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American Zionist Policy Committee, drafts, 1945.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 27, 1945

Mr. Samuel J. Keiser
200 Chamber of Commerce Bldg.
Baltimore 2, Maryland

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Keiser:

Following is a report of the decisions taken at today's meeting of the American Zionist Policy Committee's sub-committee on peace, of which you are a member. Present at the meeting were Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Emanuel Neumann, Samuel Goldstock of Pittsburgh, Marcus Abramson of the Bronx, Samuel J. Perry of Long Island, Joseph Lerner of Newark, and Jacques Torczyner of New York City. (Absent were: Judge Emanuel Greenberg of Brooklyn, Rubin Leon Fren of Detroit, Abraham Goldstein of Hartford, and Samuel J. Keiser of Baltimore)

It was generally agreed that the misgivings which were voiced concerning the genuineness of the ZOA Administration's "peace committee" have been justified. It was agreed that the Administration's action in naming a committee to explore the possibilities of peace was nothing more than a maneuver designed to placate the indignant Zionist masses and to delay the affirmative action for which American Zionists have been clamoring.

After much discussion, it was decided that the above committee as now constituted would speak for the Policy Committee when the proper time comes. It was decided, however, that no formal announcement of the appointment of this committee shall be made unless and until the ZOA's committee puts forward its proposals. Indications are strong that the ZOA's committee, when at long last it does come forward with concrete suggestions, will convey them to Dr. Silver. When that time arrives, Dr. Silver will inform the ZOA group that he does not speak for himself alone, but represents a movement and that ~~any~~ all proposals must be submitted to the American Zionist Policy Committee. It is then that ~~the~~ formal announcement of the make-up of our committee of nine will be made, and the ZOA Administration will be notified that it must carry on its negotiations with representatives of the Zionist rank and file. This point was incorporated in a formal resolution which was adopted unanimously, which stated that Dr. Silver is to refer any proposals made to him by the ZOA committee to our own committee of nine.

The meeting was unanimous in its conviction that for the present the all-important task before us is to "smoke out" the ZOA's committee which has, ~~as~~ you undoubtedly know, after almost a month of "exploration", failed to report

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on its activity. This procrastination should be pointed up immediately in the Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish Press and by Zionist Districts and Regions throughout the country. Zionists should be moved to ask the ZOA Administration, by wire, letter and resolution, why nothing further has been heard concerning the activity of its "peace committee". There is little doubt but that the committee will react to sharp and widespread criticism by coming forward with its proposals. ~~The committee~~ felt that in all likelihood these proposals will prove unacceptable from our point of view, ~~in view~~ of the make-up of the ZOA's committee; ~~therefore~~, it was felt that the proposals would be such as to make rejection by Dr. Silver inevitable. The program of action decided upon today would make it impossible for the ZOA Administration to charge Dr. Silver with prolonging the controversy by rejecting their ~~peace~~ committee's proposals (and there can be no doubt that this is the strategy behind the ZOA's recent moves); the ZOA's proposals will be considered by a committee of nine prominent Zionists who can speak for thousands of ZOA members throughout the country. That will effectively balk any attempt to use the ZOA "peace committee" to put Dr. Silver "on the spot".

As for a truly sound basis for the restoration of unity in American Zionist ranks, I have no doubt that you are well aware of the conditions under which it would be possible for Dr. Silver to assume leadership. These conditions can be briefly stated as follows: Restoration of Dr. Silver to the active political leadership of American Zionism; the establishment of such conditions within the American Zionist Emergency Council as would enable Dr. Silver to carry forward his program without obstruction; the assurance that the administration of the Zionist Organization of America will cooperate with Dr. Silver in Zionist political work.

I will keep you advised of all further developments ⁱⁿ this matter and look forward to seeing you when it becomes necessary to convene the committee.

Sincerely yours,

Harry L. Shapiro
Executive Director

HLS:Mab

Sent to: Rabbi Leon Trank
Judge Emanuel Greenberg
Abraham Goldstein

RESOLUTION -

Westchester County
Zionist Region

WHEREAS, the Westchester Zionist Region, comprising over 2,000 members of the Zionist Organization of America, deeply conscious of the tragic plight of our people and of the historic responsibilities now confronting American Jewry, is resolved to bend every effort towards the achievement of Zionist aims in this final hour of decision, and

WHEREAS, the critical position of Zionism following the Conferences at Yalta, Egypt and San Francisco, makes it imperative that American Zionists unite immediately behind a program of vigorous political action which will utilize the best talents and most effective spokesmen in our movement, and

WHEREAS, in the face of our overwhelming responsibilities, and our people's tragedy, the effectiveness of American Zionism today is impaired by disunity and the expulsion from supreme command of some of our most capable leaders, and

WHEREAS, we are greatly concerned by the failure of the present administration of the Zionist Organization of America to give heed to the demands of individuals, Districts, and Regions throughout the United States to restore unity to our movement through the recall of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver to active political leadership.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the Westchester Zionist Region, in convention assembled on this 27th day of May 1945, calls upon the President, National Officers, Executive Committee and the Chairman of the National Administrative Council of the Zionist Organization of America to restore unity to our ranks immediately through the recall of Dr. Silver to the active leadership of the American Zionist Emergency Council and to establish that cooperation with Dr. Silver which will make possible the carrying on of Zionist political work with the greatest effectiveness, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the members of the Executive and Administrative Committees of the Zionist Organization of America, to the members of the American Zionist Emergency Council, and to the Presidents of all Zionist Districts and Regions in the United States.

Westchester County
Zionist Region

~~MEMBER~~ RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Decisions affecting the future of Palestine and of the Zionist movement are being taken by leaders of the United Nations in their various conferences; and

WHEREAS, Problems affecting the future of our movement require the concerted efforts and careful deliberation of our entire organization; and

WHEREAS, the highest deliberative body of our organization is the Annual Convention of the Zionist Organization of America;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westchester Zionist Region calls upon the President of the Zionist Organization of America and the Zionist Executive to bend every effort towards the securing of permission from the Office of Defense Transportation to hold a National Convention at the usual time;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the President of the Zionist Organization of America to call such a Convention at the usual time, so far as is consistent with government regulations.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to the members of the Executive and Administrative Committees of the Zionist Organization of America and to the Presidents of all Zionist Districts and Regions in the United States.