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Committee for Intellectual Mobilization, 1943.

Minutes of Meeting of Committee for Intellectual Mobilization. November 4, 1943

The following people attended: Mrs. Estelle Sternberger, Mr. Reuben Rubin, Mr. Arthur Szyk, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Untermeyer, Rabbi and Mrs. Feuer, Rabbi Milton Steinberg, Dr. Max Grunewald, Mr. Kurt Blumenfeld, Prof. Salo Baron and Miss Muriel ~~Ruckheiser~~. *Ruckheiser*

Rabbi Steinberg sketched the background of the Emergency Council and explained the functions of the Committee for Intellectual Mobilization which are: to reach out into specific areas of the American scene to spread a knowledge of the crisis that centers on the White Paper, a knowledge of Palestine and win sympathy for it; to help break into areas where Zionism has not penetrated; to do these things with the aid of writers, authors, radio commentators and people in academic life.

An executive secretary who could inform himself on these areas is needed.

A sequence of luncheons and teas - small informal gatherings - are planned. Radio and newspaper columnists should be first to be contacted. These two groups can be of greatest service in influencing public opinion.

Mrs. Sternberger agreed to try to arrange a meeting of radio commentators through George Hamilton Coombs within ten days or two weeks. Mrs. Sternberger can personally contact the following:

George Hamilton Coombs	- WHN	John Gunther	- WJZ
Sidney Mosley	- WOR	Hans Jacobs	- WOV
Lisa Sergio	- WQXR	Walter Winchell	
Brice Oliver	- WEVD	Edgar Snow	
Frank Kingdon	- WMCA	Cecil Brown	
Algernon Lee Black	- WHN	Edgar Mowrer	

Rabbi Steinberg to speak at the luncheon and give an informal, casual presentation.

Rabbi Steinberg reported that a kit containing various informational materials was available.

Miss Muriel ~~Ruckheiser~~ suggested that a pamphlet be printed on Jewish-Arab relations to be included in the kit.

After some discussion it was the consensus of opinion that rather than a kit of many things, it would be better to have a single, concise pamphlet to be issued for the use of writers and radio broadcasters as source material. This pamphlet to include the Balfour Declaration, the White Paper, and the reaction of British and American statesmen to the White Paper. The pamphlet should be about six to eight pages long and the preface to be Mr. Willkie's statement.

Miss ~~Ruckheiser~~ and Mr. Rubin agreed to work with Mr. Lourie in getting the pamphlet out.

It was also thought desirable to issue a regular publication on the Near East to be informative rather than propaganda.

The following are suggestions made in the course of discussion regarding radio time and radio commentators:

Rabbi Feuer to talk to Mr. Montor with regard to contacting Raymond Gram Swing in Washington, D.C.

Rabbi Feuer also to contact Raymond Clapper.

Mr. Untermeyer to contact Quincy Howe.

Rabbi Feuer believes it would be best to contact local group of commentators first and see what can be done with them.

It was reported that there is a possibility of buying radio time on a national hook-up for a news hour. News of general interest could be discussed on such a program and a few minutes spent on news about Palestine.

Efforts should be made to get some of the forum programs, i.e., Town Hall of the Air, to discuss the question of Palestine. Algernon Lee Black was suggested as a contact into the forum field, as well as Harry Grannick for coast to coast.

Mr. Untermeyer suggested buying a five minute spot.

A message could be recorded and community contacts could put on such a program by purchasing time on local stations.

The following editors and columnists to be contacted:

Walter Lippmann

I.F. Stone

Samuel Grafton

Freda Kerchway

Ben Hecht

George Sokolsky (Rabbi Feuer to speak to him)

Anne O'Hare McCormick

Quentin Reynolds (Can be contacted through
Bennett Cerf and Mrs.
Sternberger will contact
Mr. Cerf.)

Jay Allen

Edgar Snow (Can be contacted by Meyer Weisgal.)

In answer to a question put to him as to what can be done in the academic field, Professor Salo Baron stated that at the present time the academic profession was strongly prejudiced against Zionism. Therefore this group must be approached slowly and patiently. He suggested organizing an Advisory Council for Palestine with a few people who are definitely sympathetic. These people will be able to make their contribution immediately before, or at the time of peace conferences.

The following writers are to be contacted to write articles:

Conrad Bercovici

Franz Werfel

Lawrence Spivack

Joseph Auslander

Dorothy Parker

Fannie Hurst

Van Wyck Brooks

Louis Adamic

Martin Flavin

Ella Winter

Howard Fast

Edna Ferber

Lillian Hellman

Arthur Garfield Hays

Irving Fineman

Archibald MacLeish

Mathew Josephson

Robert Nathan

George S. Kaufman

Harry Sherman

Waldo Frank

Irwin Edman

Part of this group can be reached by Moss Hart and S.N. Behrman.

All members of the Committee are asked to signify whom they personally can contact and are urged to get in touch with the Office about this.

The immediate job is to get big people to write on Palestine for important publications.

Rabbi Steinberg suggested that since so much prestige accrues to the names of these people they might be asked to constitute themselves as a Writers Committee on Palestine and get out a pronouncement.

It was suggested someone try to get Stanley High to write an article for Readers' Digest, Edgar Snow for Saturday Evening Post and Raymond Clapper for all Scripps-Howard papers and several magazines, and Quentin Reynolds for Colliers.

Prof. Salo Baron suggested getting articles into farm journals about Palestine. This was deemed extremely important and the Committee was asked to work on it.

The discussion was adjourned.



American Zionist Emergency Council

342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
M U r r a y H i l l 2 - 1 1 6 0

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

December 30, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I offered Mr. Montor my resignation week before last and was asked to wait until after the first of the year, to present it. Will you consider that you have my resignation now? I hope you will release me before January 10, 1944. I took a leave of absence from my job for three months and I realize the present set-up calls for a longer program. I think it would be wiser to take on someone who could continue with the work. I cannot. Furthermore, there is no point in my working without your confidence. If the matter of chairman of my committee was not even discussed with me, I obviously do not have that confidence.

Yesterday I told Mr. Montor that Mrs. Milton Steinberg had written telling me to place in his hands Rabbi Steinberg's resignation as Chairman of the Intellectual Mobilization Committee. At that time I learned that Rabbi Feuer had already seen Marvin Lowenthal and offered him the chairmanship of the committee.

Rabbi Feuer did not know Mr. Lowenthal and I did. I worked with him and spent time with him. I know the situation of my committee and I am the only one who knows its organization because I had to put into operation a working plan (which it was possible to effect only after the work started). When Rabbi Feuer asked Mr. Lowenthal to be chairman of the committee, it showed he knew nothing of the operation of the committee.

It happens that Mr. Lowenthal did not accept the chairmanship, and I could have told Rabbi Feuer so in advance. If he had asked me, I could have told him what we do want from Mr. Lowenthal, and possibly how to get it. I could have also told him how the committee is organized and where the honors should go.

I would like to inform you that the work has naturally divided itself into three categories--writers, radio commentators, and academicians. The writers should have one person to contact, the radio commentators another, and the academicians a third. The writers think to reach the radio commentators and academicians is a rather trivial idea, much as the scholars think to bother with the other two is unimportant and the radio commentators think that once you have reached them why worry about the writers and scholars.

12/30/43

As a matter of fact, this is how I am working: Mr. Lowenthal has actually, without quite being aware of it, served as chairman of the Writers Committee. He has given advice and gotten people together and is, I hope, preparing a pamphlet for us and in general he has done the work of a chairman of that group.

Hans Jacob has acted as chairman of the radio commentators by advising me how to reach them, by seeing many of them himself and by coordinating the work of that group.

I have spoken with Professor Salo Baron about the academicians and have had advice from him. He is too busy to be of much help but there are others who will work. Since I have not been able to get action on one of the more important things he suggested--a Quarterly--I have not gone further with this group. I am sure, however, that I can get a chairman (in substance, if not in name) for this group too.

What I think is that the three committees should work separately, with a big name chairman to lend the aura of his yiches to us, letting the different committees work in their own fields and having the Executive Secretary coordinate their endeavors.

Cordially yours,

Fannie S. Cohen

