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American Jewish Trade Union Committee for Palestine, 1944.

April 27, 1944

Mr. Sidney Hillman
Amalgamated Clothing Workers
15 Union Square
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Hillman:

I read with keenest delight the statement which you issued in supporting the aims of the American Jewish Trade Union for Palestine in which you call for the immediate abrogation of the White Paper and the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth.

The support which you have thus given our great movement is invaluable. We have been helped right along by the sympathy and understanding of organized American labor, and your forceful re-affirmation of your position and that of the Congress of Industrial Organizations at this time is of tremendous value. It has been re-inforced in the last few days by the magnificent stand which the British Labor Party took on the subject of the Jewish national home.

When we last discussed the subject, some months ago, you told me you would do all you can to assist, and you have not failed. Many thanks.

Most cordially yours,

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF AMERICAN JEWISH TRADE UNION COMMITTEE
FOR PALESTINE, HOTEL ASTOR, JUNE 20, 1944

Present: Zaritsky, Nagler, Breslaw, Wolpert, Goldberg, Horowitz, H. Bloom, Alfred Breslaw, Falikman, Finklestein, Rivlin, Siegal, Goldowsky, Max Slutsky, Meyer Wolpert, Tuvim.

Mr. Zaritsky opened the meeting by giving a brief analysis of the progress made by our Committee since the last meeting, and expressed his satisfaction with the way the work is going and with the influence which our Committee has generated throughout the country, especially among leading labor officials of both the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. Mr. Zaritsky pointed especially to the fine publicity which has appeared through the general and labor press, and to the growth of interest in our work.

Secretary I. H. Goldberg read the minutes of the last meeting, which were accepted with the correction changing the word "labor" to "trade union".

The following matters were taken up:

(1) The question of arranging a dinner for the delegates of the British Trade Union Congress who are scheduled to come to the United States for the American Federation of Labor Convention in November. It was referred to the Administrative Committee for study and for a report back to the next general committee meeting.

(2) The Administrative Committee was also authorized to appoint a delegation of three to visit President William Green of the A.F. of L., and President Philip Murray of the C.I.O. for the purpose of enlisting their support for a nation-wide campaign to have City Central Bodies and State Federations of Labor adopt resolutions demanding the abrogation of the British White Paper and the implementation of the Balfour Declaration to the end that a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine be established, and urging delegates of these bodies to become members of our Committee.

In connection with the foregoing, a suggestion that the name of our Committee be changed to the American Trade Union Committee for the purpose of this campaign, was amended to the effect that the name remain as is, but that instead of requesting delegations to the City Central Bodies and the State Federations to become members of our Committee, that they be urged to become sponsors of our program.

(3) The Administrative Committee was also charged with the responsibility of creating a Working Fund. Mr. Zaritsky announced that he had personally advances such funds as were needed in the past and that he has arranged for a loan of \$500 from his union for the purpose of establishing an account for our Committee.

(4) The Administrative Committee was also directed to serve as a delegation for visits to Secretary of State Hull, to congressional leaders, and to any other such officials in Washington who may be of service in the event that the resolutions now pending in Congress are brought up again and action is called for by official agencies directing the political campaign in connection with the White Paper and the Commonwealth.

Mr. Goldberg reported a visit by himself and Mr. Tuvim in Boston on June 11th, where they attended a regional conference of Jewish trade union leaders in the New England area. He expressed great satisfaction with the results achieved at this conference, which included the adoption of our Declaration on Palestine, and the decision on the part of the conferees to enlist the support of all trade unions, Jewish and non-Jewish, in the New England section.

Mr. Goldberg also reported that a complete set of officers had been elected for the New England territory, headed by Jacob Blume of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, and Philip Krmer of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, as co-chairmen. Mr. Goldberg referred to the deep interest which was expressed by the entire conference in the work of our Committee and their desire to be of service to the cause we represent.

It was pointed out that the possibilities for other regional conferences throughout the country are very encouraging, and it was recommended that the Administrative Committee look into this in the very near future and if possible, arrange a schedule of such conferences in all cities in which we have representation at the present time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.



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