meeting. Zionists from Canada, Mexico and South America are also to be invited.

The Chairman was empowered to appoint a committee to bring in specific recommendations for arrangements and plans for the conference and dinner.

#### MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Office Committee be held on Friday, March 13 at 1:30.

A.L.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF OFFICE COMMITTEE

AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Friday, March 13, 1942

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Friday, March 13, 1942 at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dr. Wise (presiding), Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Pool; Mr. Dublick, Dr. Goldstein  
Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Szold.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, Dr. Goldmann; Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weissgal.

## MEETING AT MECCA TEMPLE

There was general discussion on the meeting which had been held the night before in Mecca Temple in connection with the sinking of the Struma.

It was noted that no newspaper had published a news item on the meeting, and it was agreed that Mr. Neumann's department should try to ascertain the reason for the boycotting of the meeting by the entire metropolitan press, though reporters had attended the meeting. Mrs. Halprin stated that the fact that the meeting was only moderately well attended despite very considerable advertising contradicted the statements made by various members of the committee that the "Judische Gass" is clamoring for mass meetings; in any case too many such meetings had been held in the past months for effectiveness. Mr. Lipsky and Dr. Wertheim pointed to the successful meeting organized by the Poale Zion a few days after the disaster, as indicating <sup>that</sup> the delay in holding the Necca Temple meeting had dissipated to some extent the spontaneous desire of many people for an immediate public reaction.

Mr. Neumann reported that editorials on the sinking of the "Struma" had appeared in the New York Times and in the "Nation."

## ZIONIST CONFERENCE

- Mr. Weitzel reported the receipt of the following letter from Judge Levinthal.

"Ear Meyer,

Subject to the approval of the Office Committee of the Emergency, I should like to ask you to take charge of the administrative work in connection with the proposed convening of a three-day Conference of Zionists of America to be held some time in April after the arrival of Dr. Chaim Weizmann.

In connection with this Conference, it is proposed to have a function in honor of Dr. Weizmann under the auspices of the Zionist Organization of America. It is desired that the latter function be<sup>985</sup> culminating event in connection with the All-Zionist Conference.

A Policy Committee will be appointed that will cooperate with you in the arrangement of this Conference.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Louis E. Levinthal



There was some discussion as to the procedure adopted by Judge Levinthal. It was pointed out that Judge Levinthal had written the letter just before he had left for a tour of the country on behalf of the ZOA and had not had time to bring the matter personally before the meeting as he would otherwise have done. Mr. Neumann took exception to the procedure on the ground that Mr. Weisgal had been delegated to arrange a conference which properly belonged under the Public Relations department without previous consultation with or approval of the Committee. He said that such methods could lead only to organizational confusion.

It was emphasized that Judge Levinthal had not appointed Mr. Weisgal to arrange the Conference, but had suggested it, "subject to the approval" of the Office Committee. Mr. Weisgal said, further, that he did not seek this job, but had been pressed for several weeks to undertake the arrangement for a dinner to be given to Dr. Weizmann and he had refused to undertake this unless he at the same time had complete charge of the arrangements for the conference, with which the function for Dr. Weizmann was to be associated. He said that if the Office Committee endorsed Judge Levinthal's recommendation, he would be glad to serve provided it were understood that he be in complete charge of all arrangements, and that any committee which might be appointed be considered a policy committee only, and not a working committee.

After considerable discussion, the Office Committee authorized Mr. Weisgal to take charge of a three-day Zionist Conference and dinner to Dr. Weizmann. It was further agreed that a committee consisting of one representative of each of the four organizations be appointed to lay down the policy of the Conference.

There was further discussion on the question of the dinner to Dr. Weizmann, as to whether it should be held under the auspices of the ZOA or under the auspices of the Emergency Committee which is to call the Conference. Mr. Szold pointed out that the ZOA Executive committee had already decided to give a dinner to Dr. Weizmann at which it was hoped to raise a considerable amount of money. He believed that no change should be made in these plans without consultation with Judge Levinthal.

Mr. Bublick, Mrs. Pool and Mr. Wertheim all expressed themselves as having no objection to the dinner being held in connection with the needs of the ZOA, provided the Conference were called under the auspices of the Emergency Committee, as representing all Zionist parties.

The following decisions were made:

1. A three-day conference of Zionists of America is to be held some time at the end of April primarily to discuss political problems with Dr. Weizmann. The conference shall be called "Conference of the Zionist Organizations of the United States". Members from Canada, Mexico, etc. are to be invited.
2. It shall be called under the auspices of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.
3. In connection with the Conference a banquet to Dr. Weizmann shall be arranged under the auspices of the ZOA.
4. Mr. Weisgal was authorized to secure Dr. Weizmann's consent to these suggestions by cable.

MR. NEUMANN

It was recalled that some time ago the praesidium of the Office Committee had been requested to discuss the matter of adjusting Mr. Neumann's salary. In view of the fact that this committee had neglected to bring in a recommendation, the committee recently appointed to consider the status of Mr. Neumann, now recommended that he be given \$1,000 which shall be deemed to cover the adjustment for the last 12 months. This recommendation was ~~was~~ accepted. It was understood that this adjustment does not affect any future arrangements for Mr. Neumann's salary.

ARAB-JEWISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Pool proposed that the Arab-Jewish Relations Committee of Hadassah should properly be a committee of the Emergency Committee, which should take over responsibility for it.

Dr. Goldmann said that he would be in favor of such a committee of the Emergency Committee, but wanted the personnel and the terms of reference defined.

Mrs. Pool said that the committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Jacobs, included in its membership Professor Salo Baron and Prof. Oscar Janowsky; Dr. I.B. Berkson, Dr. Halkin, Dr. Schloessinger; Mrs. Pool, Mrs. D. Greenberg, Mrs. Halprin and Mrs. Rosensohn. Thus far the terms of reference had been:

1. The collection of all available material on the subject in America and Palestine, and
2. the analysis of the various relevant documents.

Miss Letta Levensohn had been engaged in Palestine to secure material and Mr. Moshe Perlman had been engaged to do research work in New York. The budget allotted was \$4,000 annually, but this was not sufficient to cover the needs of the committee.

It was unanimously agreed that a committee consisting of Mr. Ben-Gurion, Mrs. Halprin and Dr. Goldmann discuss the terms of reference with Mrs. Jacobs, the chairman of the Arab-Jewish Relations Committee of Hadassah.

It was further understood that if this committee should come under the aegis of the Emergency Committee, nothing that has been done heretofore by the committee shall be considered binding upon the Emergency Committee, so far as the Emergency Committee is concerned, the sub-committee on Arab-Jewish Relations would in effect begin de novo. In addition, it was agreed that no public statement of any kind be issued by the Arab-Jewish Relations Committee without the approval of the Emergency Committee.

Mrs. Pool was asked to request her Board to continue the \$4,000 subsidy allocated for the Arab-Jewish Relations Committee, in the event that it be taken over by the Emergency Committee.

ECONOMIC ADVISER IN WASHINGTON

Mr. Szold moved that authority be given to employ Mr. Rehaviah Lewin-Epstein for economic work in Washington and New York for six months at a salary which should be on the basis of \$100 per week, if he were in New York. This does

not preclude the possibility that Mr. Lewin-Epstein be used also for political work, but Mr. Levin-Epstein is to be retained primarily for economic work, and securing information from Washington to be used by us.

Mr. Neumann said he had hoped that Mr. Lewin-Epstein might at any rate for the time being serve as a general representative of the Committee in Washington on all matters, since such a person had not yet been engaged.

Mr. Szold said that he wanted it thoroughly understood that the appointment of Mr. Lewin-Epstein for economic work in Washington in no way superseded or conflicted with the necessity for having a man there for public relations and political work.

The Committee authorized the employment of Mr. Lewin-Epstein on the basis outlined.

The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday, March 18 at 4:30.

Arthur Lourie.





Louis E. Levinthal  
606 City Hall  
Philadelphia

March 13, 1942

His Excellency  
His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Viscount Halifax,  
The British Embassy  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Lord Halifax:

In acknowledging receipt of your letter of March 4th, I wish to thank you for cabling to London concerning the release of the "Darien" refugees. We are sincerely grateful to you also for your personal expression of sympathy for the victims of the "Struma" disaster.

We are keenly aware of the importance of the point made in the concluding phrases of your letter. In the present struggle with the Nazis it is indeed of vital concern that no rift should be allowed to develop among the forces aligned against them. I can assure you further that as Jews we are all deeply anxious to make a maximum contribution to the joint effort. That was true no less of the men and women on the "Struma" who had hoped not only to find in Palestine a refuge, but also the opportunity to play their part in the struggle against their oppressors. One hundred and fifty survivors of the ill-starred "Patria" are at this moment fighting as soldiers against the Nazis. May I say, however, that insofar as your letter failed to indicate any appreciation of the reasons for the Jewish reaction, it was deeply painful to me?

Suppose that English men, women and children, fortunately escaping from the Japanese atrocities at Hong Kong (and I can assure you that the massacres in Bucharest, in Jassy, in the Bucovina and in Bessarabia were no whit less terrible) were after weeks of perilous travel to have arrived at last, at the end of their resources, in the Dutch East Indies, only to be turned away to certain death because they had not complied with the immigration formalities - would not the whole British world have cried out in horror and in anger? And for the "Struma" refugees, Palestine was not just Java; it was the oneland to which, in their innocence, they hoped they could go as of right.

That is why men like Dr. Weizmann, like the heads of the Zionist Executive in Jerusalem, like the leaders of the movement here, who have time and again shown their admiration for and, indeed devotion to Britain, reacted with such bitterness to the action of the Palestine Administration and of the Colonial Office in refusing entry to the "Struma" refugees.

Obviously, the primary responsibility for the fate of the refugees lies with the Nazis. In the resolution of the Administrative Council of the Zionist Organization of America, at its meeting in Philadelphia on March 8th, a copy of which I enclose, that point is emphasized. The fact remains, however, that but for the attitude of the Palestine Administration these people might still be alive; and if indignation against the British authorities is high, it is because Britain - which is dedicated in the fight for a better world to the wiping out of Nazi tyranny - cannot be measured by the same standards as that tyranny itself.

We American Zionists certainly realize that confidence in the British Government is essential to the morale of the American people in the war in which we are engaged as allies. But we cannot ignore the fact that the task of maintaining that confidence and of inspiring faith in the oldest democratic country in Europe must be founded in the first place on the action of the British Government itself.

With renewed assurance of my personal esteem, I am,

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) Louis E. Levinthal



MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 18, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Wednesday afternoon, March 18 at 4:30 at 41 E. 42nd St.

PRESENT: Dr. Wise (presiding), Messrs. Bablick, Greenberg, Goldstein, Lipsky, Wertheim; Mesdames Halprin and Stulman.

Messrs. Ben-Gurion, Goldmann; Lourie, Neumann, Weisgal.

JEWISH ARMY

Mr. Neumann reported that pursuant to the statement in opposition to a Jewish Army issued by 57 reform rabbis he had secured a contrary statement from Rabbi James Heller, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; he had also circularized 1,000 rabbis, 300 of whom had already responded indicating their endorsement of the Jewish Army. It was agreed that announcement of the support of these rabbis be given publicity through paid advertising space in the New York Times on Friday morning and in the New York Herald-Tribune the following Monday. The names of all rabbis endorsing the Jewish Army are to appear in the advertisement. The advertisements should be of the same size as those on the "Struma" meeting.

REFUGEE ALLOWANCES

It was agreed that the \$1300 originally allocated for the transportation of refugees and refunded by Thomas Cook & Son should be used as part of a fund for monthly allowances to general Zionist refugees in this country.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF MR. NEUMANN

Mrs. Halprin reported the following:

a) An adjustment in Mr. Neumann's salary for the past year had been made by the Office Committee at a previous meeting and that matter was closed.

b) Mr. Neumann's salary henceforth should be at the rate of \$8,000 per year.

c) As regards Mr. Neumann's status in the committee, the question had arisen as to whether Mr. Neumann should be appointed director of the Committee. Mrs. Halprin drew the distinction between the control of policy which would include the planning of program and which should be in the hands of a political committee, and the Public Relations work which was in fact the biggest job which the committee had to face. For this latter work Mr. Neumann was uniquely qualified and the recommendation of the committee was that he should continue as director of Public Relations. Naturally there were points at which political action and public relations overlapped and these questions would be adjusted in consultation.

Mr. Neumann stated that as he understood it, the sub-committee had not reached any clear decision and was not in a position to make a definite recommendation. Thus, one suggestion had been that he should be Executive Director; a second that he be jointly responsible with Dr. Goldmann for carrying out political action decided on by the Committee. Dr. Goldstein also stated that in his view there had been no clear decision on the part of the sub-committee.

Dr. Goldmann stated that at its meeting on March 11, the Office Committee had decided that the Chairman of the Office Committee and the Chairman of the Zionist Executive should together make recommendations to the Office Committee for the setting up of a political committee. In the light of that action of the Office Committee the whole situation had to be viewed differently. Mrs. Halprin agreed and stated that she had pointed out at the last meeting of the sub-committee on Mr. Neumann's status that the setting up of a special political committee put the matter on a different plane. Mr. Neumann should be urged to continue in charge of Public Relations. Referring to Dr. Goldstein's statement, Mrs. Halprin said that the sub-committee had in any case been against the appointment of Mr. Neumann as Executive Director.

Mr. Neumann said that there were three separate questions involved:

- a) Public Relations
- b) Political work
- c) General Executive Direction of the work of the Committee.

Mr. Neumann said that when he had first come to the Emergency Committee he had thought that Dr. Goldmann would be the Executive in charge of the office. In fact, however, there was no Executive Director responsible for carrying out the instructions and action of the Office Committee. The result was that the work of the Committee was not organized rationally and that there were a series of irritations, deficiencies and delays. He said that even if he were to agree that his work should be confined solely to Public Relations, the situation existing because of a lack of an Executive Director would still have to be remedied. Moreover, he did not know where to draw the line between Political work and public relations work. For example, at the moment he was trying to get members of the Senate to speak from the floor on the Struma disaster. This was definitely Public Relations work but it was also Political work.

However, all of these problems might be ironed out, but something else had come up which altered the situation radically. The Chairman of the Office Committee, supported by the Office Committee, had appointed Mr. Weisgal to organize the three day conference of American Zionists without previous consultation with the Director of the Public Relations department. This conference was definitely a public relations enterprise and the Chairman of the Office Committee had simply chosen to take the matter out of the hands of the Public Relations Dept. without regard to his own position. As a matter of fact, Mr. Neumann said that in informal talks with Mr. Weisgal it had become immediately apparent that the organizing of the conference was closely linked up with the work and plans of the Public Relations Committee.

Mr. Neumann further pointed out that in limiting his activity to Public Relations work solely he would be doing what he was not completely qualified to do in the sense in which the Committee understood it. He said that he was not a press agent; he was not good at organizing large meetings and that these activities were not in his sphere.

He would therefore like to request the Emergency Committee to make arrangements to find a suitable person to take his place and have him relieved of his duties at the earliest possible moment. He said that in the light of these circumstances the matter of his salary became irrelevant.

Mrs. Halprin said she believed that Mr. Neumann's position on the question of the arrangements for the conference and dinner was correct. She said that organizationally it was not right that the organization of this conference be taken out of the jurisdiction of the Public Relations Department and she

recalled that at the previous meeting when the matter was up for discussion many of the members of the Office Committee had expressed this point of view. Mr. Neumann's statement, therefore, that his attitude had been completely disregarded, must be read in the light of that fact.

Dr. Wise pointed out that in view of Mr. Weisgal's special relation to Dr. Weizmann for whom the conference and dinner were being arranged, it was not illogical that he should be asked to be in charge of these special functions. He did not believe that either Judge Levinthal or the Office Committee meant that Mr. Weisgal would not work in close cooperation with Mr. Neumann and his department.

Mr. Weisgal said that he wished to repeat what he had previously said on this subject: He had neither sought nor did he now seek the job and if his withdrawal would in any way help in arranging matters with Mr. Neumann or would help the Zionist cause, he would be glad to withdraw.

A discussion followed on the question of Mr. Neumann's position as Director of Public Relations, in the course of which the distinction was drawn between Public Relations as a service agency for political action, and control of the political policy of an organization.

Mr. Neumann at this point asked to have it made clear that he had never suggested that he be given control of the political work of the Emergency Committee. However, he asked the Emergency Committee to give serious consideration to the organization and administration of the actual work which had to be done. He said that quite apart from personal considerations the Emergency Committee should plan how it would function from the point of view of the executive and administrative aspects of its work. The only sound procedure he thought he was to have an Executive Director whose task it would be to see that the instructions of the political committee are carried out.

Mr. Ben-Gurion said that he thought the issue was being confused. Inasmuch as he and Dr. Wise had been authorized to bring in recommendations for a Political Committee and these recommendations had not yet been brought in, he could not see that the discussion of Mr. Neumann's status on political matters was before the Committee.

Dr. Goldmann urged that the eternal discussion of whether or not there should be an Executive Director be discontinued. The discussion was being burdened by too many side issues. He felt that the question of Mr. Weisgal's appointment to organize the conference and dinner was not relevant inasmuch as it could easily be arranged that he work in close cooperation with Mr. Neumann. It was impossible for Zionist organizations, because of the nature of their problems and personnel always to function according to a blueprint. He said that this was a time to be completely frank. It was his understanding that the question was whether or not Mr. Neumann should become Executive Director of the Emergency Committee. He would consider Mr. Neumann's resignation a deplorable loss, and would urge Mr. Neumann not to press the question of appointment as Executive Director but to continue as Director of Public Relations.

Mr. Neumann said that he would not consider appointment as Executive Director. Dr. Goldmann said that if this was so then there was nothing further to discuss.

Mr. Wertheim urged that the discussion be postponed until Mr. Ben-Gurion and Dr. Wise had brought in their recommendations for the setting up of a Political Committee and he further urged that Mr. Neumann retain his position as Director of



Public Relations. At this point, Dr. Wise left and Mr. Lipsky took the chair.

Dr. Goldstein urged that the matter be postponed until the return of the Chairman of the Office Committee.

Mr. Wertheim said that in principle he did not agree in postponing any action until the return of the Chairman inasmuch as he might frequently be absent and the work of the Committee had to continue.

Mr. Neumann said that he had hoped to turn over all his pending activities to Mr. Lourie who might then take over, as soon as possible.

Mr. Lourie said that he did not want to leave either Mr. Neumann or the Office Committee with the impression that if Mr. Neumann did this he would take over his work. He said that at the least he would urge Mr. Neumann to continue for another few months until a new man was found. He himself could not fill the gap.

Mrs. Halprin said that if Mr. Neumann felt the lack of an Executive Director to be so deplorable, certainly the lack of a Public Relations Director would be even more deplorable. Moreover, she said that if the lack of an Executive Director was the reason for his leaving surely that was as much the responsibility of the Office Committee as of Mr. Neumann.

Mr. Neumann reiterated that he had never asked or proposed that he be made Political Director of the Emergency Committee and that he would have been willing to work under a competent and qualified Executive Director. He asked to have recorded that he disclaimed responsibility for the inactivity of the Emergency Committee with which he had been charged by Zionists throughout the country.

Dr. Goldmann pointed out that the inactivity or shortcomings of the Emergency Committee could certainly not be blamed on Mr. Neumann. He made the following proposal: That the officers of the Emergency Committee and the Chairman of the Public Relations Committee should again take up the question with Mr. Neumann.

A motion that the matter of the resignation of Mr. Neumann be referred for further consideration to a Committee as proposed by Dr. Goldmann was unanimously carried.

Dr. Goldstein informed the Committee that as a representative of the ZOA he would refer the whole question of Mr. Neumann as Executive Director or Director of Public Relations to the ZOA Executive.

#### FRENCH PALESTINE COMMITTEE

Dr. Goldmann reported on a letter which he had received from Justin Godart formerly a leading member of the French Senate and head of the French Palestine Committee, requesting a subsidy for the continuation of pro-Zionist work in France. After discussion it was agreed that a grant of \$600 per annum be made for this work.

#### ADDENDUM TO MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12 - re: Pension to Mrs. Jabotinsky -

Mrs. Pool said that she was ready to recommend to the National Board of Hadassah that a grant for the needs of Mrs. Jabotinsky be made out of the Shekel monies payable by Hadassah to the Executive in Jerusalem.

A. Lourie.



MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Monday, March 23, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Monday, March 23, at 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT : Dr. Wise, (presiding); Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Wertheim, Mrs. Halprin, Mrs. Pool.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, Dr. Goldmann; Mr. Lourie, Dr. Petegorsky, Mr. Schulson, Mr. Weisgal.

ACTION ON STATEMENT OF REFORM RABBIS IN RE JEWISH ARMY

Mrs. Pool asked to have recorded Hadassah's displeasure and distress that the statement of the reform Rabbis in support of a Jewish Army was publicized in the form of a paid advertisement. She also recalled that Hadassah had requested that its name never be used without previous consultation.

Mrs. Halprin pointed out that she had attended the meeting at which the decision to publish the ad had been made, but had arrived late. However, no one had mentioned the matter to her and she had known nothing about it until the next day.

The chairman suggested that a brief review of all decisions be made before the end of each meeting, so that all those present might be informed of action taken.

CONFERENCE AND DINNER TO DR. WEIZMANN

Dr. Goldmann reported the meeting of the sub-committee on the Zionist Conference to be held with Dr. Weizmann:

1. It had been proposed that the meeting be held in Atlantic City.
2. It was agreed that representation to the Conference be as follows:  
Hadassah- 75; ZOA - 75; Poale Zion- 45; Mizrahi- 35.
3. The Poale Zion and Mizrahi members of the sub-committee had taken strong objection to the ZOA tendering a dinner under its auspices alone, as part of a Conference called by the Emergency Committee.

Considerable discussion followed Dr. Goldmann's report. Mrs. Pool reiterated, on behalf of Hadassah, that if the ZOA could be helped to wipe out its deficit through the dinner, then Hadassah had no objection.

Mr. Wertheim stated that people will come from all over the country for a Conference which would be a symbol of unity. A ZOA sponsored dinner as part of such a Conference would not be in consonance with the spirit of unity.

Mr. Schulson reported the discussion at the ZOA executive committee meeting as follows: It was decided to hold the dinner in abeyance until Dr. Weizmann's arrival when the matter will be discussed with him. The Conference should be held over until the end of June.

Mr. Weisgal said that March 13 the Office Committee had decided to have a Conference and dinner, which he was to arrange. In accordance with this decision Judge Levinthal and he had sent a detailed cable to Dr. Weizmann asking his approval of these plans to which a reply had already been received indicating Dr. Weizmann's acceptance of all these plans. The Emergency Committee,

Mr. Weisgal stated, should deal with the situation in the light of these facts and not be influenced in its decision by extraneous issues.

Mrs. Halprin said that if the dinner under the auspices of the ZOA were to be a fund-raising function, Hadassah would insist that matters be first cleared up so far as the UJA is concerned.

After some further discussion the following motion was unanimously approved: To continue preparations for an extraordinary Zionist Conference under the auspices of the Emergency Committee to be held at the earliest possible moment consonant with the wishes of Dr. Weizmann.

Mr. Ben-Durion said that American entry into the war had created new and urgent problems for us. Either the proposed conference was important or it was not. If it was important that such a conference be held, he failed to understand that the ZOA should wish to postpone it because of a fund-raising dinner. Palestine was in grave danger and our efforts to do anything to help might be too late. There are not four Palestines - one for Hadassah, one for ZOA, one for Mizrachi and one for Poale Zion. There is only one Palestine and our first responsibility was as Zionists and not to party interests.

The chairman requested Mr. Schulson to communicate to Judge Levinthal the substance of the views expressed and said that he himself would write to him, so that he would appreciate the advisability of holding the Conference at the earliest possible moment.

There was some further discussion on arrangements for the Conference. It was agreed that Mr. Weisgal arrange the Conference, under the direction of a sub-committee of the Office Committee and with the understanding that the financial arrangements are to be in charge of the regular officers of the Emergency Committee.

The opinion was expressed that the conference should be held in New York. Dr. Wise and Mrs. Pool expressed disapproval of the Waldorf-Astoria as the meeting place for the Conference.

Later in the meeting Mr. D'zold telephoned to say that he had received a telegram from Judge Levinthal stating that in his view Mr. Weisgal would be the most suitable person to arrange the dinner.

#### RED CROSS

Mrs. Pool reported that Hadassah had made an appointment with Mr. Norman Davis, head of the Red Cross, to discuss with him the proposal to make available to the army Hadassah's hospital facilities in Palestine with the possibility that some parallel arrangements might be made with the Red Cross.

#### POLITICAL COMMITTEE

With reference to the proposal for the setting up of a political committee, it was reported that it had been very strongly felt by the National Board of Hadassah that its President must be a member of such a committee.

RESIGNATION OF DR. PETEGORSKY

Dr. Wise invited Dr. Petegorsky to make a statement to the Committee on the reasons for his resignation. Dr. Petegorsky said he had come to the Committee ten weeks ago after resigning a position on the staff of Antioch College. He had taken this step with some reluctance but he felt that this was a critical moment in world affairs and that it was his duty as a Jew to accept the offer that had been made to him. Dr. Petegorsky proceeded to criticize the functioning of the Committee on the ground of inefficiency and of irresponsibility on the part of people who should be responsible. Decisions would be taken and then revoked on inadequate grounds. The Committee concerned itself too much with details. Its concepts of the functions which it should perform seemed to him inadequate. There was further a lack of information and research. In the circumstances he felt that his energies could be used to better purpose in other fields. At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Petegorsky added that he would be glad to draw up a memorandum indicating what in his view was required to produce more effective action on the part of the Committee.

A. Lourie.



Mizrachi Organization of America  
1153 Broadway  
New York, N. Y.

March 12th, 1942

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Chairman  
Emergency Comm. for Zionist Affairs  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York City

Dear Dr. Wise:

It was with immeasurable disappointment that our Administrative Committee learned that the Mizrachi Organization of America received only one place on the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee while the Peale Zion have received an additional place, though it was done under a different label.

It is the unanimous opinion of our administration that such action cannot possibly be accepted by organization, since it reduces us unjustifiably to a position of least significance.

We have always been of the opinion that the Emergency Committee should, indeed, give equal representation to all Zionist groups, being, as it is, a body which does not seek to rule by majority vote, nor does it want to impose its will on minorities. It is rather an agency for the expression of the united will as well as a medium for the united action of the sum totality of organized Zionist opinion. If, however, it has been decided to have major and minor groups, we finally consented to such procedure.

It is, however, we repeat, most unwarranted to advance the representation of one of the so-called minor affiliates of the Emergency Committee and leave our position in status quo. If, for the sake of expediency, it was found more practical to add several members to the list of "virilists" we cannot and shall not yield to the apparent supposition of the Emergency Committee that we have no individual or individuals who can qualify for this category, although we are generally confused as to what makes one a "virilist" in so far as the Emergency Committee is concerned.

We definitely do feel and are utterly convinced that we have a number of individuals who are most representative of Zionism in general and religious Zionism in particular and are considered simultaneously the spokesmen of orthodox Jewry in this country.

It is painful to say it, but we must state most clearly that we cannot and shall not accept the status which you have assigned us and we shall be forced to take action should the situation remain unchanged in regard to our representation, something which we hope will become unnecessary by your proper reconsideration and adjustment of the matter.

With assurance of our deep appreciation for your indulgence and consideration, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Max Kirschblum  
Executive Secretary

mk/rfp



MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

April 7, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Tuesday, April 7 at 1'30 p.m.

PRESENT: Dr. Wise (presiding), Mr. Bublick, Mr. Gellman, Mr. Greenberg;  
Judge Levinthal, Mrs. Shulman, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim;

Mr. Ben-Gurion, Dr. Goldmann; Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weisgal.

CONFERENCE

Mr. Weisgal, in submitting a tentative program for the forthcoming conference reported that the UPA had planned a Conference of the National Council in New York on May third in New York, which would culminate with a dinner in honor of Rabbi Silver. He thought this would seriously interfere with the plans for the Zionist Conference and therefore conferred with Mr. Montor with a view to working out a mutually satisfactory arrangement. Mr. Montor had agreed to a tentative proposal which was made subject to the approval of the Office Committee, to cancel the UPA function if the Sunday afternoon of the Zionist Conference would be devoted to the UPA Council and the dinner to Dr. Weizmann presided over by Dr. Silver.

The Office Committee unanimously agreed that this be done.

Mr. Weisgal then submitted a draft program for the Conference. Considerable discussion followed his presentation.

Mr. Szold said that the program as submitted was quite contrary to his conception of a working Conference, which he had understood to be the nature of the proposed Conference. He thought Mr. Weisgal's program would prevent, rather than encourage, serious consideration of pressing Zionist problems.

In reply to Mr. Szold's criticism, Mr. Weisgal pointed out that no conference does real thinking, except as a result of previous plans and forethought. He believed that his program was a synthesis of the wishes previously expressed by the Office Committee, that the Conference be designed both for internal working out of Zionist problems, as well as with a view to impressing general public opinion.

Mr. Ben-Gurion said that while he thought Mr. Szold unduly critical of the program, he believed that much thinking had to be done before the Conference. He pointed out some omissions from the Program:

1. How to make American Zionism a more effective force.
2. How to achieve internal unity and to secure the interest of American Jewry for Palestine.
3. Hebrew education and culture
4. Women did not have a large enough place on the program.

He suggested specifically that sub-committees be set up immediately to study the problems to be presented at the Conference. He recommended that there be three such sub-committees to study:

- A) Political problems of Zionism - i.e. relations with Mandatory Power, Arab-Jewish relations, Jewish Army etc.
- B) Political action in America
- C) How to strengthen Zionism in America- Internal unity, Zionist education: the conquest of American Jewry for the Zionist idea.

He said that if we were clear on precisely what we want to do, we have a chance for success, and the success of the Conference depends on what we do between now and then.

Mr. Gellman said that he agreed entirely with Mr. Szold. He believed that Mr. Weisgal's program was another ZOA Convention and left no room for discussion from the floor by the delegates. He also protested that Mizrahi had no place on the program.

Mr. Neumann said that he had the impression from Mr. Weisgal's program that he had started with persons, rather than with the problems. He did not believe that such a program was conducive to real thinking and constructive action. He pointed out that in his opinion there were two omissions; namely, Zionist political action on the American scene and a report of the work of the Emergency Committee for the past two and a half years.

Mrs. Shulman said she found the program stimulating and in line with her conception of what the program should be.

Mr. Szold suggested that the first three days be eliminated - the Friday night service, Oneg Shabbat, etc. He proposed that after the necessary introductory speeches, commissions be set up to work for two days and then bring in their reports. He believed that we had to choose between a working conference and one designed for publicity purposes - he did not believe that trying to serve both purposes would serve either.

Mr. Wertheim believed that a program could be worked out to serve both purposes. He supported Mr. Gellman's demand that Mizrahi be represented on the program in a unified Zionist Conference.

Various other suggestions were made and it was finally agreed to refer them to the standing Conference Committee which should endeavor to redraft the program in line with the criticisms expressed. It was further agreed that the standing Committee set up the three sub-committees as outlined by Mr. Ben-Gurion. These committees shall, from time to time, report to the Office Committee.

#### Conference

It was further agreed that the / Committee be authorized to spend a maximum of \$3,000 for the Conference. Should some unforeseen emergency involve additional expenditures, this would have to be authorized by the Office Committee.

#### AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE DINNER

The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Neumann pointing out that a dinner of the American Palestine Committee was scheduled for some time late in April or early in May. In view of the resignation of Mr. Petagorsky, his assistant, and his own forthcoming departure, he urged that some provision be made for arranging this dinner. He recommended that, if Judge Levinthal approved, Mr. Schulson and Mr. Shetzer of the Washington Office be asked to take charge of this dinner.

Judge Levinthal said he had no objections and it was decided that Mr. Schulson and Mr. Shetzer be requested to undertake the arrangements for the dinner, and to consult with Mr. Weisgal on the date. A maximum expenditure of \$600.00 was authorized.

Mr. Neumann reported that Mr. Josephus Daniels would write the introduction to Professor Hanna's book on Palestine and that various revisions which had been proposed to the author had been accepted by him (see previous minutes). The question of whether the Emergency Committee was to take a number of books at a reduced price was referred to Mr. Szold and Mr. Neumann.

Mr. Neumann further reported a plan for a research project on the agricultural absorptive capacity of Palestine. It was agreed that a sum be allocated to cover the expenses of this project after Mr. Szold and Mr. Brodie had looked into the matter.

#### MIZRACHI

A letter from Mizrachi was circulated requesting that since the Poale Zion had, in effect, two members on the Office Committee, they also be represented by two members. It was pointed out in reply that Mr. Greenberg was a member of the Office Committee in his individual capacity and not as a representative of the Poale Zion.

It was further pointed out that inasmuch as the question of representation on the Office Committee had been decided by the full Emergency Committee, any change would have to be referred to the full Committee. Mr. Gellman was requested that the Mizrachi take no action in the matter, until it had been discussed by a full meeting of the Emergency Committee, at the earliest possible opportunity.

#### YOUTH CONFERENCE

A request from the National Council of Zionist Youth Organizations for a sum of \$500 to be used in connection with a proposed youth conference was reported. It was decided to postpone consideration of this question, until each of the constituent organizations had considered the matter.

#### BUDGET

The treasurer reported that there was a sum of \$2,600 on hand and that \$62,000 were still due for the year 1941-42.

#### NEXT MEETING

It was decided to hold <sup>the</sup> /next meeting of the Office Committee on Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30.

A. Lourie

STRICTLY  
CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT BY DR. WEIZMANN  
TO THE OFFICE COMMITTEE

Friday, April 17, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee was held on Friday, April 17 in order to hear the report of Dr. Weizmann. The following were present:

Dr. Wise, presiding; Messrs. Lipsky, Greenberg, Goldstein, Wertheim, Mesdames Epstein, Jacobs, Pool, Schoolman.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, Dr. Goldmann, Messrs. Lourie, Neumann, Weisgal, Shetzer, Montor, Goldberg, Israeli.

Apologies were received from Judge Levinthal and Mr. Szold.

DR. WEIZMANN'S REPORT

Dr. Weizmann opened his remarks by saying how happy he was to be amongst his American friends again, and to take this opportunity of expressing his gratitude for the sympathy extended to him in his distress as well as for the extraordinary efforts exerted on his behalf to take him and Mrs. Weizmann out of the "galuth of Lisbon."

He also wished to express the gratitude of the British Zionists for having sent Dr. Silver to them. He believed Dr. Silver's visit was extremely useful from both sides - for him to see in England Zionists continuing their Zionist work in the face of all difficulties, and for them to see a friend from America - which is not as yet in such dire circumstances as England. Dr. Weizmann went on to say that Dr. Silver's trip was a signal success - he was brilliant in his speeches - simple, impressive and carrying deep conviction to very fastidious and critical audiences. Although Dr. Silver went through a terrific grind - travelling in England today was achieved under conditions of inconvenience - he did not hesitate. He had found ruined cities but he did not find ruined Jewish communities. The Keren Hayesod campaign was a great success - \$100,000 was being sought and it would no doubt be raised. Dr. Weizmann expressed the hope that it would be possible to arrange for such visits by other American Zionist leaders.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

Dr. Weizmann then went on to a general report. The year that passed was one of complete frustration - whatever was attacked, whatever energy and skill was expended in order to carry something through to a conclusion - in the end became Dead Sea fruit. There was only one melancholy comfort in all that - Britain had handled its own affairs, its imperial affairs, so badly it would have been surprising had ours prospered; when we see them cutting into their own flesh every day, we cannot expect much understanding from them for affairs which may appear to them to be outside their own compass. However, Dr. Weizmann went on, the hope was not dimmed, nor our expectations or confidence diminished in our destiny through the temporary setbacks thus suffered.

Dr. Weizmann said it was impossible to describe the world in which they lived in Europe. Here life is normal - there it deteriorates every day, with even the elementary necessities becoming more difficult to obtain - bread, coal, transport, etc. And Zionist work, which is something that looks to the future and requires a strong imagination to overcome the present, is extremely difficult under these circumstances.



There were two things which in Dr. Weizmann's opinion justified one's confidence. One is the very weight of the tragedy, the gravity of the problem which, no matter how much one would like to put it off for the future, is inescapable. People realize that sooner or later it will have to be faced. This was beginning to be the attitude even of those who were not otherwise deeply concerned with the problem - Mr. Eden, for instance. Mr. Churchill had once said to Dr. Weizmann, "Why are you so worried? When we win the war the Jewish position will be restored." He seemed to imagine that after the war we shall be as we were - there may be 200,000 or half-million victims, but on the whole he seemed to think the Jewish position would be restored to normalcy. Mr. Eden had apparently shared his point of view. Dr. Weizmann said it took him a very long time to explain to Mr. Eden that the disintegration of the Jews of Europe to their position before the war is an impossible thing.

Dr. Weizmann had also had talks with Benes and Sikorski. They both told him that from their point of view it is not credible that the Polish or Czech Jewish community would be simply restored to their previous positions. Mr. Benes explained there were 300,000 Jews in Czechoslovakia, with the greatest group in Slovakia - but this has been very much thinned out because they were being sent off to Poland. He described the following situation which existed in his country: The Germans have confiscated Jewish property and given a certain aspect of legality to their robbery with token payments and the exchange of papers, etc. He explained a Czech Quisling was at the head of this and that after the war he, Benes, would oust him. Benes also pointed out that after the war economic conditions would be hard and this is when anti-Semitism raises its head. He explained that to attempt to restore the status quo at that time would make matters worse and that the only way to overcome the situation would be for the government to confiscate and take over all landed property no matter who owned it and make a complete redistribution. In this process, he explained, some Jews would fall out and about one-third of them would not find a place in the new Republic. He made the assurance however, that they would compensate the Jews financially for their losses, and the money thus paid would be used for immigration and establishment of Jews in Palestine. Mr. Benes said he wanted to see a great Jewish Palestine - he would have to see Mr. Eden (Dr. Weizmann said he knew that Benes had seen Eden) and impress upon him the necessity of opening wide the gates of Palestine. Dr. Weizmann added that no one who knew Mr. Benes could suggest that he was in any way anti-Semitic.

As for Mr. Sikorski, who also claimed to be a friend of the Jews, he too anticipated that not all the Jews of Poland could be re-absorbed. If we were to apply the ratio of one-third suggested by Mr. Benes, to other countries - there would be at least two to three million Jews who will have to be taken care of.

When Dr. Weizmann saw Eden for the second time, the latter said he had seen Mr. Benes and complained "It's not fair what they are saying". Dr. Weizmann replied that whether it was fair or not, it was a hard, solid fact which must be reckoned with. It was only after the third talk with Mr. Eden, which lasted for a long time, that the latter asked, "Have you got a solution?" Dr. Weizmann replied that he had. He said this was the first time they had gotten to talk about the subject of Palestine itself. They discussed all the surrounding problems - and Dr. Weizmann had the impression that the effect of this pressure even on a virgin and not friendly mind had made a dent.

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITY

As a result of many such conversations, not all of them with official spokesmen, Dr. Weizmann had come to the conclusion that the British did not feel themselves strong enough any more to solve this problem by themselves. Their formula is that

they alone cannot handle it - but together with the Americans they can, provided the Americans not merely give advice and directions, but actually join in the responsibility. This, Dr. Weizmann said, was the crux of the whole situation. He had discussed this also with some of the younger and thinking members of the government who were really worried about the problem of the Jews and of Palestine, and they too stressed the fact that American joint responsibility was needed to help solve it. He believed that this would be part of the joint general responsibility which the Anglo-Saxon world would in the end have to accept particularly in the Middle East. Dr. Weizmann stressed the importance of this point.

#### IMPORTANCE OF PALESTINE'S ROLE IN WORLD PICTURE

Dr. Weizmann continued by giving a summary of some of his impressions: To people here, the Middle East in the last war before America joined it, was a savage country of no importance. Today the Middle East, and particularly Palestine and the Suez Canal are one of the approaches to the Western Hemisphere. One can attack America as much from the Suez Canal and the Indian Ocean as from the Panama Canal. Vital interests are affected as long as the Middle East remains a domain for international intrigue and uncivilization. Conditions there may affect vitally the general stability which it is hoped to maintain after the war. The Near East will be one among many sections of the world which will need stabilization. In achieving that stabilization Jewish work in Palestine will play an increasingly important role. This was another reason why Dr. Weizmann believed that in spite of the temporary set-backs, we have a role to play, particularly if we can impress upon American statesmen the value and the importance of the stabilizing effect of the reconstruction which we have undertaken in this part of the world, from the Euphrates to the Nile. There is no doubt that the alliances entered into by Britain with the Arab countries, Egypt, Syria and Iraq are valueless. As long as the Libyan campaign is in a state of equilibrium and as long as England is successful, there will be no betrayal; but as soon as England fails in that campaign, there will be betrayal.

#### ATTITUDE OF BRITISH

Dr. Weizmann said that they (the British) were compelled to realize today that we were right, and this realization bothered them. We were pricking their conscience. He referred to Mr. Churchill's remark that he never wanted to see Dr. Weizmann on the plea that when they meet, in 99 cases out of 100 they think the same way.

Referring to the British Jews, Dr. Weizmann said that they believe today more warmly than ever that the Jewish future is in Palestine. The Keren Kayemeth is getting large sums of money through investments made in London for Palestine. One reason is perhaps also that the conversion of American securities into sterling has resulted in the repatriation of large sums, some of which is now being re-invested in Palestine. Dr. Weizmann said he had already mentioned to Dr. Goldstein that he believed an investment movement could also be introduced in America. He said further that this would help solve political problems because today land can be bought even in the forbidden zones.

Dr. Weizmann reiterated his conclusion that with American support behind us we are likely to achieve success.

He went on to say that our difficulties with the British are also in part due to the difficulty of the problem itself from their point of view - first, the difficulty of making it understood at all by a "goy"; and secondly, because England is a Moslem Empire. It has the largest number of Mohammedans in the world. That

problem is beginning to assume an entirely different aspect because a solution for India is coming. Also Malaya and the other Far Eastern colonies will either be lost or will be ruled under different auspices in the future. Thus the quantity of Moslems in the British Empire may well be reduced by about two-thirds. This of itself will bring about a reduction of the pressure of the Moslems. After all, very considerable pressure had come from the Indian Moslems. Dr. Weizmann was convinced therefore that if we get American statesmen really to understand the problem, and if we get the American Jews into line, we would face a much brighter future. It was important however, not to desist from our work for a moment. Dr. Weizmann said that in Palestine work continued at an increased pace and the country, which is today a real arsenal of democracy, is making a greater contribution proportionately than any other great center of democracy.

#### THE JEWISH ARMY

On the question of the Jewish Army, Dr. Weizmann said the struggle had not been given up. On the contrary- the army might perhaps be nearer than we thought. There is no influx of New Zealand and Australian troops into the Near East, therefore from a purely military point of view people may be inclined to accept the idea with greater alacrity than before.

Dr. Weizmann reported that in this connection Mr. Winant had been sympathetic and helpful, but unfortunately he had had to leave. He had insisted that the army would come - it was a just thing.

Dr. Weizmann said that we had suffered from the general failure of the year just passed, which he felt was the darkest yet. But he was confident there would be a turn this summer and that our own affairs would also take a turn for the better. It was for this reason that he was particularly anxious to get to Palestine after his visit here.

#### NEGOTIATIONS WITH NON-ZIONISTS

Dr. Weizmann stated that in the negotiations with the British non-Zionists he did not find as good a reception as we had found here. They are much more "die-hardish" than the people here, but their stubbornness was in inverse ratio to their importance. Dr. Weizmann thought that if things were straightened out in the negotiations here- they in England would follow suit. Although they were not as harmful as they were twenty years ago, Dr. Weizmann found that certain attitudes, for instance that of Mr. Eden, were probably influenced by people like Mr. Anthony de Rothschild, whom Eden considered an expert on Jewish affairs.

Dr. Weizmann reported that he had met earlier that day with Mr. Maurice Wertheim. From their talk he realized that it would not be all "plain-sailing" here. However, he did think that Mr. Wertheim was the best chairman that the American Jewish Committee could have selected from their group.

#### PROGRAM OF ACTION

Dr. Weizmann pointed out that there were various avenues for activity here: Palestine itself, reconstruction of the Middle East, the negotiations with non-Zionists, the creation of general good-will and of an informed public opinion in this country, creation of a special fund for the work which we have to do along these lines, and so on. Dr. Weizmann said he believed we were sufficiently well-trained to deal with all these problems and he would be happy to make whatever small contribution it was within his power to make.



THE COLONIAL SECRETARY

Dr. Weizmann mentioned that the new Colonial Secretary "belongs to the family", he is a Balfour- a Cecil by origin. He said that Lord Cranborne is a distinguished man, strong willed and of high moral principles. However, his first speech in the House of Lords had not been of good augury and Dr. Weizmann said he had it out with him later. He had told Lord Cranborne that the Colonial Office's responsibility meant nothing because the Administration did what they liked. The Administration was in the position of having power without responsibility. While the White Paper could not be changed publicly now, the situation could be changed to such an extent as to establish the possibility of effective cooperation between us and the Colonial Administration on one side, and the Palestine Government on the other. Dr. Weizmann added further that he considered MacMichael as unfit to preside over the destinies of Palestine. He said he had seen many Colonial Secretaries and High Commissioners and in the end they all seemed very much alike to him, so he had no reason to be too optimistic that Lord Cranborne would bring the Goulah. However, he was a change from what had gone before and we could perhaps expect a smoother relationship than heretofore.

But it was only the great events of the present day, events which were changing the world and changing the empire and also inflicting great injuries on Jewry itself, that would ultimately change our situation and for that we must get ourselves ready.





STRICTLY  
CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN  
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Wednesday April 22, 1942  
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A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on April 22, at 4:30 P.M. at 41 East 42nd Street.

**PRESENT:** Judge Levinthal (presiding), Mesdames Jacobs, Pool, Rosensohn, (substituting for Mrs. Halprin) Shulman; Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie; Mr. Wisegal.

REPRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCE:

Mr. Wertheim reopened the question of the representation of the four parties to the forthcoming Zionist Conference. He suggested that representation be as follows: 75 each from Hadassah and the ZOA, and 60 each from the Poale Zion and Mizrachi, which would maintain the proportion provided for by the by-laws of the Emergency Committee.

Dr. Goldstein proposed as an amendment that, inasmuch as Poale Zion recognized the right of Mizrachi to equal representation with them, the number be fixed at 75, 75, 45, and 45.

Mr. Wertheim did not accept this amendment, pointing out that such equalization of the Poale Zion and Mizrachi was arbitrary and unfair to the former and did not take into consideration the relative strength of the two organizations. His own proposal was based on the idea of acceptance of the position existing in the Emergency Committee. Dr. Wise urged that there be equal representation for all parties in the interests of harmony and unity. Such equalization would set no precedent, but would be an "ad hoc" arrangement for this Conference, which, in any case, has no voting powers, but is to meet for consultation. Mrs. Pool said that Hadassah had accepted 5, 5, 4, and 4 as the basis of representation on the Emergency Committee, because it considered the Office Committee the really authoritative body, not because it believed that to be a fair representation of the numerical strength of the parties. She did not believe, however, that to give equality of representation to all parties would be democratically just.

Mrs. Rosensohn deplored the action of Mizrachi in withdrawing, no less than the threat of Poale Zion to withdraw if Mizrachi were allotted the same number of delegates to the Conference as they, on a basis other than that of full equality for all parties, or on the basis of 5, 5, 4, and 4. However, she supported Dr. Wise's action for equality of representation in the interests of harmony and unity.

Mr. Szold said that harmony as a result of threats was no harmony at all. He pointed out that the Jewish State Party and others might, on the basis of equality, be entitled to 75 representatives. However, he emphasized that if equality were the basis of representation, then it must be made absolutely clear that no votes were to be taken at the Conference. He suggested that a fair basis for representation would be on the basis of paid-up membership.

Mr. Weisgal pointed out that Mizrachi's attitude had been unreasonable. The original suggestion of representation on the basis of 75, 75, 45 and 35 had been accepted by the sub-committee including the Mizrachi representative and was reasonable. It had later been confirmed by the Office Committee. Therefore, this action should not be changed because of the subsequent attitude of the Mizrachi.

Mrs. Jacobs said she would regret very much if those who represented Jewish religious life were eliminated from the Zionist picture. After considerable discussion, it was finally decided by vote that:

1. No votes shall be taken at the Conference on questions of major policy except by unanimous agreement and,
2. Representation to the Conference shall be on the basis of equality for all parties: On this question, Mrs. Pool asked to be recorded as not voting. Mr. Weisgal was authorized to inform the parties that each is entitled to 75 representatives at the Conference.

#### PROGRAM FOR CONFERENCE:

Mr. Weisgal presented the program for the Conference as revised by the sub-committee. The following suggestions and comments were made:

1. That in the sessions devoted to the American-Zionist scene, ample time be devoted to a thorough discussion of public relations and the technique which might best be used for creating pro-Zionist public opinion in America.
2. That the proposed statements on various aspects of the political problem be part of the discussions following the speeches of Dr. Weizmann and Mr. Ben-Gurion. This would allow time for a special session on current problems in Palestine: economic, political, etc.
3. That an opportunity be given for a discussion of the question of the possible reintegration of the Revisionists into the World Zionist Organization.
4. That there be a discussion on inter-organizational problems. The sub-committee on the Conference was congratulated on the program as presented and was asked to consider the new suggestions made and to incorporate them, if possible.

The consensus of opinion was that this Conference is to be a consultative, deliberative gathering. Dr. Goldstein suggested that the theme be one of unanimity in the Zionist movement, inasmuch as it is the first time in a generation when Zionists of all parties will meet together to discuss common problems. It was further understood that concrete problems such as a single Zionist publication, etc. are not to be dealt with on the floor of the Conference, but are matters for sub-committees to report on in the regular course of the work.

#### DINNER TO DR. WEIZMANN:

The question arose as to the sponsorship for the forthcoming dinner to Dr. Weizmann. The dinner was not being given under the auspices of the Emergency Committee but invitations to the sponsorship list had gone out under Dr. Wise's signature. Dr. Wise and Judge Levinthal were authorized to discuss the matter further in view of the interest the ZOA had had in holding the dinner under their auspices.

#### MR. NEUMANN'S LETTER:

Mr. Lourie read to the Committee a letter from Mr. Neumann reporting on his work in Washington with Dr. Weizmann.

JEWISH ARMY COMMITTEE:

Dr. Goldmann brought to the attention of the Committee the fact that the Jewish Army Committee is arranging a large dinner in New York on May 3rd in honor of Pierre VanPaasen. He recommended that Zionist districts be instructed not to attend. After some discussion it was decided that it would be undignified so to instruct Zionist groups, who had already been unequivocally informed that the Emergency Committee, representing the four organizations, had dissociated itself from the Jewish Army Committee. Judge Levinthal and one representative from each of the parties are to discuss the whole matter of the Jewish Army Committee with Dr. Weizmann.

REFUGEES IN ISTAMBOUL

Dr. Goldmann reported that two small boats with Rumanian-Jewish refugees aboard were in Constantinople. One had already cleared the Dardanelles and the other was still in Turkish waters. It was agreed that the Turkish Embassy in Washington be requested to ask his government to admit the refugees to Turkey pending the receipt of certificates for Palestine, and, further to request the State Department to use its good offices with the Turkish Government in supporting the request.

HADASSAH

Mrs. Pool reported the completion of successful negotiations with the War Department which had gratefully accepted Hadassah's offer to place at the disposal of the United States Government its personnel and facilities in the Middle East. Discussions in this matter were also proceeding with the Red Cross. Mrs. Pool further reported a cable from Miss Szold informing Hadassah that the Turkish government had granted transit visas to 170 Rumanian children with certificates for Palestine. In this connection it was agreed that there was no objection to inviting the Turkish Ambassador to an annual meeting of the National Youth Aliyah Committee of Hadassah to be held at the home of Mrs. Roger W. Straus.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

A.L.



CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 29, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on April 29 at 41 East 42nd Street, New York.

PRESENT : Judge Levinthal, presiding; Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Pool, Mrs. Rosensohn, Dr. Silver, Mr. Szold, Dr. Wise.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weisgal.

REPORT OF MR. NEUMANN

Dr. Weizmann's work in Washington:

Mr. Neumann reported that Dr. Weizmann had conferred with Mr. Sumner Wells, Lord Halifax, Mr. Winant and Mr. Donald Nelson. Mr. Winant had asked for a memorandum on the Jewish Army which had been prepared.

Mr. Szold suggested that an interview with the Chief of Staff be sought, with a view to clarifying the situation with regard to a Jewish Military Force in Palestine.

Publications:

Mr. Neumann reported that Professor Hanna's book was to be issued soon at \$2.50. In view of the fact that at the instance of the Emergency Committee various changes had been made in the text and an introduction prepared by Josephus Daniels, he believed the Emergency Committee should guarantee the sale of some of the volumes.

Mr. Szold pointed out that the book was not Zionist propaganda. In fact its thesis was the irreconcilability of the Jewish and Arab claims to Palestine. However, in view of the circumstances, he believed we were committed to take some of the books. It was agreed that Mr. Szold and Mr. Neumann be given discretion to spend from \$300 to \$500 for the purchase of copies of the book.

Mr. Szold also reported that upon investigation he believed that the book which Dr. Lowdermilk had undertaken to prepare on Palestine's absorptive capacity would involve various expenditures. He was convinced that some one would have to be employed to do the spade work for Dr. Lowdermilk, in addition to clerical assistance. He said that he thought the project worth spending some thousands of dollars on. It was agreed that the project was an important one, and Mr. Szold was authorized to draw, as he saw fit, for necessary help in preparing the volume. He and Mr. Neumann are to look about for a suitable candidate to assist Dr. Lowdermilk.

Mr. Neumann brought to the attention of the Committee the anti-Zionist article by Mr. Van Ess appearing in the current issue of Asia. He said he would try to secure the cooperation of Miss Pearl Buck and others to have a pro-Zionist article published in Asia.

Contacts with Indians and Chinese

Mr. Neumann suggested that it would be worthwhile for Zionists to secure the friendly cooperation of the Chinese and the Hindus. In connection with the Hindus he emphasized that great caution would have to be exercised lest the



British in any way misconstrue our support of their cause.

Dr. Goldmann said that the Chinese representatives in Geneva had been consistent friends of the Jewish National Home. The Chinese were a powerful moral force, whose friendship and cooperation it would be well to secure. He agreed too, that it would be well to proceed with the utmost discretion in any negotiations with the Hindus.

#### JEWISH ARMY COMMITTEE

Dr. Goldmann reported that, according to a previous decision, the matter of reopening negotiations with the Jewish Army Committee had been discussed with Dr. Weizmann. Dr. Weizmann had expressed the opinion <sup>that</sup> in view of the fact that the influence of the Jewish Army Committee was daily growing stronger and that their activities were causing confusion in the minds of our friends, if a way could be found, without sacrificing principles, to come to an understanding with them, it should be done. Dr. Goldmann said that he would be prepared to have a preliminary talk with Mr. Strelsin of the Jewish Army Committee if he had the support of the Emergency Committee. He said that if we did not come to some mutual understanding, we would find many disciplined Zionists falling into the hands of the Revisionists. If, he said, the Jewish Army Committee would undertake to remove all members of the Irgun from positions of responsibility on its Executive Committee, and agree to an Executive Director approved by us, he thought a way could be found for cooperation and strongly urged that this be done.

Dr. Silver said that purely on the merits of the case, he would also urge that in the interests of American Zionism a way be found to cooperate with the Jewish Army Committee, which, if allowed to continue, would have serious effects on the American Zionist movement.

if

Mr. Wertheim pointed out that if we were active and strong enough ourselves, we would not need to cooperate or compromise with the Jewish Army Committee; if we were to do it because of our weakness in the matter of the Army it would be dangerous.

Mrs. Pool and Mrs. Rosensohn also objected to the reopening of any negotiations with the Army Committee.

By a majority of one it was voted not to reopen negotiations with the Jewish Army Committee.

Mrs. Rosensohn suggested that the matter was too vital to be decided by the Office Committee and recommended that it be referred to a full meeting of the Emergency Committee. It was so agreed.

#### MIZRACHI

The question of an additional representative of Mizrachi to the Office Committee was referred to a full meeting of the Emergency Committee.

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

May 5, 1942.

A meeting of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Tuesday evening, May 5, 1942.

PRESENT: Judge Levinthal, presiding; Messrs. Cruso, Goldstein, P.L. Goldman, Furmansky, Rabbi Levinthal, Lipsky, Rothenberg, Segal, Wertheim; Mesdames Benjamin, Gottesman, Feder, Jacobs, Pool, Shulman, Mr. Itzkowitz.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weisgal, Judge Rosenblatt. Miss Leibel, Mr. Isreeli, Judge Rosenblatt.

REPORT OF DR. GOLDMANN

Dr. Goldmann reported, on behalf of the Office Committee, as follows:

1. He reported on information received with reference to the visit to England of the High Commissioner.
2. Two boats with Roumanian refugees had landed in Turkey. One of the boats with 18 passengers on board was now en route to Palestine. Certificates had been granted them with the consent of the Government. It was believed that this change in the policy of the Colonial Office and the Palestine Administration was a result of the pressure exercised in the case of the "Struma". In that connection Dr. Weizmann had formally and emphatically conveyed to the new Colonial Secretary his opinion of the unfitness of the High Commissioner for his post.
3. Dr. Weizmann and Mr. Ben-Gurion had both reported various interviews held in Washington on behalf of the Jewish military force. Field Marshall Sir John Dill had been seen and had shown a positive attitude. Lord Cranborne, the new Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Casey, who had been put in charge of Near East affairs, might both be regarded as unprejudiced in our affairs and there was some hope that they might be more helpful than their predecessors in the matter of the Jewish Army.

REPORT BY MR. NEUMANN

Mr. Neumann supplemented Dr. Goldmann's report as follows:

1. Dr. Weizmann had discussed the matter of the Army with the Under-Secretary of State. The latter had indicated that the matter was complicated in the eyes of the military authorities by the fact that the multiplicity of national units in the Middle East was at times a source of difficulty. A senior official in the State Department, on the other hand, expressed confidence that the matter of the Jewish <sup>contingents</sup> was getting somewhere, though he offered no specific information.
2. Senator Edwin Johnson had made a speech on the floor of the Senate at the instance of the Jewish Army Committee. He had previously promised to speak on the matter of the "Struma" from the Senate floor but had been advised by official quarters to refrain from so doing in the present rather embarrassed state of relations with the British. Mr. Neumann added that, in general, it was difficult to define with any clarity the attitude of official circles in Washington, since the attitude of various individuals in the government were often conflicting on our matters.

3. Dr. Weizmann had seen Lord Halifax, Mr. Donald Nelson, Mr. Winant, Mr. Wallace and Ambassador Litvinoff.

4. American Palestine Committee Dinner:

Plans for the dinner on May 25th were proceeding. Senator Wagner is to preside and the main address of the evening is to be delivered by Dr. Weizmann. Thirty minutes of radio time had been arranged for, ten minutes of which would be taken by special broadcasts from London.

5. Rabbi Milton Steinberg and Philip Bernstein were continuing to do effective work among the Christian clergy, including the formation of a committee. Mr. Neumann suggested that something along the same lines might be done in organizing academicians sympathetic to Zionism.

6. Dr. Lowdermilk is to prepare an authoritative study on Palestine, and Professor Harlow is to prepare a volume addressed to the Christian world presenting the Zionist picture from that point of view.

In this connection Judge Levinthal announced that the ZOA was planning to publish a collection of Justice Brandeis's pamphlets and speeches on Zionism, the introduction of which would be written by Justice Frankfurter.

Judge Rothenberg proposed that the time was ripe for a publication on "The Zionist Case" which should be prepared by some outstanding historian. The public relations committee is to consider this suggestion.

MIZRACHI

Mr. Lurie reported on correspondence with the Mizrachi requesting two members on the Office Committee.

After discussion it was agreed on the proposal of Mr. Wertheim that in order to meet the Mizrachi request, the category of members at large on the Office Committee be eliminated altogether, and it was resolved to amend Article VI Section 1 to read:

ARTICLE VI, Section 1: " OFFICE COMMITTEE .

Between meetings of the full Committee, the business of the Committee shall be conducted by an Office Committee to be elected by the Committee and to be composed as follows: three members representing the Zionist Organization of America; three members representing Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America; two members representing Poale Zion; and two members representing Mizrachi. The representatives of the four organizations which shall compose the Office Committee shall be designated by the respective groups (a)(b) (c) (d) from among the members of the Committee. In addition to the ten thus designated, the following shall also be members of the Office Committee, to wit, the Chairman and Treasurer of the Committee. The Office Committee shall elect its own Chairman and such other officers as it may see fit."

Several of those present asked to have it recorded that their view the procedure adopted by the Mizrachi to gain their point was an undesirable one, but that in the interests of unity they were willing to grant them their request.

CONFERENCE DECLARATION

A draft of the resolution to be presented to the Conference was read and discussed. Various suggestions were made, and it was decided that a sub-committee redraft the resolution in accordance with the sense of the recommendations and proposals.

A. Lurie.



AMERICAN PALESTINE TRADING CORP.

1140 BROADWAY, N.Y. YORK

May 13, 1942.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann  
President, World Zionist Organization  
Hotel St. Regis  
New York, N.Y.

Dr. Dr. Weizmann:

I respectfully beg to submit the following data pertaining to AMPAL-AMERICAN PALESTINE TRADING Corporation, its' objects, activities and achievements:

In order to avoid chaos and misrepresentations in the sale of Palestinian securities in this country, particularly in the solicitation of investments, and to prevent competing activities among the usual circles of Zionists and friends, and with a view to establishing a market for sound Palestine securities in the United States, it was decided in Palestine in December 1941 to establish an American investment corporation, the main objects of which would, inter alia, be to issue and sell its' own stock and Bonds in U.S. Dollars, and to co-ordinate and centralize the handling of exports from the U.S.A. to Palestine, and, after the war, to act as the underwriters for Palestinian undertakings in the financial market in the United States.

The capital raised through sale of shares and bonds in the U.S.A. would be either invested in securities of, or loaned to Palestinian Public institutions controlled by the Jewish Agency and/or the Histadruth. In view of the fact that Palestine is in the Sterling area, it was decided that, for the duration, Ampal would invest its funds in various Palestinian projects only through the fund-raising agencies in the U.S.A., in order to ensure repayment in Dollars. For example, the main two sources of investment for Ampal would be the Keren Kayemeth for new land-purchases, water supply, etc., and the Keren Hayesod, Gewerkschaften etc., for other purposes. Thus, of the funds already raised by this corporation, \$50,000 was loaned to the JNF against their notes, and similar loan to Makorot is under negotiation.

It is believed, that if an American corporation engaging in investment and trading activities, will become a permanent factor in the U.S.A., large amounts of capital will be attracted. Also, by centralizing and coordinating the Palestine purchases in this country, this corporation will eventually be in a position to obtain credit, particularly in commodities, which will be so urgently required after the war for our work in Palestine. It is obvious that the United States will be the only available source of supply for machinery, equipment, raw material etc. for Palestine, and it should be borne in mind, that most credits extended by U.S. Governmental agencies, such as the R.F.C., Export-Import Bank and others, to foreign countries prior to the Lend-Lease Act, were handled by similar Trading Corporations. For instance, credits to China were handled by the America-China Trading corporation, to Finland by the American Finnish Trading Co., and to Russia by Amtorg.

The founders of this Corporation believe that it will be much easier to obtain credits, both in cash and commodities, in this country, through such a Trading Corporation, rather than through charitable fund-raising organizations, for the following reasons:



(1) No American Bank or Insurance Co., or any business house for that matter, will ever extend credit to a charitable organization,

(2) If a loan is floated by either the Keren Kayemeth or the Keren Hayesod, who are beneficiaries of the U.S.A., objection would undoubtedly be raised by the other beneficiaries of the U.S.A.

(3) In the event of a large loan already being floated, the Bonds must usually be of large denominations, thus precluding small investors from participating.

(4) Any loan must, per force, have a time limit, and the organization floating it cannot go on indefinitely soliciting investments.

If such a loan is floated by an investment corporation, whose permanent task it is to solicit investments, no objections could be raised by any fund-raising agency, shares of small denominations are offered in any amount, thus attracting large numbers of small investors, there is no time limit to its activities and there are a number of additional advantages in handling commercial orders from Palestine.

In order to make possible the attainment of the aforementioned objects, it would be necessary to make this the Zionist Investment and Trading Corporation. The establishment of this corporation was decided upon in Palestine in December 1941, and if it were not for travelling difficulties, Dr. Arthur Ruppin was scheduled to go to the United States for this purpose. The corporation was registered under the Stock Corporation Laws of the State of New York on February 8, 1942, and since the registration, we have sold in three cities over \$100,000 worth of stock and there is no doubt, that if our activities will be helped by the Zionist movement, we may expect to raise considerable funds for financing our work in Eretz Israel.

We enclose a concise prospectus of this corporation stating its objects and aims. The following were nominated in Palestine and now serve as the Board of Directors:

Dr. Albert K. Bostein,	Chicago Ill -	President
Edmund I. Kaufmann	, Washington, D.C. -	Chairman of Board
Chas. Brown	Los Angeles, Cal.	Vice-President
Louis Segal	New York City, N.Y.	" "
Dr. Herman Seidel	Baltimore, Md.	Vice-Chairman
Abraham Dickenstein	New York	Secretary-Treasurer.
Benjamin R. Harris	Chicago, Ill.	Director
Isaac Hamlin	New York	"

We shall be very grateful to you if you will please give this matter your esteemed attention and bring it before the Zionist movement in America.

Always at your services to furnish any additional information, we remain,  
dear Dr. Weizmann,

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) A. Dickenstein  
Secretary.

At the request of Dr. Weizmann I attach copy of a letter to him from Mr. Dickenstein. In his note to me Dr. Weizmann states:

"I believe that it would be of great value if the Emergency Committee and the two fund-raising institutions would take note of the contents of this letter and cooperate with Mr. Dickenstein. He has made a modest beginning, but I am assured that with the help of the ZOA this thing can grow to considerable dimensions. If, in England, we have succeeded in obtaining investments in land through the incorporation between private interests and the JNF, it would probably be possible to do it here on a much larger scale. I can not help pointing out that the time for purchasing large tracts of land is now; later on prices will probably soar to great heights."

A.L.



CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Wednesday, May 13, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Wednesday, May 13, 1942, at 4:30 P. M. at 41 East 42nd Street, New York.

**PRESENT:** Judge Levinthal, presiding; Mr. Bablick, Mr. Gellman, Mr. Greenberg, Dr. Goldstein, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Lipsky, Mrs. Pool, Mrs. Rosensohn, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise.

Dr. Weizmann, Mr. Ben-Gurion, Dr. Goldmann.

Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weisgal.

DR. WEIZMANN'S REPORT:

Dr. Weizmann reported on an interview with Ambassador Litvinoff who had shown a warm and apparently sympathetic interest in our problems. Dr. Weizmann had also had an encouraging interview with Mr. H. In addition, Mr. Neumann had arranged for Dr. Weizmann to see Senator Wagner and three or four other senators. Senator Wagner had requested a memorandum on some of the matters raised and this was being prepared. Dr. Weizmann also saw Field Marshall Dill.

Dr. Weizmann recommended that some of the papers read at the Extraordinary Conference be published in pamphlet form, especially those of Mr. Ben-Gurion, Mr. Dickenstein, Mr. A. K. Epstein and Dr. Silver.

Dr. Weizmann went on to say that a good deal of our energies had been focused on the Jewish Army question, and rightly so, but he did want to bring to the attention of the Committee also another matter of importance. There are to-day 600,000 dunams of land available for sale in Palestine. Acquisition of this land would be of very great value - ultimately also from the political point of view, and a campaign should be organized to that end. Dr. Weizmann referred to a scheme involving private investment which had been introduced with great success in England. Dr. Weizmann reported that this scheme might not be suitable for American conditions but the National Fund here would no doubt give it full consideration.

Dr. Goldstein stated that he had presented the matter to the Conference and was sure that if Dr. Weizmann would assist him and that if the Emergency Committee would lend its official sponsorship to the project, a great deal of money could be raised for the purchase of the large areas now available.

REPORT OF MR. BEN-GURION

Mr. Ben-Gurion reported on various items of information he had recently received from Palestine:

1. The idea of an Arab Federation continues to meet with the strong opposition of the French in Syria, and among the Arabs themselves there are great divergencies of view. For the time being accordingly, further progress in

that direction on the part of protagonists of the Federation idea among members of the Palestine administration has been deferred.

2. The Palestine administration continues to pursue a policy of seeking to come to terms with the Arab extremists. They are considering a plan to create an Arab Agency to parallel the Jewish Agency. It was believed that the High Commissioner may have gone to London to discuss this plan with the Colonial Office.

3. The shortage of labor in Palestine is becoming more and more acute. On the other hand further demands are being made by the British for man-power in connection with the war. Palestine Jewry has provided technicians for Syria, Iraq, Iran and Eritrea. At such a time, the continued internment of the "Darien" passengers in Atlit remains a serious problem.

4. Jewish Military Force: Mr. Ben-Gurion said he felt it his duty to point out again the urgency of effective political action in this country in connection with the Jewish army matter. The feeling in Palestine is that the danger is coming nearer. While it is not in our power to remove the danger, nor will an additional 30,000 soldiers be decisive in the war, they may be decisive in a Middle East battle. And such a battle may be decisive for the whole future of Palestine. He said he was convinced that appropriate political action on the part of Jews and Zionists in America could bring a change in attitude on the part of the British on the question of the Jewish army. Thousands of Jews, mobilized in time in Palestine, could, perhaps, save Palestine. It was the zero hour, and in Mr. Ben-Gurion's opinion this matter constituted the most important task confronting American Zionism today. Moreover, if organized Zionists do not start to work in a responsible and effective way, the activities of the Jewish Army Committee would not only strengthen that body at the expense of the Zionist organizations, but would only do harm to the cause. The Zionists here must make their voices heard in the press, in the Senate and elsewhere. There was again an opportunity in that men like Casey and Auchinleck, now at the head of affairs in the Middle East, were not prejudiced against the proposal, and he believed that effective action might still be taken.

Naval Units: Mr. Ben-Gurion reported that the British Navy had requested the Jewish Agency for 1,000 men for a naval unit to guard the Suez Canal. The request had been made despite the opposition of the Palestine Administration. The Administration did, however, succeed in introducing here, too, the principle of parity as between Jews and Arabs, though in this case it had no practical meaning. It had been arranged that:

1. Jews will serve in Jewish naval units.
2. There will be Jewish officers and non-commissioned officers.
3. They will be sent to the Far East only if they consent.
4. Their pay and family allowances are to be on the same scale as the British receive (i.e. unlike the Army arrangements).

#### NEGOTIATIONS WITH NON-ZIONISTS

Judge Levinthal said he had the impression that Mr. Wertheim believed we were stalling in our negotiations with the non-Zionists. It was pointed out that there was no justification for such a feeling on the part of Mr. Wertheim, inasmuch as it was three months after the meeting on December 19th before he communicated with us, nor had any written proposals been received on behalf of the American Jewish Committee for consideration by the Zionists.



Dr. Weizmann said he would be glad to cooperate in any way with the Committee in these negotiations, but he did not consider it wise to carry on private conversations. Mrs. Pool urged that we formulate the program which we want them to accept, rather than have them formulate a program.

Dr. Goldmann emphasized the fact that in all the conversations no commitments had been made and no formal memorandum drafted.

Mr. Ben-Curion said it was a matter which could not, in any case, be hastily concluded, but that it was important there should be clarity and agreement on our part as to what we wanted. He reported that he had been invited to address the Jewish Labor Committee and had accepted the invitation.

Mrs. Pool suggested that the resolution passed at the Conference might be used as the Zionist formula and that it be sent to Mr. Wertheim as reflecting our program.

Mr. Szold suggested that a covering letter be prepared to go with the resolution and that Mr. Wertheim be informed that such a letter was being written. At a meeting of the sub-committee the letter should be presented by Dr. Weizmann. Mr. Szold said he believed that a more effective method than sending the letter "cold".

This suggestion was unanimously accepted, and Mr. Lipsky was asked to draft the letter.

Mrs. Pool requested that she should be included on the sub-committee.

On the question of so-called "political nationalism" on which the non-Zionists were placing great emphasis, the point was made that what the American Jewish Committee really wanted was the dissolution of the World Jewish Congress. Various members present expressed the view that this was not a matter which the Emergency Committee representatives could or should consider.

#### VITAMINS FOR PALESTINE

Mrs. Pool brought up the question of supplying vitamin B for the children of Palestine, since it had been brought to her attention that there were a number of cases of pellagra and beri-beri due to improper nutrition as a result of the war.

Dr. Weizmann pointed out that the vitamin complex necessary to combat pellagra was made from yeast, of which Palestine had a large quantity. The Sieff Institute was in a position to manufacture the necessary vitamins on an adequate scale and it seemed obviously better to have this done in Palestine than to obtain the vitamins here and then ship them there.

#### FOLLOW UP OF CONFERENCE: Appointment of sub-committees

Mr. Szold suggested that the chairman of the Office Committee be authorized to appoint a sub-committee to follow up the matter of an American Zionist Federation which had been brought up at the Conference. This was agreed. He further recommended the appointment of a sub-committee on the matter of a single Zionist publication to represent all parties. This was agreed.

At the suggestion of Mr. Szold it was also decided to appoint a sub-committee to explore the possibilities of arranging for a small working Conference of Zionists from different parts of the country.

EXPENDITURES ON OFFICE ACCOUNT

It was agreed that the treasurer be authorized to exercise jurisdiction in regard to expenditures on routine office matters, such as salary adjustments, employment of stenographic staff, etc.

Such authorization was granted, with the proviso that no single item exceed \$200.00.

BOOK BY PROFESSOR HARLOW

The treasurer was authorized to spend up to \$500.00 in connection with a book to be written by Professor Harlow of Smith College presenting the Zionist program from the point of view of a Christian. In this connection it was agreed that there should be a sub-committee of the Office Committee on publications.

ARAB-JEWISH RELATIONS

Mrs. Pool read portions of a letter which was being sent by Hadassah to the Office Committee with reference to the matter of the Arab-Jewish Relations Committee.

It was agreed this should be taken up at the next meeting.

CONFERENCE REPORT

Mrs. Pool proposed that a single issue of the Hadassah Newsletter, the New Palestine and the Jewish Frontier be devoted to a common report on the Conference and to be issued jointly. Her proposal was warmly received, but the practical difficulties, such as printers' contracts, etc. seemed to be insurmountable and no action was taken.

A. L.

MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Wednesday, May 20, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Wednesday, May 20, at 4:30 P. M.

PRESENT: Judge Levinthal, presiding; Mesdames Epstein, Jacobs, Pool;  
Mr. Gellman, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Wertheim, Dr. Wise.

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weisgal.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH NON-ZIONISTS

The draft of a letter to Mr. Maurice Wertheim, in accordance with the decision of the previous meeting, was presented.

The letter included the Resolution passed at the recent Conference as an appendix, and a quotation from a speech of Dr. Goldmann's at the Conference. There was considerable discussion on the inclusion of this quotation. Mrs. Jacobs believed that it was inadvisable to include Dr. Goldmann's statement as though it were the authoritative definition and formulation of the Zionist position.

It was finally agreed to incorporate the Conference Resolution in the body of the letter and also the quotation from Dr. Goldmann's speech. As far as the latter was concerned, endorsement by the Committee should be limited to the phrase "no dissent from this statement was expressed at the conference". It was decided further that the letter should not be presented at the meeting but sent to the non-Zionists in advance as this was likely to facilitate discussion.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

Mr. Lourie reported that the expenses for the Conference were within a few dollars of the amount budgeted for.

Dr. Wise expressed to Mr. Weisgal the Committee's deep appreciation for his management of the Conference.

MR. NEUMANN'S REPORT

1. Mr. Neumann reported on plans for the dinner of the American Palestine Committee as follows:

- a. Two to three hundred acceptances had already been received.
- b. It had been arranged that representatives of various foreign governments should give brief greetings.
- c. Senators Wagner and McNary were to be present. Sir Norman Angell was invited to speak and the main address of the evening would be delivered by Dr. Weizmann.
- d. Radio addresses by Lord Wedgwood, Arthur Greenwood and Pierre Cot had been arranged.

2. In a talk with a senior official of the State Department, Mr. Neumann had learned that there was a possibility that an American Commission would be sent to

the Near East some time in the fall.

3. The University of Chicago is to conduct a seminar on Near East Affairs, financed by the Harris Memorial Foundation. Four lecturers and 25 guest experts are scheduled to speak. The lecturers include Professor Gibb of England, well known as a pro-Arab; Mr. MacDurray, former United States Ambassador to Turkey, Professor Quincy Wright and Mr. Malcolm MacDonald.

It was agreed that efforts be made to have the Zionist point of view represented at the seminar.

4. Publication of Professor Howard's book on the King-Crane Commission might be expected shortly. ✓

5. In a talk with the new head of the Near East Division of the Office of the Coordinator of Information, Mr. Neumann had discussed the possibility of arranging for broadcasts to Palestine to be made in Hebrew. There was some hope that this would be done.

6. Mr. Neumann again recommended that it would be timely to undertake the publication of a survey and report on Palestine to be sponsored possibly by a group of distinguished Americans, perhaps the American Palestine Committee. It was suggested that before making plans for this, the matter be discussed with Dr. Berkson, who is about to undertake a Palestine research project financed by the Esco Fund.

Mr. Neumann and Mr. Szold were authorized to engage an assistant to Mr. Neumann, to replace Mr. Petegorsky.

#### COURT OF HONOR

It was decided to request Judge Rosenblatt, Mr. Marditch, and Dr. Blumenfeld to constitute themselves a Court of Honor in the case of Mr. Thursz and Mr. Subotnik.

A. L.



MINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Wednesday, May 27, 1942.

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Wednesday, May 27, at 41 East 42nd Street.

PRESENT: Judge Levinthal (presiding); Mr. Gellman, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Jacobs, Miss Leibel, Mr. Lipsky, Mrs. Rosensohn, Mr. Szold, Mr. Wertheim;

Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weisgal.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH NON-ZIONISTS

Mr. Weisgal reported that he had shown Mr. Wertheim the letter (including the conference declaration) which the Emergency Committee had decided to send to the Non-Zionist Sub-committee as a basis for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Wertheim had doubted the advisability of the letter, and had submitted a formula defining Jewish nationalism.

Mr. Weisgal read to the Office Committee the draft of a statement submitted by Mr. Wertheim for acceptance. There was considerable discussion on the statement. Mr. Gellman said that any effort to define Jewish nationalism was likely to produce more conflicts than peace. Zionists and non-Zionists should find common ground on work for Palestine without seeking agreement on ideological definitions. Mr. Greenberg said that he would hesitate to define what Jewish nationalism is but that we could say what it is not. He personally would be ashamed to make a statement of loyalty to the United States of the kind envisaged by the non-Zionists, which in itself conveyed suspicion that that loyalty was being impugned. He suggested that it be stated that we are prepared to accept the spirit of their formula subject to agreement on the Palestine program.

Mrs. Rosensohn agreed with Mr. Greenberg's point with regard to a statement of loyalty to the United States. Dealing with another point made, however, she thought that it was necessary to let the non-Zionists have something in writing. Dr. Goldmann was of the opinion that from the beginning of the discussion at the next meeting with the non-Zionists it should be insisted that they deal with the Palestine program, as he believed that they were very far from agreement with us on that and that it was desirable to clarify the position at this stage. Agreement should rest on a program of action, and not of definitions. Judge Levinthal agreed that this might be desirable but he doubted whether it would be sufficient for the purposes of agreement with the non-Zionists to omit reference to that point which was troubling them most.

Mrs. Jacobs agreed that it would ordinarily be bad taste for an American to emphasize his loyalty to the United States in the way proposed, but she thought that the implications of Zionism are such that some consideration must be given to the views of non-Zionists in this regard.

Mrs. Rosensohn asked to have recorded the strong exception taken by Mrs. Pool and others to the calling together of the meeting of the Zionist-non-Zionist negotiating committee on a Friday evening.

Mr. Szold said that he believed that there had been some progress as a result of the negotiations. If the formula prepared by the non-Zionists had been given to him "cold", his reaction, too, would have been to regard it as a

bar to agreement, but the formula had to be viewed in the light of the history of these discussions. He would like to make a practical suggestion. He thought that a talk between F and R might offer a way out. It should be possible to convince R that a statement in the present form was not desirable. Mr. Szold thought that the negotiations had shown that there were no fundamental obstacles to agreement with the non-Zionists, though the existing formulation might not be satisfactory.

It was finally agreed that a letter be sent to Mr. Wertheim stating that the draft submitted by him indicates that the two bodies are in substantial agreement, although the formulation still called for careful consideration; that Friday's meeting of the sub-committee should proceed to a consideration of the Palestine part of the program and that after an agreement in principle shall have been reached, the formulation of the program as a whole be submitted to a committee of two.

REPORT ON AMERICAN PALESTINE CORPORATION (AMPAL)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Dickenstein of Ampal reported on the activities of the corporation. A memorandum submitted by Mr. Dickenstein to Dr. Weizmann had been previously circulated to the members of the Committee. Mr. Dickenstein amplified the points made in this memorandum and urged the importance of creating an investment body which would attract private capital to Palestine on a large scale. He urged that this would be a means of providing a part of the very large funds which would be required in order to effect Jewish mass immigration and settlement after the war.

Mr. Dickenstein also emphasized that a trading corporation such as Ampal would be able to attract funds for Palestine while avoiding the difficulties which might arise with the U.J.A. in the case of a philanthropic organization. He pointed out finally that Ampal would work through the existing institutions and that in addition to functioning as a trading concern it would act as a brokerage house for such bodies as the Palestine Electric, the Jewish National Fund, PEC, etc. It was suggested that a sub-committee be appointed to pursue further the matter of support for Ampal, but no action was taken.

It was agreed that there be a further meeting of the Committee on Friday, May 29th, at 3:30 P. M. for a report on the dinner of the American Palestine Committee and to deal with other political matters.

A.L.

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May 26, 1942.

Mr. Maurice Wertheim, Co-Chairman  
Zionist and non-Zionist Negotiating Committee  
33 East 70th Street  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Wertheim:

At a meeting of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs held yesterday afternoon, at which representatives of all the parties within the Zionist movement composing the Emergency Committee were present, the draft resolution which you handed to the writer on Tuesday, May 26th, was submitted for consideration.

It was the unanimous opinion of the Emergency Committee that the draft of the resolution as submitted by you indicates that in essence we are in substantial agreement and I was authorized to inform you accordingly. The committee felt, however, that the precise formulation of our common views and the manner thereof require further careful consideration.

The Emergency Committee therefore proposes that at the next meeting of our Sub-Committee on Friday, May 29th, we proceed to a consideration of the Palestine part of the program and that after an agreement in principle shall have been reached, the formulation of the program as a whole be submitted to a committee of two, representative of the best minds of both groups. Following such a formulation, it is proposed that the full membership of the Negotiating Committee meet for final consideration and ratification.

The Emergency Committee is convinced that this procedure will make for speedy progress in our negotiations for the achievement of unity of action in American Jewry.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Secretary, Negotiating Committee

CONFIDENTIALMINUTES OF OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AMERICAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRSFriday, May 29, 1942

A meeting of the Office Committee of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was held on Friday, May 29, 1942, at 3:30 P. M.

PRESENT: Judge Levinthal, presiding; Mrs. Epstein, Mrs. Jacobs, Miss Leibel; Messrs. Publick, Greenberg, Kowalsky, Szold, Wertheim, Dr. Wise; Dr. Goldmann, Mr. Lourie, Mr. Neumann, Mr. Weisgal.

AMERICAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE DINNER

Mr. Neumann reported on the Second Annual Dinner held by the American Palestine Committee on May 25th at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. It was generally felt that the function had been a very successful one. Some 440 persons had attended the dinner itself, including fifteen or sixteen representatives of different countries. Excellent messages were read by a number of these. The message from the President was in the circumstances a very satisfactory one. A rather colorless message from Mr. Wallace had also been received but had not been read. There had also been a message from Mr. Murray of the CIO. The gathering had been well reported in the American press, also in London.

Mr. Szold reported criticism which had reached him from New Deal circles by reason of the participation of Congressman Fish. It was pointed out that it was not possible to exclude Mr. Fish. On the other hand he had been given no special prominence such as he felt was his due as the sponsor of the Congress resolution on the National Home 20 years ago.

It was agreed that a pamphlet reporting the speeches and messages at the dinner should be issued by the Committee. It was proposed that the New Palestine should be subsidized to an amount of about \$400 to enable it to publish four additional pages on the dinner, but no action was taken on this. It was suggested as a means of reducing the cost of the pamphlet that the speeches might be issued in multigraphed form with a special printed cover.

PUBLICATION OF SPEECH BY MR. BEN-GURION  
AT EXTRAORDINARY ZIONIST CONFERENCE

It was agreed that the comprehensive statement on the political situation made by Mr. Ben-Gurion at the Extraordinary Zionist Conference should be issued in pamphlet form. It was suggested that the type used by the New Frontier in its report of the speeches might be available for this purpose.

CONFERENCE OF ANTI-ZIONIST RABBIS

It was reported that despite the efforts of Rabbi Heller, the conference planned in Atlantic City by a group of anti-Zionist rabbis was to take place. Dr. Wise urged strongly that the Conference be ignored but added that it was possible that an effort would be made to clamp a resolution of neutrality to Zionism on the Central Conference of American Rabbis. It was agreed to issue no statement at present but if need arose, to call a meeting of the Office Committee at short



notice to deal with any action that might be taken at the conference.

It was reported that Rabbi Bernstein and Steinberg had obtained a statement from seventy-five <sup>or</sup> more leading Christian ministers in support of Zionism, and it was agreed that an effort be made to get the "Times" to publish this statement in full, if possible, on Wednesday of next week. To this end Judge Levinthal should write a personal letter to Mr. Sulzberger of the "Times". A proposal to take paid space was not accepted.

#### NEAR-EASTERN INSTITUTE OF UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Mr. Neumann reported that the forthcoming <sup>conference</sup> of the Institute is to begin its sessions on June 25th. Among the speakers were to be Professor Gibb (a. Social changes in the Near East; b. Future of Arab Nationalism); Count Sforza (Western Powers in the Near East); Dr. Salo Baron (Prospects for Peace in Palestine) and Professor Quincy Wright. It was not certain if Mr. Malcolm MacDonald would be attending the Institute. Some twenty-five experts were to participate in the discussions. A suggestion originally made to the Institute from an outside source that Dr. Weizmann be invited to take part had been turned down. Mr. Neumann had been informed, however, that if the Institute were officially asked to-day to invite Dr. Weizmann to attend they might accede to such a request. Dr. Weizmann, however, was against any such action. Among the experts who will participate will be Professor Jeffries and Professor Westerman of Columbia. It was agreed that it be left to the office to decide whether Rabbi Bernstein should be asked to go to Chicago in advance. It was also suggested that it might be desirable to change the topic of Dr. Laren's lecture.

#### RELATIONS WITH HINDUS AND CHINESE

In response to Mr. Neumann's suggestion that a small fund might be helpful in cultivating closer relations with leading Hindus and Chinese, it was suggested that this came within the power already granted to Mr. Szold to spend up to \$200. on individual items of routine office expenditure.

#### NEGOTIATIONS WITH NON-ZIONISTS

Mr. Weisgal read a letter dated May 26 which had been sent to Mr. Wertheim expressing, subject to changes to be made in form, agreement in essence with a communication previously received from Mr. Wertheim, but suggesting that before reformulation the question of the Palestine program should be considered.

#### STATEMENTS BY CONGRESSMEN RE ZIONISM

Mr. Neumann referred to a collection of statements by Congressmen on Zionism which had been issued during the last war. He suggested that it might be useful to begin the collection of such statements now with a view to eventual publication. It was agreed that this should be considered at a later date.

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BALFOUR DECLARATION

It was agreed that a statement for publication should be issued soon to the effect that the Emergency Committee was planning a noteworthy celebration of the anniversary. The proposal that a delegation should call on the President on the occasion of the anniversary of the Congressional Resolution was deemed inadvisable.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. Szold circulated a copy of the auditor's report for 1941 and also for the first three months of 1942. It was pointed out that the Funds were taking up an attitude the effect of which was that their \$100,000 appropriation was to be made to cover a period of sixteen months from September 1941 to the end of December 1942 instead of twelve months to October 1942 as originally understood. The Committee was expanding its work and at the present rate of expansion would have exhausted its appropriation well before the end of the year. There was some discussion on the program of the Committee in relation to its finances and it was finally agreed that a finance committee to consist of the Treasurer, the heads of the U. P. A., the Keren Hayesod, the Keren Kayemeth and one representative from each of the organizations should be set up.

#### REPORTS TO FULL COMMITTEE

It was stated that the full committee would be meeting with Dr. Weizmann in the near future. Apart from this, the Secretary was requested to prepare reports from time to time on the work of the Office Committee for submission to the full committee.

#### NEXT MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Office Committee take place on Wednesday, June 3, at 3:30 P.M., and a subsequent meeting on Friday afternoon, June 5th.

A.L.