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American Jewish Conference, 1946.

BULLETIN

OF ACTIVITIES AND DIGEST OF THE PRESS

No. 98

Iyar 18, 5706

May 19, 1946

CONFERENCE DISCLOSES EGYPT'S DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMERICAN JEWS

Demands U.S. Government Intervention

Egypt, a member of the United Nations, has recently adopted discriminatory practices against American Jews by refusing to grant them transit visas for passage through the country enroute to Palestine.

This arbitrary and unfriendly action on the part of a government which maintains full diplomatic relations with the United States was brought to the notice of the American public at a press conference held in the office of the American Jewish Conference on Friday, May 17th.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Acting Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Conference, stressed that Egypt arrogated to itself the power to interfere with American economic interests in Palestine and with the trade between these two countries. Since the issue involves the freedom of travel by American citizens, and establishes a most dangerous precedent, the Conference demands "a vigorous representation for the protection of our nationals". Rabbi Goldstein said.

The statement read as follows:

"The arbitrary refusal of the Egyptian Minister in Washington to grant transit visas to American citizens desiring passage through Egypt enroute to Palestine is an act of unfriendly discrimination against our citizens and is violative of the doctrine of the United Nations of which that government is a member. The fact that such discrimination appears to have been applied only to Jews serves to emphasize the serious import of the Egyptian policy.

The action of the Egyptian ministry can only be construed as malicious since transit visas are designed merely to allow passage through a country within a limited space of time and are generally to be had for the asking. American citizens, enroute to Palestine, must of necessity, apply for Egyptian transit visas since all recent shipping headed for the Holy Land is routed through Alexandria.

As a result of the obstructive tactics employed by the Egyptian government, hundreds of American citizens, including war veterans on their way to Palestine under the G.I. Bill of Rights, American business men and tourists, have been forced to cancel their trips. This was particularly evidenced by the recent cancellation of passage by over 200 American Jews who had been scheduled to depart for the Holy Land on the SS Vulcania, which sailed on May 11, 1946.

Prior to May 11, 1946, the Egyptian ministry in Washington had established an impossible yardstick for the granting of transit visas to its country. It conditioned the issuance of such visas on the stipulation that the traveler have in his possession a return passage ticket to the United States from Palestine. In view of the fact that the present policy of all steamship lines does not allow for the sale of return tickets, since their schedules from the Holy Land to the U.S. are not fully developed, the Egyptian government had deliberately stipulated conditions which, it knew, were impossible to fulfill.

As of May 11, there has been an abandonment of all subterfuges and the Egyptian legation refuses to grant transit visas on any grounds. It refers all such requests to its government offices in Cairo, a process involving a long passage of time.

By acting as it does, Egypt arrogates to itself the power to interfere with American economic interests in Palestine and with the trade between these two countries. By discriminating against American citizens, Egypt interferes with their free movement. Since Egypt has been granted the privilege of becoming a terminal of important American airlines, it can hardly be permitted to exploit its position to discourage rather than encourage international communications, or to exercise control over traffic between this country and the rest of the Middle East.

The State Department is fully cognizant of the dilatory tactics employed by the Egyptian Ministry and has interceded in some instances with satisfactory results. What is necessary, however, is a complete revision of policy in the matter of granting transit visas through Egypt and more vigorous representations for the protection of our nationals are in order.

While it is true that Egypt, as a sovereign power has sole discretion in the matter of granting or denying such visas, there is precedent for vigorous action on our part, that is the abrogation of a treaty with a foreign country with which this country had enjoyed normal diplomatic relations. In 1910, President William Howard Taft, acting upon resolutions in both houses of Congress, abrogated the Treaty of 1832 with Russia because of that country's 'humiliating and degrading prohibition against any of our citizens wishing temporarily to sojourn in a foreign country because of race and religion.'

The issue involved is the freedom of travel by American citizens. The high-handed discrimination practised by the Egyptian government is intolerable."

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RABBI PHILIP BERNSTEIN APPOINTED ADVISER TO GEN. McNARNEY

The appointment of Rabbi Philip G. Bernstein of Rochester, New York, to serve as special adviser on Jewish Affairs to Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, Commander of American occupation forces in Germany, is welcomed by the Jewish community of America as a decisive step on the part of the United States Government to deal squarely with the constantly deteriorating Jewish position in Germany.

Rabbi Bernstein succeeds Federal Judge Simon Rifkind who, during his five months service was greatly instrumental in improving relations between occupying American forces and the liberated Jews in Germany.

Rabbi Bernstein is a delegate to the American Jewish Conference. Following his appointment, he met with the American Jewish organizations dealing with European Jewish affairs, seeking advice as to the best way of carrying out his important mission.

The appointment of a successor to Judge Rifkind was urged by the American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress at a meeting with top ranking officials of the War Department last month. The growing tension between the liberated Jews and the American military authorities in Germany made the presence of a Jewish adviser of utmost importance. In discussing the subject with Government officials, Jewish representatives pointed out that the recent incidents in Germany could have been avoided by better handling of the problems confronting both the occupation authorities and the displaced Jews. The War Department, concerned with the situation in Germany, took heed of the recommendations and acted with considerable speed, securing Gen. McNarney's agreement to the appointment of Rabbi Bernstein as his special adviser on Jewish affairs.

The Central Committee of Liberated Jews in Germany, which is in constant contact with the American Jewish Conference, has on several occasions urged the appointment of a successor to Judge Simon H. Rifkind.

FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

The first step toward the implementation of the resolution on future organization, adopted at the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference, was taken on Wednesday, May 15th, when the nine-man Committee on Procedure, named by the Interim Committee Chairman, drafted and adopted a report. The report is subject to the approval of the Interim Committee which will meet on May 24th.

Proposals were agreed upon as to the formation, structure, and function of a special committee which would carry on an inquiry and make definite recommendations to the next session in line with the resolution adopted in Cleveland.* The report contains terms of reference to guide the special committee.

The Committee on Procedure consisted of:

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Chairman	
Maurice Bisgyer	Prof. Hayim Fineman
Harry Ehrlich	Rabbi Joseph Lookstein
Dr. Maurice Eisendrath	Rabbi Irving Miller
Mrs. Moses Epstein	Samuel Rothstein

Alex Stanton

Miss Jane Evans and Mr. William M. Gerber substituted for Dr. Maurice Eisendrath and Maurice Bisgyer respectively.

CONFERENCE YOUTH COUNCIL IN ACTION

Representatives of 12 leading national Jewish youth organizations affiliated with the American Jewish Conference this week adopted a constitution for the Council of National Jewish Youth Organizations and drafted a program of intensive activities.

At present composed of representatives of B'nai B'rith Youth Organizations, Habonim, Hashomer Hadati, Hashomer Hatzair, Hillel Foundation, Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of America, Junior Hadassah, Junior Mizrahi Women's Organization of America, Masada, National Council of Jewish Juniors, National Federation of Temple Youth, Young Peoples League of the United Synagogue of America, the Council, meeting on Wednesday, May 13th, voted to invite other national Jewish youth organizations to join its ranks.

In addition to adopting a constitution, the Council wired President Truman, urging immediate action on the recommendation of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry to admit 100,000 Jews into Palestine. The Council adopted a resolution supporting the famine relief program. It urged affiliated bodies to call upon their members to conserve food by living on the average European ration one day each week.

On June 13th a convention will be held in New York to elect permanent officers.

Arthur Gilbert of Philadelphia, Pa., was named temporary chairman, and Frances Fromm of Flushing, N.Y., secretary pro tem.

THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The American Association for Jewish Education, an affiliate of the Conference, responded to the call to observe May 15th as a day of remembrance. Jewish schools throughout the country were asked to heed the Conference appeal and to assemble pupils for the observance of this historic date. Communal gatherings and synagogue services were devoted to commemoration of those who perished and expression of solidarity with European Jewry in its struggle for final liberation.

*"It is recognized that there is a widespread demand for an American Jewish organization competent to speak authoritatively for the Jewish community and since this Conference was not designed as a permanent body, the Interim Committee is directed to explore the possibility of establishing a permanent democratic, representative, Jewish body in consultation with representative community organizations and through agreement as to the nature and scope of such an organization with existing national organizations, and subject to such agreement to propose ways and means for bringing such a body into existence."

MEMORANDUM TO THE U.N. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES AND D.P.'S

The discussions which took place during the first part of the first session of the United Nations' General Assembly have shown the complexity of the question of refugees and displaced persons and the variety of approaches to the problems. As certain basic principles have been laid down for the guidance of the Special Committee, we have the honour to submit to the Committee the following observations and proposals.

I. The problems of the Jews, of whom a greater proportion than of any other people belongs to the category of refugees, displaced and uprooted persons, is international in scope and character; the overwhelming majority of the remnants of the Jewish population on the European continent has been uprooted since the beginning of Nazi and Fascist aggression against the Jewish people.

II. Most of these people have so far been unable to resettle, and among them the following main categories of uprooted Jews should be noted:

- (a) Persons who became stateless in consequence of territorial and other changes after the 1914-1918 war and did not acquire new citizenship since then.
- (b) Refugees on account of their race or religion who were obliged to leave their countries of origin between the two wars.
- (c) Persons rendered stateless by legal enactment on account of their race or religion.
- (d) Displaced Persons who, in consequence of the policy of deportation practised by the Germans and their satellites, were removed from their places of residence.
- (e) People who had returned from displacement to their former places of residence, but have been unable to resettle there on account of psychological and material conditions, and have, therefore, left in search of new places of settlement, since the cessation of hostilities.
- (f) Jewish War Orphans whose personal status is unsettled and whose rehabilitation, especially from the religious aspect, is particularly important.

III. All these people constitute a distinct group with problems which should be dealt with specifically for the following reasons:-

1. The uprooted Jews do not desire to be repatriated, not for political reasons connected with the existing forms of government in their countries of origin, but for a variety of different causes, such as the annihilation of their families and friends, the destruction of the social and economic basis of their existence, the continuing hostility of large sections of the local population which for many years have been under the influence of anti-Semitic propaganda.

2. They have clearly expressed their hope and desire to find a new and permanent home. The available evidence shows conclusively that the majority desires to settle in Palestine. Others seek to join their relatives in various parts of the world. These are the two ways of final settlement desired by the uprooted Jews, who cannot be repatriated.

3. The spoliation and wholesale massacre of almost 6,000,000 European Jews has created a special position for the survivors, in the respect that the vast mass of Jewish property left without heirs and of other assets to which the Jews have moral and legal rights, should be used for their rehabilitation and final resettlement.

IV. In view of the foregoing consideration the signatories submit to the Committee the following proposals: -

- A. It is of vital importance that the United Nations should establish suitable machinery to find and implement a speedy solution of the problem of uprooted people, more particularly uprooted Jews.
- B. To meet the specific needs of the uprooted Jews the new body or agency set up to deal with the refugee problems should have a special department working in consultation and co-operation with representative Jewish bodies.
- C. The Jewish Agency for Palestine should be invited to assist by organizing the transfer to Palestine of those refugees and displaced persons who are to settle there, and the Jewish Agency should be given the financial aid and all facilities necessary for this purpose.
- D. The new body or agency should make funds available for the resettlement of these people, on lines similar to those mentioned in Article 8 of the Agreement reached at the Paris Conference on Reparation on December 21st, 1945, and should enter into negotiations with the governments on whose territory considerable assets have been left, in order to secure these assets for the purposes mentioned above.
- E. It is submitted that the Committee may find it desirable to invite the signatory bodies for consultation on the foregoing proposals and to provide the opportunity of further elaboration of their views on such questions affecting uprooted Jews as may arise in the course of the Committee's deliberations.

London, 24th April, 1946.

American Jewish
Conference

Board of Deputies
of British Jews

World Jewish
Congress

* * *

The above memorandum, submitted by the three cooperating Jewish bodies, received close attention by the United Nations Special Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons which is now in session in London. The memorandum served as a basis for extensive discussion of the problems affecting the uprooted Jews of Europe. Some of the recommendations were adopted. A special sub-committee was set up to examine the proposals of the Jewish organizations.

BULLETIN

OF ACTIVITIES AND DIGEST OF THE PRESS

No. 101

Tammuz 1, 5706

June 30, 1946

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES ACCELERATED ON MANY FRONTS

Joint Memorandum Submitted to Conference of Foreign Ministers

The march of international events has necessitated a quickening in the tempo of Conference activities. Decisions arrived at by the United Nations, and the writing of Allied peace treaties with the ex-enemy countries, involve corresponding actions by those pledged to safeguard the rights of the Jewish people in the postwar world.

Jewish representatives must maintain constant liaison with UN agencies dealing with such specific problems as refugees, trusteeship, human rights. The terms of the treaties now being written by the Foreign Ministers in Paris will have to insure the safeguarding of the rights and status of the Jews remaining in the satellite and ex-enemy countries. The keystone of Jewish organizational activity with regard to the peace treaties is to secure international guarantees for protection of the rights of Jews in former Axis dominated lands.

The American Jewish Conference, the World Jewish Congress, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews, after detailed and lengthy consultations, have agreed on memoranda to be submitted to the Council of Foreign Ministers and the Peace Conference. The documents urge the inclusion in the peace treaties now being drafted of specific provisions on Jewish rights and status. In addition to a general statement reviewing the Jewish position, distinct provisions have been written for incorporation into the individual treaties with Italy, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary.

The provisions deal with restitution of property, reparations, citizenship rights, emigration, safeguarding of communal institutions, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The entire program of the American Jewish Conference has found expression both in the general statement and in the separate memoranda.

* * *

On June 27th, representatives of the Conference, the Congress, and the Board formally submitted the general statement on peace treaties with ex-enemy countries to the Council of Foreign Ministers in Paris.

Dramatically, it unveils the whole tragic chapter of Jewish history throughout the war and reveals the stark present-day realities of Jewish life in Europe. The statement places squarely before UN leaders their responsibility for laying the foundations for a peaceful world order where Fascist and Hitlerite assaults on defenseless Jewish minorities can never recur.

(Full text of this memorandum will be found in the Bulletin Supplement).

The memoranda embodying provisions to be included in the treaties with Italy, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary will be presented in the near future.

Thus one of the fundamental tasks for which the American Jewish Conference was created - the presentation of the views of American Jewry on the peace treaties - is now being carried out with the cooperation and agreement of other Jewish representative bodies.

* * *

Concurrently, the Conference has framed suggestions which have been included in the constitution of the new International Refugee Organization established by the UN Economic and Social Council. All sessions of the Economic Council were attended by Conference representatives. Recommendations on the implementation of the human rights provisions of the UN Charter are being presented to the Human Rights Commission by the American Jewish Conference.

I. L. KENEN'S MISSION TO PARIS

Mr. I. L. Kenen, Executive Secretary of the American Jewish Conference, left New York for London on Wednesday, June 19th, to consult with the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress on the submission of memoranda to the Conference of Foreign Ministers and the subsequent peace conference which is scheduled for the end of July.

After spending several days in London, Mr. Kenen proceeded to Paris where, together with Mr. A. L. Easterman of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress, and Mr. Israel Cohen of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, he prepared for the presentation to the Foreign Ministers of suggested provisions to be included in the peace treaties. These provisions are designed to safeguard full civil and property rights of Jews remaining in the satellite and ex-enemy countries.

THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members of the new Executive Committee: Louis Lipsky, Chairman, Jacob Alson, Aaron Droock, Harry M. Ehrlich, Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Jane Evans, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Jacob Marrus, Rabbi Irving Miller, Samuel Rothstein, Alex F. Stanton, Hermann Stern, Robert Szold.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Honorary Chairman of the Interim Committee, and Mr. Henry Monsky, Chairman, are members of the Executive Committee ex-officio.

FROM DR. ZALMAN GRINBERG'S LETTER OF JUNE 3RD:

- "We greatly appreciate your utmost efforts in solving all our problems.
1. The successor to Judge Rifkind has arrived a few days ago and we hope he will be successful in his new sphere of activity so that a relaxation in our conditions will take place.
 2. German police are presently not permitted to enter camps of displaced persons or Jewish settlements.
 3. The problems concerning Jewish persecutees seemed in the last weeks to be carried out in a spirit of good will. We hope that we shall be able to give you exact information in the future.
 4. We requested USFET in Frankfurt/Main to be officially recognized as the political representatives of all the Jewish displaced persons in the American zone by the American authorities. As soon as we shall be in a position of official authorization many of our problems will be settled by a direct approach to the military authorities. Although we are presently defacto recognized, the lack of official authorization is always an obstacle in our way"...

GREECE ASSURES JEWS ON REHABILITATION

The Greek Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Konstantin Tsaldaris, in a letter addressed on May 10th to Mr. Ascher Moissis, President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece, assured the Central Board that the new Greek government will do all in its power to facilitate and accelerate the rehabilitation of the surviving Jews of that country.

The full text of this significant letter, which the Central Board forwarded to the American Jewish Conference, reads as follows:

"I thank you for your congratulations on the formation of the new Greek Government. I take this opportunity of expressing to you once more, in my name and in the name of all the Greek people, the sympathy we feel

for the terrible tragedy the Jews of Greece are undergone owing to ruthless German persecution.

The special interest I have shown during the tragic days of March, 1943, and which you mentioned to me, trying to avoid or to reduce the catastrophe, gives the best proof of the friendly feelings my Government has towards the Jewish element.

I know that the Jews who have survived come amongst the first who must be rehabilitated. You can assure your fellow-believers that the new Greek Government will do all that is in its power in order to facilitate and accelerate their rehabilitation.

The laws 2/1944, 337 and 808/1945, for the raising of sequestration and restitution of Jewish property will be applied with a sense of justice. The Organism for the Welfare and Rehabilitation of the Jews of Greece, foreseen by law 846, will be put into operation, as soon as possible for the relief of Jewish victims of the persecutions."

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I N B R I E F

*** The Department of State has been informed by the American Embassy in Poland that American citizens who suffered war damages in Poland may file claims for compensation with the Polish Government. Appropriate forms for the filing of such claims should be secured from the War Losses Department, Central Office of War Reparations Office, ulica Marszalkowska 8, Warsaw.

While the period for presenting claims for citizens of Poland has elapsed, the War Reparations Office has agreed to accept war damage claims by foreigners without time limit.

*** The Department of State has been advised that the Netherlands Government is accepting claims from United States citizens for damage caused to their property, real or personal, in the Netherlands, arising from the war. Claimants should contact the Netherlands Commission for War Damages, Stadhouderslaan 130, The Hague, or the Office of The Netherlands Financial Counselor, 25 Broadway, New York City.

*** The Committee on Future Organization will meet in New York on Thursday, July 11.

*** The Interim Committee will meet in New York City on Friday, July 12.

*** To the Disinherited, a radio drama by Morton Wishengrad, based upon a report written by Judge Simon H. Rifkind of the United States District Court, former Civilian Advisor on Jewish affairs in the European Theatre, will be presented on the Eternal Light radio program Sunday, June 30, 1946 (NBC 11:00 a.m. - WFAP 12 noon DST).

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THE CONFERENCE STAFF

*** Dr. Maurice Halperin, formerly of the Department of State, has joined the staff of the Conference as Secretary for United Nations Affairs. His duties include liaison with UN and other intergovernmental bodies, and he will be in charge of research covering that field. Dr. Halperin, who took his doctorate at the Sorbonne, taught for many years at the University of Oklahoma, besides lecturing at universities in this country and abroad. During the war he was Chief of the Latin American Division of the Office of Strategic Services.

*** Rabbi David Sherman, who was Conference Director of Community Relations, has resigned to become Rabbi of the Capetown, South Africa, Jewish Reform Congregation.

*** Mr. Allen Roberts left the Conference staff on June 15 when the Radio Department was merged with the Public Relations Department.

*** Mr. Emil Bergen has joined the staff to conduct a special fund-raising campaign for the Greater New York area.

STATEMENT ON PEACE TREATIES WITH EX-ENEMY COUNTRIES

Submitted to the Conference of Foreign Ministers

by

American Jewish
Conference

Board of Deputies
of British Jews

World Jewish
Congress

1. The Jewish people has undergone the cruellest persecution in its long history. The German Government and its allies were able during the war to develop without effective challenge from the civilized world their conspiracy for the total annihilation of the Jewish people in Europe. The military victory of the United Nations prevented the consummation of this plan, but not before six million Jews, over sixty percent of European Jewry, had been done to death in circumstances of the foulest brutality. The military defeat of the Nazi and Fascist powers has not substantially restored to the surviving remnants of the Jewish people in Europe the status and possessions of which they were unlawfully deprived, and in some areas their situation, compared with that of other inhabitants, has undergone grave deterioration. Large numbers are displaced and uprooted. In many areas they are subjected to the pressure of anti-Semitism more virulent than anything known before the establishment of the Nazi German regime. Since the Jews were the first and most defenseless victims of Germany and her associates, it is submitted by the undersigned organizations that the peace settlement should contain appropriate provisions to redress the wrongs which Jews suffered in the ex-enemy countries and to secure their right to a free and peaceful life.

2. While it is recognized that the United Nations Charter envisages the promise of universal protection of human rights, it must be emphasized that this promise has no immediate practical or legal bearing on the Jewish problems which, it is submitted, should be dealt with in the peace settlements. The United Nations has not as yet been given power to protect or safeguard human rights, nor does it possess the machinery to take over the tasks of restitution, rehabilitation and resettlement for which provision can and should be made in the peace treaties. Although it is recognized that the situation in each of the countries concerned is distinctive in certain aspects, the undersigned organizations submit the following principles for the consideration of the conference of Foreign Ministers:

3. The armistice terms granted by the Allied Nations to each of the four ex-enemy governments oblige them to abrogate all discriminatory legislation and the disabilities arising therefrom, to dissolve all fascist bodies and to ban such organizations in the future. It is of urgent importance that the treaties should lay upon the ex-enemy governments the obligation to make these provisions permanent and to embody them in the fundamental law of their countries. The ex-enemy states, moreover, should be obliged to enact legislation providing that anti-Semitic and anti-racial activities and similar acts of incitement to racial and religious hatred and discrimination are violations of criminal law and are contrary to public policy.

4. The treaties should declare it to be the obligation of the states concerned to prosecute and punish as guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity, all persons who committed crimes against the Jews.

5. The ex-enemy governments should be obliged to undertake all measures to secure to all persons under their jurisdiction, without discrimination as to race, sex, language, religion or place of birth, the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech, of religion and religious worship, of political belief, of the press, and of public meeting.

6. It should be the inalienable right of Jewish communities to maintain and foster their collective ethnic, religious, linguistic, and cultural identity and institutions with legal protection in the exercise of this right, and, with assistance from the state, where such is granted to any other ethnic or religious groups.

7. There should, by simple and speedy procedure, be full restitution and re-establishment of Jewish private, communal, and institutional properties, rights, interests and positions, and compensation for all losses in life, limb, liberty and property not compensated by restitution. Agencies established to deal with the restitution of the property of Allied Nationals should have jurisdiction also in regard to the property of victims of racial discrimination now residing in Allied countries. Jews of ex-enemy nationality should, as victims of Nazi or Fascist oppression, be exempted from all measures of expropriation and confiscation applied to, and from all charges upon, the property of ex-enemy nationals.

8. It is submitted that existing laws referring to the disposition of heirless property were not intended to deal with problems arising out of mass annihilation and cannot, therefore, equitably be applied to the heirless property of Jews who were murdered or died as a result of Nazi and Fascist persecution. Accordingly, it is urged that the treaties should embody provisions according to which such property shall be transferred to an appropriate Jewish body for purposes of Jewish reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement.

9. Wherever there are territorial changes, Jews should have the same right to opt for nationality as may be granted to any other section of the population.

10. Since the unprecedented catastrophe which overwhelmed the Jewish people in Europe has undermined the foundations of Jewish life in many areas, it is of the utmost importance that Jews should, wherever they desire to exercise it, be given the right to emigrate from the ex-enemy states and to take their possessions and assets, or the proceeds thereof, with them to their new places of settlement.

11. The position of the surviving Jews in Europe must be regarded as a matter of international concern, and it is therefore urged that the implementation of the foregoing provisions, in addition to being safeguarded by the fundamental law of the ex-enemy countries, should be placed under the supervision of an appropriate international authority.

Paris, June 27, 1946

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEEFriday, July 12, 1946

XI.

Hotel Biltmore, New York City

The meeting opened at 11:00 a.m. with Henry Monsky presiding.

Those present were: Maurice Bisgyer, Sam Caplan (alt. for Max Bressler), Jesse Cohen (alt. for Charles P. Kramer), Mrs. David de Sola Pool, Harry M. Ehrlich, Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, Mrs. Ida Cook Farber, Dr. Simon Federbusch, Prof. Hayim Fineman, Harold O. N. Frankel, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Erwin K. Gutmann (for Mrs. Joseph M. Welt), Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Albert E. Kahn (alt. for Rubin Saltzman), Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki, Sidney G. Kusworm, Louis Lipsky, Sam Markle (alt. for Jacob Alson), Rabbi Irving Miller, Arthur Pekelner (alt. for Alex F. Stanton), Mrs. Louis A. Rosett, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Louis Segal, Simon E. Sobeloff, Mrs. Samuel Spiegel (alt. for Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman), Hermann Stern, David Wertheim.

Guest: Mr. Alexander Eliash.

Staff: Meir Grossman, Dr. Frank Barth, Emil Bergen, Col. Bernard Bernstein, Lillian Friedman, Mrs. Sylvia Gilman, Dr. Maurice Halperin, Mrs. Ann Jarcho, Abram Rothfeld, David R. Wahl.

I. MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 24, 1946 - Approved.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. A telegram had been received from the Freiheit Association suggesting that the Conference appeal to President Truman and to the UN with requests that: (1) the UN immediately assume full responsibility for the fate and maintenance of 100,000 Jewish refugees; (2) Britain transfer Palestine to the trusteeship of the "Big Three" within the UN for the purpose of setting up in Palestine an independent, democratic state of Arabs and Jews; (3) the UN shall recommend to Great Britain the immediate withdrawal of all British troops from Palestine; (4) the Conference send a delegation to President Truman urging the admission of Jewish refugees to the United States.

B. A letter had been received from the Jewish Labor Council urging the Conference to act on the recommendations of the Freiheit Association.

C. A letter had been received from the Jewish People's Fraternal Order urging that action be taken to remove the Mandate from British control and that Palestine be placed temporarily in the hands of a trusteeship of the UN.

Mr. Grossman reported that the telegram from the Freiheit Association had been considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee on July 2nd, which held that the proposal to create a democratic state of Jews and Arabs was contrary to the Palestine Resolution adopted by all Three Sessions of the Conference.

There being no comment from the floor, the Chair stated that the Interim Committee would take no action on these communications, but that the Executive Committee would give them further consideration.

III. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

A. Mr. Grossman submitted a comprehensive report of the Conference activities since the last meeting of the Interim Committee. The report was adopted. (Copy attached).

B. COL. BERNSTEIN REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:

Mr. Eli Ginsburg, the American delegate to the Paris Reparation Conference, with whom the Conference was in close touch, had been instrumental in securing 90 to 95% of reparations assigned under Article 8 of the Paris Agreement for rehabilitation and resettlement of Jewish victims of Nazism. Efforts were being made to obtain additional reparations out of German assets in Latin America.

Col. Bernstein felt that American military authorities would prefer to assign the responsibility for handling Jewish cultural objects in Europe to a Jewish trustee or organization which would be representative of the various Jewish bodies interested in these cultural objects.

On the problem of restitution in Germany, Col. Bernstein stated that the proposed laws were not satisfactory and that the Conference staff was preparing appropriate memoranda on the subject.

C. DR. HALPERIN REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:

The Commission on Human Rights of the UN had sent the Conference their draft of an International Bill of Rights with a request for sponsorship. With the approval of Dr. Eisendrath, Chairman of the Committee on Rights and Status, the Conference had submitted a number of suggested amendments for inclusion in the Bill.

The Conference has made application for recognition as consultant to the United Nations.

D. MR. WAHL REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:

The Conference had impressed upon the War Department the necessity for keeping the U. S. zone open to infiltrates and the border continues to remain open in spite of the increased influx of refugees. Assurances have been received that no adverse action will be taken before Jewish leaders have been notified of the projected move.

The set-up of the new International Refugee Organization is excellent and in all cases the Jewish people have been mentioned specifically. It will not start its operations until the latter part of 1947 and it will be the responsibility of UNRRA to carry on its work until the new organizations starts to function.

IV. BRITISH LOAN

At this point there was some discussion as to the advisability of the Conference issuing a statement on the subject of the loan to England, and it was the consensus that none be issued.

V. POLISH SITUATION

CARDINAL HLOND - Mr. Bisgyer raised the question as to what action the Conference proposed to take with regard to the statement issued by Cardinal Hlond of Poland concerning the pogroms in Kielce.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Segal stated that he felt very strongly that something must be done at once to get the Jews out of Poland; and that the Conference must take other steps in addition to the issuing of a statement.

Rabbi Miller felt that the statement made by Cardinal Hlond was a matter of international importance since in effect it had issued a warning to all Jews not to take any part in their government or politics of any kind.

Professor Fineman asked that the Conference issue a statement in reply to Cardinal Hlond and also with regard to the general situation in Poland.

In reply to Mr. Segal, Mr. Grossman pointed out that the only realistic way of saving the Jews of Poland is by getting them into the American zone of Germany and assuring havens for them. He stated that the Conference had received assurance from the War Department that the borders will be kept open for refugees.

Mrs. Halprin suggested that it might be worthwhile to contact Bishop Spellman or other churchmen in addition to issuing a statement.

MOTION: Rabbi Miller moved the appointment of a committee with authority to issue a statement in reply to Cardinal Hlond's remarks and to take whatever other steps the committee may deem proper. CARRIED.

The following were appointed to the committee: Mr. Bisgyer, Professor Fineman, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Lipsky and Rabbi Miller.

MOTION: Mrs. Pool moved that the Interim Committee give the Executive Committee authority to pass upon the statement to be issued on Cardinal Hlond. CARRIED.

MOTION: It was moved by Professor Fineman and seconded by Mr. Lipsky that a committee be appointed to issue a statement on the general situation in Poland.

MOTION: Mrs. Halprin moved that a general statement on the situation in Poland be prepared and that it be released after approval by the Executive Committee.

MOTION: Dr. Eisendrath moved that consideration of Professor Fineman's motion and Mrs. Halprin's motion be postponed until the committee brings in its report on the statement to be issued on Cardinal Hlond. CARRIED.

MOTION: Rabbi Miller moved that the matter of disposing of Professor Fineman's motion to issue a statement on the Polish situation be referred to the Executive Committee. CARRIED.

At this point Mr. Monsky introduced Mr. Alexander Eliash, prominent Palestine public worker and treasurer of the B'nai B'rith District Grand Lodge in Palestine, who greeted the Interim Committee on behalf of the Yishuv. His remarks in Hebrew were translated by Mr. Grossman.

The Chair conveyed the Interim Committee's sympathy and heartfelt condolence to Dr. and Mrs. Goldstein on the death of their daughter-in-law and injury of their son.

VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RIGHTS AND STATUS

Dr. Eisendrath, Chairman, reported that the committee had been organized, that memoranda had been prepared for submission to the Peace Conference in connection with the peace treaties with Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania; and that amendments had been suggested to a draft of an International Bill of Rights.

VII. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FUTURE ORGANIZATION

Dr. Eisendrath, Chairman, stated that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations felt itself honored in having had its Director asked to take this chairmanship. Several meetings of the Committee have been held and of six members suggested for cooption to the Committee, three have accepted and there have been no declinations.

VIII. PEACE DELEGATION

There was some discussion concerning the sending of a Conference delegation to the Paris peace parley. It was the consensus that the Conference must be represented even if an opportunity were not forthcoming for the presentation of memoranda.

MOTION: Mr. Segal moved that the American Jewish Conference shall be represented at the Peace Conference by a committee of laymen to be designated by the Executive Committee, and by such technical staff members as may be deemed necessary, and the matter is to be referred to the Executive Committee to carry out the recommendation. CARRIED.

IX. REPORT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jarcho, in the absence of Mr. Droock, presented a report of the Budget and Finance Committee.

The meeting then adjourned.

M. Grossman



FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

TO THE INTERIM COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

Submitted July 12, 1946

Since the May 24th meeting of the Interim Committee, the Conference has been actively engaged in preparations for the forthcoming Peace Conference, has drafted and submitted memoranda on property restitution and indemnification, has reacted to developments on the Palestine issue, has maintained contact with the United Nations and U. S. governmental agencies dealing with problems affecting the Jewish position.

To expedite the submission of memoranda to the meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers in Paris, which necessitated consultations with the Board of Deputies of British Jews and CNIF, Mr. Kenen went to London and subsequently to Paris. Details of the action taken in connection with the July 29th Peace Conference will be dealt with separately.

PALESTINE

The Conference reacted to the increasingly tense Palestine situation. A telegram was dispatched to President Truman denouncing Mr. Bevin's utterances, upholding the President's stand, and urging his continued pressure for the implementation of the short-term recommendations of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine.

Responding to a request made by Mr. Monsky, Dr. Silver and Dr. Wise, the President agreed to receive a delegation of representatives of the Conference and American members of the Jewish Agency. The meeting with the President took place on July 2.

In a letter to affiliated organizations, the Conference requested support for a motorcade and demonstration in Washington for the transfer of 100,000 Jews to Palestine, sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans of America.

The Conference Washington office was in close touch with the President's Cabinet Committee on Palestine, and coordinated activities and information for the Jewish organizations concerned. Col. Bernard Bernstein, legal adviser to the Conference, was asked by the Jewish Agency to go to London to follow developments at the Anglo-American negotiations in the British capital.

Mr. Isidore Lubin approached the Conference with a proposal that the Conference, American Jewish Committee and American Zionist Emergency Council send a joint telegram to the President on the immediate transfer of the 100,000. He felt that such joint action would demonstrate a united Jewish front and exercise considerable influence at the White House. The three organizations wired the President and simultaneously released the messages to the press.

RESTITUTION AND INDEMNIFICATION

On June 19 the Conference submitted to Secretary of State Byrnes a comprehensive memorandum suggesting definite measures on property resti-

tution and indemnification arising from claims of Jews and Jewish communities in Europe.

The Conference was approached by the Commission on European Culture and Reconstruction, of which Professor Jerome Michael is acting chairman, to discuss a memorandum which the Commission was submitting to the State Department outlining a plan for the preservation of Jewish cultural property extant in Germany. The Executive Committee agreed to endorse the Commission's proposal with the understanding that the memorandum would include a proviso that when the Jewish Restitution Commission (proposed by the Conference) is established, it is to act also as trustee for Jewish cultural property. At our request, the Commission has further agreed to include the Synagogue Council of America among organizations entitled to recommend members to the Board of Advisers to the temporary trustee. The Executive Committee communicated to the State Department the Conference's approval of the proposals contained in the Commission's memorandum.

We report with satisfaction that the Swiss Government has agreed to turn over to the Allies a part of German assets in that country, including looted gold and jewelry. This was the first step in the implementation of the Paris Reparation Agreement, which provided for the allocation of twenty-five million dollars for the rehabilitation and settlement of Nazi victims. Of this amount, twenty-two and one-half million dollars have been earmarked for Jewish rehabilitation and resettlement. Professor Eli Ginsburg, American delegate at the Paris Conference in June, was in close contact with the American Jewish Conference. The Paris decision must be welcomed as the first constructive move toward ameliorating the Jewish position by using for that purpose so-called Nazi external assets. This achievement is, of course, only a part of the program of reparation, restitution and indemnification pursued by the Conference.

LIAISON WITH UNITED NATIONS

The Conference was represented by an observer at the meetings of the United Nations Special Committee on Refugees and EPs in London, and subsequently at the sessions of the Economic and Social Council in New York when this Committee reported its findings. It will be recalled that the Conference submitted a memorandum to the Special Committee in London on April 24. Some of the proposals contained in that memorandum have been favorably acted upon. This was supplemented by an aide-memoire circulated among delegates to the Economic and Social Council on June 14.

In view of the importance of maintaining liaison with all factors and agencies operating within the framework of the United Nations, the Conference appointed Dr. Maurice Halperin as Secretary for United Nations affairs. He is endeavoring to procure Conference recognition as an official consultant non-governmental organization to the Economic and Social Council. The Conference has suggested amendments to the proposed draft of an International Bill of Rights. The text of this bill, with our suggested amendments, has been distributed here this morning.

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Mr. Wahl has been in close touch with developments at the White House, State and War Departments with reference to the implementation of the Anglo-American Committee's report and the situation in Germany. It

should be especially stressed that our friendly relations with the War Department enabled us to apprise the officials concerned of the needs of the Jews in Germany and neighboring countries and to impress upon American officials the urgency of keeping the U. S. zone open to Jewish persecutees. Military authorities have responded affirmatively to our request and the borders remain open in spite of the increased influx of refugees.

FUTURE ORGANIZATION

The Committee on Future Organization met, drafted terms of reference, and decided to invite up to nine additional leaders in American Jewish life, familiar with the organization of the American Jewish community, who are not members of the Conference, to serve on the Committee. Of the six invited, three have thus far accepted. They are: Judge Simon H. Rifkind, Isaac Heller and Stanley C. Myers.. Negotiations with the others are pending. Dr. Eisendrath, Chairman of the Committee, will report on yesterday's meeting of the Committee.

ORGANIZATION

Dr. Stephen S. Wise has accepted the Honorary Chairmanship of the Interim Committee. Mr. Theodore Strimling of Los Angeles has accepted cooption to the Interim Committee.

Five standing committees have been formed:

Budget and Finance	Aaron Droock, Chairman
Rights and Status	Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Chairman
Palestine	Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Chairman
Restitution and Indemnification	Robert Szold, Chairman
Office and Personnel	Louis Lipsky, Chairman

At a meeting sponsored by the Philadelphia Committee of the American Jewish Conference, a resolution was adopted endorsing Conference activities and proposing a plan for a permanent organization representing American Jewry.

CONSULTATIONS

After negotiations between the Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the World Jewish Congress on the participation of CRIF in the submission of proposals to the peace conference, the following agreement was reached:

"Without prejudice to the provisions of the existing Tri-Partite Agreement, the parties agree to invite CRIF to participate in consultations which may take place in Paris regarding steps to be taken in connection with Council of Foreign Ministers and peace treaties in general. It is understood that written memoranda and statements will be submitted in the name and on behalf of the three member organizations of Tri-Partite Agreement, CRIF being invited to submit endorsement in separate documents of such memoranda with which it agrees."

CONTACT WITH FOREIGN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

For the purpose of preparing a complete and authoritative survey of the Jewish position in Europe today, the Conference has sent a communication to all Jewish representative bodies in Europe. We were gratified to receive comprehensive reports from every community, and this formed the basis of the survey in the last issue of the Conference RECORD.

We are in receipt of reports and communications from various Jewish organizations abroad desiring to acquaint American Jewry with their position. All of these organizations have expressed the desire to be kept informed of Conference activities.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council now composed of fifteen youth organizations has adopted a Constitution and elected officers. The Annual Meeting of the Youth Council was held at Hotel Pennsylvania on June 13 and adopted resolutions denouncing the Bevin Bournemouth speech, instructed its constituents to take measures locally to counteract Ku Klux Klan activities and launched a campaign to increase its membership.



July 12, 1946
oeiu:153

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

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Honorary Chairman

HENRY MONSKY
Chairman

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August 2, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road & E. 105 St.
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

On June 11 we sent you a copy of the
address you delivered at the Third Session in
Cleveland.

We are almost ready to send copy of the
Proceedings to the printer but are reluctant to
submit your address without having first received
your corrected copy.

We would appreciate it greatly if you would
attend to the matter within the next several days.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Hershman

Ruth Hershman

RH:RK

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

American Association for Jewish Education	Masada
American Federation of Jews from Central Europe	Mizrachi Organization of America
American Federation for Polish Jews	Mizrachi Women's Organization of America
American Jewish Congress	National Association of Jewish Center Workers
American Jewish Congress—Women's Division	National Council of Jewish Education
American Jewish Labor Council	National Council of Jewish Women
Bessarabian Federation of American Jews, Inc.	National Council of Jewish Juniors
B'nai B'rith	National Council of Young Israel
B'nai B'rith, Women's Supreme Council	National Federation of Hebrew Teachers
B'nai B'rith Youth Organization	National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs
Bnai Zion	of the United Synagogue of America
Central Conference of American Rabbis	National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods
Council of Jewish Fraternal Federations	National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
Federation of Palestine Jews	National Federation of Temple Youth
Free Sons of Israel	National Women's League
Habonim, Labor Zionist Youth	of the United Synagogue of America
Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America	Pioneer Women's Organization of America
Hapoel Hamizrachi of America	Poale Zion—Zeire Zion
Hashomer Hadati	Progressive Order of the West
Hashomer Hatzair	Rabbinical Assembly of America
Hillel Foundation	Rabbinical Council of America
Histadruth Ivrit	Union of American Hebrew Congregations
Independent Order Brith Abraham	Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
Independent Order Brith Sholom	Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America—
Independent Order Brith Sholom of Baltimore	Women's Branch
Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of America	Union of Sephardic Congregations
Jewish National Workers Alliance	United Galician Jews of America
Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the IWO	United Roumanian Jews of America
Jewish War Veterans of the United States	United Synagogue of America
Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary	Yiddish P.E.N. Club
Junior Hadassah	Yiddish Writers Union
Junior Mizrachi Women's Organization of America	Young People's League of the United Synagogue of America
League for Labor Palestine	Zionist Organization of America

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

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WASHINGTON 1, D. C.
PHONE REPUBLIC 0883

September 3, 1946

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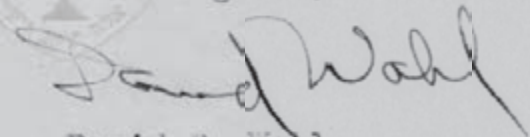
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Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Silver:

Secretary Wallace will return from Mexico on or about September 8. I am arranging that he see you shortly thereafter. I should like to arrange that you see Secretary Snyder on the same trip. Could you indicate to me what time after September 8 would be most convenient for your presence in Washington?

Best regards,


David R. Wahl
Washington Secretary

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, SEPT. 2, 1943, TO IMPLEMENT ITS RESOLUTIONS ON: THE RESCUE OF EUROPEAN JEWRY; THE RIGHTS AND STATUS OF JEWS IN THE POST-WAR WORLD; THE RIGHTS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WITH RESPECT TO PALESTINE

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Mr. Manson
HLS

SEP 8 1946

September 6, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

David R. Wahl

C
O
P
Y

On the advice of Harold Manson, whom I saw yesterday in New York, I am undertaking to send memos directly to you on activities of mine which impinge on areas of interest to you. A few days ago, Robert Hannegan's office got in touch with me in connection with their concern over the Jewish vote in New York State. As a result of that conversation, I spoke with Harold Manson, Bartley Crum, and several people on the Democratic National Committee. The attached memo is now receiving the attention of Robert Hannegan and several other selected individuals in the administration. There will probably be some developments following from this on which I will inform you currently. In connection with your visit to Secretary Wallace on Friday, September 20 at 3:30, I should like to have some discussions with you beforehand. It would be desirable, before seeing Wallace, that you spend about one-half hour or an hour with Harold Young who is the solicitor of the Commerce Department and Wallace's most trusted advisor.

Best regards.

Harold Young

1706 G Street, N.W., Wash., D.C.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

~~321 E 17th Avenue~~

~~New York 17, N.Y.~~



WRHS



Mr. Harold Manson
Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

September 8, 1946

Mr. David R. Wahl
American Jewish Conference
1706 G. Street, N.W.
Washington 1, D.C.

My dear Friend:

Thank you for your letter of September 6.
I shall be very pleased to talk to Secretary Wallace
on Friday, September 20th at 3:30 P.M. I shall be
very happy to talk to you and Mr. Harold Young before
I go to see Wallace.

I would appreciate it if you would make reservations for me at the Statler for that day. I would also be grateful to you if you would ask our office in Washington arrange air transportation back to Cleveland for the evening of that day.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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HERMANN STERN
ROBERT SZOLD

September 10, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have your letter of September 8. Arrangements have been made for your stay at the Statler for that day, and your office in Washington is arranging air transportation back to Cleveland about 10:00 o'clock that evening.

Best wishes,



David R. Wahl

P.S. I will probably call you in Cleveland sometime Thursday afternoon or evening to see if we can spend some time together.

66-5000, 1/2 to
Silver

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
MEMORANDUM

TO: Rabbi Abba H. Silver

DATE: November 6, 1946

FROM: David R. Wahl *DRW*

SUBJECT: Kilgore Committee Investigation of Military Government

The Kilgore Committee (formerly the Mead Committee) has decided to undertake an investigation of military government in Germany. The direction which this investigation is taking gives me considerable concern because the trend of the investigation is of such nature as to do considerable harm to the Jewish displaced persons and threatens to close the border of the American Zone to infiltrates from Poland. George Meader, who is the General Counsel of the Committee, has within recent days, returned from a preliminary two weeks investigation in the American Zone. I have seen some very confidential documents which indicate that the emphasis of the investigation would be on the care and maintenance of DPs, black marketing activities, infiltration, etc. There seems to be very little concern in this investigation with problems of de-Nazification or the limiting of Germany's future war-making potential. If followed to its logical conclusion, this investigation would result in headlines and sensational "disclosures" which would lead to the withdrawal of American Army troops and the reduction of appropriations so that the displaced Jewish community of some two hundred thousand souls would be left to the mercies of the German population and German police and there would be serious curtailment of even the present moderate calorie allowance for DPs and the present poor shelter accommodations.

It is now planned that on the 15th of November or shortly thereafter, six Senators of the Committee will go to Germany for further investigation. The Senator who is most interested in pushing this investigation is Owen Brewster of Maine. Accompanying him will be Senators Ferguson, Knowland, Kilgore, Mead and Mitchell. Senator Brewster has already indicated the tone of the investigation in an article which he wrote in the November 9th issue of Liberty magazine entitled "Is Scandal Brewing In Germany?"

I think it is possible to convince Kilgore and Mead that if the trip cannot be postponed until after Congress reconvenes, they could be convinced that the progress and headlines about the work should be soft-pedalled and slowed down until January. I raise the question of the feasibility of your speaking with Senator Taft in order that he may speak with Senators Brewster, Ferguson and Knowland to the same effect. It should be borne in mind that the trend of this investigation is deleterious not only to the interest of Jews, but also to the interest of Catholics and Negroes. Senator Brewster's article and the confidential memoranda which I have seen include ample references which would alienate the Negro population of this country. While there are now some one hundred seventy-three thousand Jewish DPs in the American Zone, there are also some five hundred thousand Catholic DPs of Polish and Baltic origin who would suffer from such an investigation at this time.

DRW:n

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November 6, 1946

Rabbi Abba H. Silver
10810 Shaker Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

The attached is the memorandum which you suggested that I prepare when I telephoned you yesterday. If it is possible for you to speak to Senator Taft about this, I would very much appreciate knowing at your earliest convenience what he will do in this connection.

Best regards.



Sincerely yours,

David R. Wahl
Washington Secretary

DRW:n

November 8, 1946

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt
National President
National Council of
Jewish Women, Inc.
1819 Broadway
New York 23, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Welt:

I have before me your letter of November 4th, addressed to me as President of B'nai B'rith, extending an invitation to attend a meeting under the auspices of the National Council of Jewish Women, in Washington, D.C., on November 26th, which will deal with the present displaced persons problem and aid in the formulation of an effective program for our own organizations. Reference is also made in the letter to the International Refugee Organization.

With fullest recognition of the fine work done by the National Council of Jewish Women in collaboration with the National Refugee Service, in the interest of the problem in the United States, I am constrained to observe that the functions, referred to in your letter, having relations to the displaced persons problem as it will be considered and dealt with by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the I.R.O., are essentially within the province of the American Jewish Conference, of which your agency is a constituent. The B'nai B'rith, though interested in this problem and many other phases of activity interrelated therewith, has, because of its affiliation with the American Jewish Conference, always subjected itself to the discipline of the Conference.

I have taken the liberty, therefore, to send your communication to the offices of the American Jewish Conference, in order that the Executive Committee of the Conference may consider the question of policy involved and take such action as will serve as a guide to its constituent organizations, many of whom undoubtedly received the same invitation. I am sure you will understand that this letter is not written in a spirit of criticism of the fine purpose of your activity, but it is important that matters of this kind be cleared with the Conference as it is now constituted.

With personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry Monsky.

HM:ES

November 11, 1946

Mr. I. L. Kenen
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Kenen:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received from Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, President of the National Council of Jewish Women in which she invites the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and presumably many other organizations, to attend a conference in Washington on November 26 to consider the problem of the displaced persons and what Jewish organizations can do about it. I am wondering why the National Council of Jewish Women takes the initiative in this matter and why the American Jewish Conference, which represents all the Jewish organizations, is not first consulted about this matter. Quite properly such a meeting should be convoked, in my judgment, by the Conference.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue

Phone MUrray Hill 2-7197

New York 17, N. Y.

Washington Office: 1706 G Street, N.W., Washington 1, D. C.

Phone Republic 0883

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November 12, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

You are quite right in your statement that this is a matter which should be considered and initiated by the American Jewish Conference. The fact is, that the Executive Committee of the Conference has been studying the problem of immigration and displaced persons and intends to formulate a policy at the Interim Committee meeting on November 19. In the meantime some work has been done on the matter.

At its last meeting the Executive Committee questioned the propriety of the National Council of Jewish Women's action and directed that the Council be requested to bring the matter before the Interim Committee.

Mr. Monsky has also personally written to the National Council of Jewish Women, taking exception to the action of that body. I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Monsky's letter.

Very cordially yours,

I.L. Kenen
I.L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:SB
Enc.

American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

November 12, 1946

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, National President
National Council of Jewish Women
1819 Broadway
New York 23, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Welt:

A number of the leaders of our affiliated organizations have received letters from you inviting them to a conference in Washington on Tuesday, November 26, on the problem of immigration of displaced persons to the United States.

The American Jewish Conference has been vitally concerned with the problems of displaced persons for the last two years, and more recently, the Executive Committee and the staff of the Conference, both in Washington and in New York, have been studying the question of immigration as it affects displaced persons. At the forthcoming meeting of the Interim Committee on November 19th, this question will be on the agenda.

I have therefore been directed by the Executive Committee to invite you to submit the National Council of Jewish Women's program to the next meeting of the Interim Committee.

It has been the hope of the Interim Committee and the Executive Committee of the Conference that all organizations affiliated with the Conference would attempt to insure coordination of Jewish effort, and it was in that spirit that the Executive Committee last month called to the attention of the affiliated organizations the desirability of submitting their programs to the Executive Committee insofar as they were within the scope of the Conference.

I trust that you will find it possible to attend the forthcoming Interim Committee meeting.

Cordially yours,

I. L. Kenen,
Executive Secretary.

ilk:k