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American Jewish Conference, 1947.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEEWednesday, January 22, 1947

XIV.

Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City

The meeting opened at 10:55 a.m. with Henry Monsky, Chairman, presiding.

Those present were: Jacob Alson, Maurice Bisgyer, Max Bressler, Arthur Gilbert (alternate for Mrs. Monroe Seligman), Mrs. David deSola Pool, Rabbi William Drazin, Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Ida Cook Farber, Dr. Simon Federbusch, Professor Hayim Fineman, Harold O. N. Frankel, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Mrs. Erwin Guttman (alternate for Mrs. Joseph M. Welt), Max A. Kopstein, Charles P. Kramer, Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Louis Lipsky, Jacob Marrus (alternate for Leon Gellman), Rabbi Irving Miller, Mrs. Florence Pearlman (alternate for Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin), Dvora Rothbard, Samuel Rothstein, Rubin Saltzman, Louis Segal, Ezra Shapiro, Simon E. Sobeloff, Alex F. Stanton, Hermann Stern, Mrs. Louis Wald (alternate for Mrs. Samuel Goldstein), Rabbi David Wice (alternate for Sidney G. Kusworm), Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

Guests: Dr. Boris Pliskin, Leon Retter, Samuel Shlomowitz, Edward Goldberg (delegate from San Antonio, Texas).

Staff: I. L. Kenen, Dr. Frank Barth, Emil Bergen, Col. Bernard Bernstein, Lillian Friedman, Sylvia Gilman, Dr. Maurice Halperin, Ruth Hershman, Mrs. J. R. Jarcho, Arthur Liverhant, Abram Rothfeld, David R. Wahl.

I. MEMORIALS

The Interim Committee rose as Dr. Wise on its behalf paid tribute to the memory of Adolph Rosenberg, Jacob Fishman and Professor Alexander Chaim Pekelis.

II. MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 1946 - Approved.III. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES - The Secretary reported on:

a. Peace Treaties - The activities of the working committee in connection with peace treaties with the ex-enemy satellites had continued in New York, the object being to persuade the Council of Foreign Ministers to accept the clauses, recommended by the Conference of Paris, which were responsive in part to the demands of the Jewish organizations. The work was crowned with success when on December 2, 1946 the Council unanimously accepted these clauses which dealt, in the main, with restitution of Jewish property, compensation for property which could not be restored, and proper disposition of heirless Jewish assets.

b. International Refugee Organization - A compromise had been proposed at UN providing that IRO, in resettling displaced persons, should take into account the wishes of people in neighboring states, this measure being directed against Jews who planned to migrate to Palestine. A telegram had been sent to Mrs. Roosevelt, signed by Messrs. Monsky and Lipsky, asking her to oppose this clause, but Mrs. Roosevelt had, in fact, led the proponents of this measure. This clause was ultimately adopted, although the American delegation had indicated that it would do nothing inconsistent with the President's policy on Palestine.

c. Palestine - Following a report that a group of Tel Aviv Jews had been forced to run a gantlet of rifles, clubs and batons, a letter was sent to the Secretary of State asking him to ascertain all the relevant facts and make the necessary representations.

When it was learned that in various sections of the country British Consuls had been making speeches highly offensive to Jews, a communication was addressed to the Secretary of State requesting his intervention in the matter.

d. Restitution Laws - Following the meeting with General Clay, at which Mr. Lipsky and Colonel Bernstein represented the Conference, proposals were made, seeking amendments in the German restitution law. The Conference and cooperating organizations had been meeting regularly and as a result of their efforts, OMGUS had accepted some of their proposals.

As regards heirless property, certain of the cooperating organizations felt that OMGUS should claim such property and then turn it over to the Jewish organizations, while the Conference viewpoint consistently had been that a Jewish body be entrusted with this responsibility. This view had received the approval of General Clay.

Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws had been drawn up for such a Jewish trustee organization, which would hold trust title to the property, while the JDC and the Jewish Agency for Palestine would be the operating agencies. The Conference Executive Committee had approved this proposal and the Agency and JDC had agreed in principle.

The matter of heirless Jewish property in this country was also considered.

Responding to the intervention of the Conference and the World Jewish Congress, certain Hungarian Jewish property had been made available to Jewish agencies.

When it was learned that an unsatisfactory restitution law was about to be adopted by Austria, the five cooperating organizations communicated their objections to General Clay and proposed amendments.

IV. GERMAN PEACE TREATY

A document, embodying proposals to be made to the Big Four in connection with this treaty, had been approved in principle by the Executive Committee. Following consideration of the memorandum and the 13-point summary attached to it, and a minor amendment suggested by Mr. Shapiro, a

MOTION: by Mr. Stanton that the draft be approved was CARRIED.

At this point Mr. Lipsky assumed the Chair.

V. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Secretary stated that it had been hoped that all the parties to the Tripartite Agreement would seek consultative status with the Economic and Social Council as a unit. The World Jewish Congress had filed a separate application and the Board of Deputies had proposed that it, the Conference, and possibly CRIF, file a joint application. The Interim Committee had so agreed at its previous meeting. The Board's emissary to this country had suggested the name of the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations for this ad hoc body. Following the decision of the Executive Committee approving the name, cables had been received from Basle from several Interim Committee members urging delay in the filing of the joint application. The matter had been considered by the Executive Committee, which had not revised its decision.

Point of Order. Mr. Monsky raised the point that the Interim Committee had considered and passed upon the question, that the Executive Committee had implemented the recommendation, and that, therefore, there was nothing before the meeting, unless a motion for reconsideration was made.

Rabbi Miller's motion for reconsideration of the action of the Interim Committee was withdrawn, but he was given the privilege of making a statement. He said that the creation of the Coordinating Board was not altogether well advised; that whereas all previous joint interventions had been of an ad hoc character, the proposed application for consultative status differed in that it was addressed to a permanent body; that if the Congress joined the other organizations, its own position would be impaired. He indicated that the Conference's first obligation was to seek to secure consultative status as a national body. Also participating in the discussion were Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Monsky, Dr. Kubowitzki, Dr. Wise, Colonel Bernstein and Dr. Halperin.

MOTION. Mr. Segal's motion to instruct the Executive Committee to review the situation in consultation with the representatives of the World Jewish Congress in order to clarify the situation and reach an agreement beneficial to both organizations was withdrawn.

The session adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The afternoon session, chaired by Mr. Lipsky, reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

VI. STATEMENT OF DELEGATES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF LIBERATED JEWS

By way of introduction, the Secretary reported that the Conference had had a number of meetings with the delegates, and that it had arranged for them to meet with General Hilldring, Assistant Secretary of War Peterson, and other officials; that the delegates desired, above all, a change of attitude by American Jewry towards the displaced persons; that they had emphasized the need for a separate DP economy, with emphasis on reconstruction; that Judge Rifkind and a number of experts, at the request of the Conference and other organizations, were planning a work program which would provide for a monetary incentive, which could be furnished by the JDC and, perhaps, by the proposed Jewish Restitution Agency.

a) Mr. Retter gave a description of the social structure, economic set-up, and political situation in the camps. He indicated that the displaced persons did not approve of the JDC's "social worker" approach to their group. He pleaded for recognition of his organization and pointed out that the Central Committee had built a cultural department, schools, hospitals, farms, a vocational training program, sports program, etc. While the JDC admittedly had helped, not enough had been done. After Kielce and the consequent influx of 100,000 more displaced persons, the work of the relief agencies had fallen down. He urged the creation of a constructive plan and proposed a three point program - recognition of the Central Committee, adoption of the principle of work, and a positive plan for 1947 which would include work for 36,000 people.

b) Dr. Pliskin suggested that the 243,000 Jews living in the camps required one-third of the JDC budget, that there were among the displaced persons many qualified people who could do the work now done by officials from America; also, that the gross difference in pay granted to displaced persons and relief officials made for bad morale among the displaced persons. He complained that after six meetings with JDC officials, the delegation had been told that further discussions were necessary and that the JDC refused to make any commitments.

MOTION. Rabbi Miller's motion that the Interim Committee express deep appreciation of the efforts of Judge Rifkind on behalf of the displaced persons and that the Committee give its approval of the autonomous efforts of the democratically organized Central Committee of Liberated Jews and of the proposed work program, and that a committee be appointed to take speedy action with regard to placing all the facts before the JDC was CARRIED.

VII. COMMITTEE ON FUTURE ORGANIZATION

Dr. Eisendrath, Committee Chairman, made an interim report. The Committee had had a number of meetings and had coopted three additional members - Judge Harry Fisher of Cincinnati, Ezra Shapiro of Cleveland, Harold J. Goldenberg of Minneapolis.

Inasmuch as it was felt that the Committee should know the points of view and opinions of the communities throughout the country, delegates had been canvassed as to the best method of selecting representatives to the new body; there was agreement in principle on the purpose and scope of the future organization.

There was a discussion on the purpose and scope, as agreed upon, in which Mr. Segal, Dr. Goldstein, Mr. Kepstein, Dr. Kubewitzki, Mr. Stanton, Rabbi Miller, Mr. Frankel, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Marrus, Mr. Shapiro and Mrs. Perlman participated.

MOTION. Rabbi Miller's motion that the Interim Committee had received and noted the report of the Committee on Future Organization concerning agreement on the nature and scope of the new organization, and that it refers the matter back to the Committee for further consideration, was seconded by Mr. Shapiro and CARRIED.

VIII. FOURTH SESSION

MOTION. Mr. Shapiro's motion that the Executive Committee be authorized to make plans for the Fourth Session of the Conference and to report at the next meeting of the Interim Committee was CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

A.R.

COPY

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

February 12, 1947

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC

GRAVELY CONCERNED OVER DEEPENING CRISIS IN PALESTINE SITUATION
STOP WE EARNESTLY REQUEST THAT YOU GRANT THE HIGH PRIVILEGE OF
AN AUDIENCE TO A REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION OF AMERICAN CHRISTIANS
AND JEWS STOP WE WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF CHURCH, LABOR,
AND MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY STOP IF THIS IS
AGREEABLE TO YOU MAY WE RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST A MEETING ON OR ABOUT
FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN

HENRY MONSKY, CHAIRMAN
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CHAIRMAN
AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

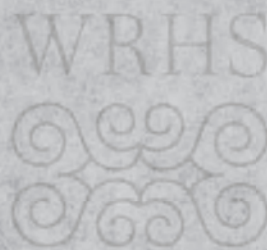
COPY OF TELEGRAM

FEB. 14, 1947

HENRY MONSKY CHAIRMAN AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
ABBA HILLEL SILVER CHAIRMAN AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
521 FIFTH AVENUE

REPLYING TO YOUR TELEGRAM FEBRUARY 12 PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE
WILL NOT PERMIT MEETING NEXT WEEK. HE HAS ASKED THAT YOU
DISCUSS THIS IMPORTANT SITUATION WITH SECRETARY OF STATE
MARSHALL AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE

MATTHEW J CONNELLY SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT



COPY OF TELEGRAM

February 14, 1947

HENRY MONSKY
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
521 FIFTH AVENUE

DO NOT THINK PRESENTATION YOU SUGGEST IS ADVISABLE AT THIS
TIME. I PREFER FOR THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE TO STUDY
SITUATION FURTHER BEFORE TAKING ACTION. KIND REGARDS



JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER



AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

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Interim Committee

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
Honorary Chairman

HENRY MONSKY
Chairman

JACOB ALSON
DR. MOSES BARRON
MAURICE BISGYER
MAX BRESSLER
NAOMI CHERTOFF
MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL
RABBI WILLIAM DRAZIN
AARON DROOCK
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
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
DANIEL FRISCH
LEON GELLMAN
FRANK GOLDMAN
DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
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RABBI ROBERT GORDIS
MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN
EDGAR J. KAUFMANN
MRS. BARNETT E. KOPELMAN
MAX A. KOPSTEIN
CHARLES P. KRAMER
ISRAEL KRAMER
DR. A. LEON KUBOWITZKI
SIDNEY G. KUSWORM
JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINthal
LOUIS LIPSKY
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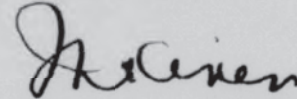
February 18, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road and 105th Street
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I enclose for your information copy of our telegram asking for the appointment with the President, copy of the President's reply, copy of our telegram of February 6th protesting against Britain's actions in Palestine and asking for American intervention, copy of letter which came in from Secretary of State Marshall today and copy of telegram from Judge Proskauer.

Cordially yours,



I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

ILK:jr

enclosures

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

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I. L. KENEN

Executive Secretary

*Deceased
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March 12, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road and 105th Street
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Before you left for Palestine I telephoned you about the problem of immigration into the United States which was raised with you by Mr. Neumark and which we hope you will bring to the attention of Senator Taft.

Briefly, this is the situation:

We take the position that immigration laws now on our books should be liberalized by Congress to permit a reallocation of existing quotas. As you know, the quota for Germany is large; the quotas for Poland, Hungary, Rumania, etc. are very small. If displaced persons who are now in Germany and who wish to come to the United States to join their relatives here are to be admitted, there must be a re-allocation of quotas or else they will have to wait for many years.

This campaign is being sponsored by the Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons which is headed by Earl G. Harrison. The American Jewish Conference is supporting the program. As the program is presented, no special privileges are asked for Jews since the campaign is being supported by Catholics, Protestants and Jews and since Jews form only a small minority of the displaced persons. We have very strongly opposed separatist campaigns sponsored by the American Federation for Polish Jews and some other Jewish landsmannschaft organizations which have been agitating for the admission of 100,000 Jewish DP's into the United States. We have taken the position publicly that such agitation was a serious blunder, first, because it provided a diversion which the British could use as an excuse for further delay in Palestine; second, because it destroyed any chance of maintaining a united front with Catholics and Protestants, which is indispensable if the legislation is to go through and, third, because the campaign was bound to and has created a ~~adverse~~ reaction in Washington.

What we ask is actually for a very limited concession by Congress. The reallocation of existing quotas and the use of unfilled quotas would not increase immigration beyond that which is now permitted under existing immigration laws. It would make it possible to carry out these laws. At the present time the immigration into the country is a tiny trickle.

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

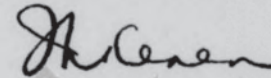
American Association for Jewish Education	Masada
American Federation of Jews from Central Europe	Mizrachi Organization of America
American Federation for Polish Jews	Mizrachi Women's Organization of America
American Jewish Congress	National Association of Jewish Center Workers
American Jewish Congress—Women's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

Senator Taft has been approached before on this question and he did not indicate any lack of sympathy. Mr. Irving Engel of the American Jewish Committee talked with him last November. I spoke to him in December. Nevertheless, the Republican Steering Committee appointed Senator Revercombe of West Virginia to frame its immigration policy and the Senator's report was a serious blow for he came out against any reallocation of immigration provisions.

I hope that you can indicate to Senator Taft that Zionists and non-Zionists have joined forces in this fight.

If there is any further information I can submit to you, I shall be happy to be of service.

Cordially yours,



I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary



ILK:jr

PLAN FOR A PERMANENT ORGANIZATION
APPROVED BY THE INTERIM COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
March 18 and May 2, 1947

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. An organization, democratic in structure and representative of the American Jewish community, shall be established to secure and protect Jewish rights and to promote the general welfare of the Jewish people, here and abroad; and to enhance the contribution of the Jewish community to American democracy.

a. In the field of international affairs, the organization shall act for American Jewry in all representations before the United States Government and its departments, intergovernmental agencies and the United Nations, and in all public relations connected therewith. The organization shall endeavor to cooperate with the organized Jewish communities of other countries and with such international Jewish agencies as are or may be established.

b. In all matters affecting the rights and status of the Jewish people with regard to Palestine and its upbuilding, the organization shall endeavor to cooperate with the Jewish Agency for Palestine and may request organizations and agencies engaged in activities in this field in the United States to submit reports periodically.

c. In the defense of Jewish rights in the United States and in opposing all anti-democratic forces and tendencies in American life and in combatting anti-Semitism in all its forms, the organization shall act through recognized Jewish agencies, affiliated with the organization, operating in these fields, without affecting their autonomy, it being understood that such agencies shall be invited to report to the organization periodically in order that the organization may be in a position to consider their policies and work, and recommend proposals to promote their objectives.

d. In the field of overseas relief and rehabilitation, the organization shall act through recognized Jewish agencies, affiliated with the organization, operating in these fields, without affecting their autonomy, it being understood that such agencies shall be invited to report to the organization periodically in order that the organization may be in a position to consider their policies and work, and recommend proposals to promote their objectives.

II. STRUCTURE

1. The organization shall be governed by a National Council which shall decide its policies and elect an executive body to conduct its affairs.

2. The National Council shall meet biennially at a time and place to be fixed by its executive body; and provision shall be made for special sessions of the National Council at the call of the executive body.

*A 3. The National Council shall consist of not more than 750 delegates to be elected biennially in accordance with the rules of election approved by the Council. The election shall be supervised by a National Board of Elections to be named by the executive body.

4. The Delegates shall be elected as follows:

a. 150 to be elected by recognized national organizations on a basis of parity; that is, these organizations shall be divided into categories, the members of which shall have equal representation;

b. 100 to be elected from the city of New York;

c. The remainder to be elected by communities on the following basis:

All communities with a Jewish population of 1,000 or more shall elect one delegate for the first 1,000, an additional delegate for the next 7,500 or major fraction thereof, and additional delegates for each 15,000 or major fraction thereof.

d. States where there are no communities having 1,000 Jewish residents shall be deemed to be regions which are to be entitled to one delegate each.

*B 5. The National Board of Elections shall have authority to designate to serve as the local elections committee to supervise the election of delegates, either the representative body of the local community or, if there is no such central representative body in a position to act, or where no such body can be organized, an ad hoc committee to be appointed after consultation with representatives of the local community.

III. REPRESENTATION

*C 1. The National Board of Elections shall formulate rules to ensure a democratic system of representation. The rules in effect at the First Session of the American Jewish Conference shall govern the elections for delegates to the new body, with the exception that:

*D a. The system of cumulative voting shall be discontinued.

b. The definition of national membership organizations or local membership groups shall be amended to include national and local membership groups devoted to Jewish philanthropy, but a special rule shall be adopted governing the number of representatives such organizations shall be permitted in the community elections.

c. All electors shall be elected at meetings of their organizations called for the purpose.

2. The National Board of Elections shall have continuously under review methods of election in all parts of the country in order to perfect the most democratic and practical electoral procedures. In view of the fact that direct elections have been urged as conducive to democratization, the National Board of Elections is authorized to study the question and to experiment in this form of elections in any communities with a Jewish population of 5,000 or less, where the local nominations committee, by a majority vote, shall express its desire for direct elections.

IV. PROCEDURE

The decisions of the National Council shall be deemed the views of the body as a whole but shall not be regarded as representative of the views of all affiliated organizations unless such organizations have ratified the action.

V. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the constitution of the new organization may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates at a meeting of the National Council; except that amendments to Article 1, Purpose and Scope, shall require a two-thirds vote of the delegates of the national organizations and a two-thirds vote of the delegates representing the communities.

FOOTNOTES

*A. Under this plan many more communities will have direct representation than in the American Jewish Conference. Under the Conference plan there were 500 delegates of whom 125 were elected by national organizations and 375 by the communities, with New York limited to 100. The communities were entitled to one delegate for each 10,000 Jewish population or major fraction thereof, while communities of less than 5,000 were combined into elected regions. Accordingly, 78 cities and 58 regions were represented.

Under the new plan, 217 communities outside Greater New York will elect 419 delegates.

*B. This provision will empower local community councils or other representative bodies to conduct community elections wherever possible. In the past special election committees were appointed in each community.

*C. The rules in effect at the first session of the American Jewish Conference provided for indirect election of delegates in the communities and regions at electoral conferences. Any local Jewish membership group, organized and functioning prior to December 7, 1941, engaged in recognized Jewish activities, with a membership of more than 50, had the right to nominate and send one electoral delegate to the district or regional election conference for the first 50 members and one additional delegate for each additional 75 members or major fraction thereof.

*D. In recommending that the system of cumulative voting - in use at the First Session of the American Jewish Conference - be discontinued, the Committee on Future Organization expressed itself in favor of the principle that some more feasible system be found to ensure representation for minority groups.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

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

Phone Republic 0883

Cable Address: AMCONFERNC

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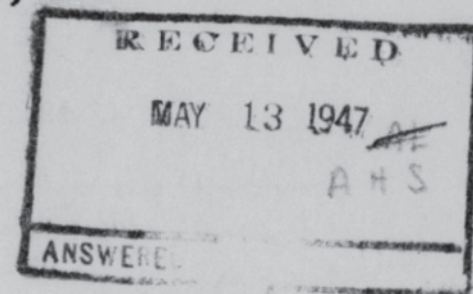
I. L. KENEN

Executive Secretary

*Deceased

oeiu: 153

May 12, 1947



Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman
American Section of the Executive
Jewish Agency for Palestine
16 East 66th Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Silver:

The Interim and Executive Committees of the
American Jewish Conference have considered the
present relations which obtain between the Jewish
Agency for Palestine and the Conference, and do not
consider them satisfactory.

The Conference has been eager to cooperate at
all times, but the lack of regular, joint consultations
does not enable us to be properly orientated and in-
formed.

It is suggested that regular meetings be held on
both policy-making and operational levels so that
common policy may be agreed to and pursued, especially
during the period when the Palestine question is under
consideration by the United Nations.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Lipsky

Louis Lipsky, Chairman
Executive Committee

LL:lf

American JEWISH CONFERENCE

521 Fifth Avenue Phone MUrray Hill 2-7197 New York 17, N. Y.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
LOUIS LIPSKY
HENRY MONSKY
Co-Chairmen

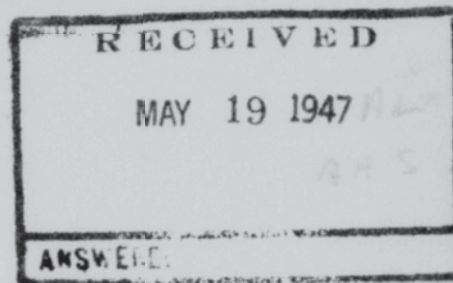
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DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1706 G STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 1, D. C.
PHONE REPUBLIC 0883

May 15, 1947



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Jewish Agency for Palestine
16 East 66th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Silver:

As you may have been informed, I have done considerable work, both with the Soviet Embassy and with the Soviet delegation in New York. I must report to you that the Embassy in Washington has been most anxious to receive all possible help and suggestions for the benefit of their delegation at the United Nations. They submitted by special pouch to their delegation all materials which I had gathered from the Emergency Zionist Council office and the Jewish Agency office in Washington. In addition to my seeing Mr. Gromyko and Mr. Tsarapkin personally in New York, the Soviet Embassy in Washington transmitted to them by pouch a special covering memorandum of analysis which I prepared, setting forth the desires of the Agency and the American Jewish community vis-a-vis the Palestine situation.

I must report to you that in all my discussions with the Embassy and with the Soviet delegation I found no resistance to the expressions of the Jewish people as stated in the official Agency policy positions, and it is a matter of great gratification to me, as it must be to you, that the Soviet delegation performed beyond what we have been accustomed to expect from any great power in our behalf. I wish to state categorically that it would be a grievous error to attribute the performance of the Soviet delegation to any overwhelming ability on the part of myself or any other special pleader to convince them of the position they should take. I think it is only practical to realize that conviction was possible because there was also coincidence of interest and attitude.

In only one respect did I find the Soviet delegation going out of its way to alter a position which it was about

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

Rabbi Silver

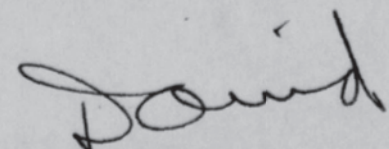
May 15, 1947

to take. That had to do with the stand on the composition of the inquiry commission. Mr. Gromyko was rather surprised to learn that the Agency preferred to include Great Britain, the Arab countries and neutral countries, as well as the Agency, in a non-voting capacity. Originally (and this is extremely confidential) they had planned to take a stand which would exclude Great Britain, the Arab powers and the great powers, in order to give the Jewish community of Palestine a better advantage. It was when I transmitted to them the instruction of the Agency executive that they were willing to change their stand and come out favorably for inclusion of the big five as well as the Agency, even though it meant including the Arab countries. From personal conversation I can report to you, the press to the contrary notwithstanding, that there was the greatest antagonism between the Arab delegation and the Soviet delegation. There is indeed much more compatibility between the Soviet delegates and Agency aspirations.

I report this to you in some detail because, while this is the first time in which I had specific contact with Soviet representatives in connection with the Palestine matter, it is in keeping with the generous attitude which they have expressed with respect to Jewish displaced persons which is quite at variance with their stand on non-Jewish DP's. Were I to review my experience of the past year and a half with the displaced persons problem, I would have to report in all fairness that it was the cooperation of the Soviet Government in repatriating many thousands of Polish Jews which made it possible to build up the Jewish DP population now in Germany from 70,000 at war's end, to almost a quarter of a million at the present time and certainly no one will gainsay that it is the pressure of this large Jewish DP population which is of inestimable value to the Zionist cause with respect to increasing immigration to Palestine and building towards a Jewish majority in Palestine.

I report this to you in the hope that both the Agency and the ZOA will express formally, both to the Soviet Embassy and its delegation, their gratification with the Soviet contribution to progress at United Nations, particularly as to the clarification of issues. I should like also to urge that at this time and in the new climate which has been developed, the Agency do its utmost to establish rapport for future reference with the Soviet Government in order to counter-balance the anti-Jewish attitude representative of both the British and American attitudes as expressed in the course of this United Nations debate.

With sincere regards,



David R. Wahl
Washington Secretary

LOUIS LIPSKY
386 Fourth Avenue
New York 16, N. Y.

May 16, 1947

My dear Dr. Silver:

The basic proposals of the Committee on Future Organization, of which Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath is Chairman, after months of discussion, have finally been approved by the Interim Committee. They are to serve as the basis for negotiations with national organizations and consultations with leading community councils. When all these consultations have been held, the Interim Committee will prepare the final report for submission to the Fourth Session of the Conference, to be held in Chicago from August 30 to September 1.

I need not remind the Zionist representatives that a fundamental issue in American Jewish life is involved in the establishment of a permanent organization. To a large extent, American Zionists are responsible for the launching of the American Jewish Conference. They are also responsible for the movement to create a permanent organization. In my view, it is most desirable that the Zionist group - the largest in the Conference - arrive at some common understanding in order that their influence may be directed toward the achievement of a purpose that will be beneficial to Jewish interests.

I am, therefore, unofficially taking the liberty of asking the representatives of the Zionist groups to meet on Tuesday evening, May 20, at 8 PM, at the offices of the Conference, 521 Fifth Avenue, New York City, to discuss these matters.

It is your duty to attend this meeting.

Very cordially yours,

Louis Lipsky

Louis Lipsky

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



WRHS
AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
Mr. Louis Lipsky
521 Fifth Avenue, Room 1401
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Lipsky:

I shall _____ shall not _____ attend the meeting of representatives of the Zionist groups on the Interim Committee to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 8 p. m. at the offices of the American Jewish Conference, 521 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Name _____

Address _____

Remarks _____

MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

May 20, 1947

M. Grossman

Special Meeting

This is to remind you that the special meeting of the Interim Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 28, at 2:30 p.m. We hope you will make every effort to attend.

For your information we are enclosing herewith the Interim Committee minutes of the meeting of May 2, 1947.

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEEFriday, May 2, 1947

XVI.

Hotel Biltmore, New York City

The meeting opened at 10:50 a.m. with Henry Monsky, Chairman, presiding.

Those present were: Max Bressler, Mrs. David deSola Pool, Rabbi William Drazin, Mrs. Louis Drucker (alternate for Mrs. Louis A. Rosett), Harry M. Ehrlich, Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, Dr. Simon Federbusch, Professor Hayim Fineman, William Gerber (alternate for Benjamin Samuels), Mrs. Lionel Golub (alternate for Mrs. S. Goldstein), Rabbi Robert Gordis, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Max A. Kopstein, Sidney G. Kusworm, Louis Lipsky, Leo Lowitz, (alternate for Dr. Moses Barron), Rabbi Irving Miller, Mrs. Abram Orlov, (alternate for Mrs. Farber), Mrs. Nathan Perlman (alternate for Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin), Rabbi Gunther Plaut, Samuel Rothstein, Rubin Saltzman, Simon E. Sobeloff, Alex F. Stanton, Hermann Stern, Robert Szold, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Mrs. Stephen S. Wise.

Guest: Rabbi Joseph S. Shubow.

Staff: Meir Grossman, Emil Bergen, Col. Bernard Bernstein, Dr. Maurice Halperin, Mrs. J. R. Jarcho, A.C.A. Liverhant, Abram Rothfeld, David Wahl.

I. MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 18, 1947 - Approved.II. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Mr. Grossman gave a comprehensive report on Conference activities since the last meeting of the Interim Committee. (Full text of report is attached.)

MOTION: Rabbi Plaut moved that the report, including the arrangements made for the Fourth Session, be approved. CARRIED.

III. PALESTINE

Mr. Lipsky reported that the Conference had undertaken a number of political actions in connection with the special session of the UN General Assembly. On the whole, they were in line with the policy of the Agency, with which the Conference has been cooperating on matters affecting the Palestine issue. However, referring to recent consultations with the Agency and other bodies, Mr. Lipsky expressed dissatisfaction, pointing out that the absence of frequent meetings and an exchange of views had hampered the activities of the Conference on the Palestine question. He proposed sending a letter to the U. S. Government urging it to support the establishment by the UN of a custodial arrangement for Palestine during the period of inquiry, since the policy of the present Palestine Government was obviously designed to undermine the economic position of the Jewish population and to bring about complete deterioration of the country's economic and social order.

MOTION: Mr. Kusworm moved that, after consultation with the Jewish Agency, a letter be sent to the State Department calling its attention to British misrule in Palestine and the serious consequences which would arise from having her follow her present course during the UN inquiry, and to make the necessary recommendations with respect to means which would avoid complete destruction of the community, without specifically suggesting the creation of a custodial arrangement. After discussion the motion was WITHDRAWN.

MOTION: Rabbi Plaut moved that the Jewish Agency be requested to call regular meetings of all cooperating Jewish organizations for the purpose of coordination and exchange of views. Seconded by Mrs. Halprin.

MOTION: Rabbi Gordis moved the adoption of a resolution embodying the essence of the proposed letter, and urging the Government of the U. S. to propose that the General Assembly of the UN request Great Britain, as a matter of urgent necessity, to give assurances that during the period of inquiry she will govern Palestine in strictest adherence to the provisions of the Mandate. Seconded by Rabbi Plaut.

MOTION: A substitute motion that a committee be created consisting of the Chairman of the Interim Committee, Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Palestine Commission, and authorizing the committee to formulate and issue, after consultation with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the Conference statement on Palestine, was made, seconded, and previous motions having been withdrawn, was CARRIED.

MOTION: Dr. Wise moved that the Chairman of the aforementioned committee request the Jewish Agency to bring about regular and frequent consultations with representatives of the Conference and other interested bodies during the special session of the General Assembly of the UN. Seconded by Mrs. Pool and CARRIED.

IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FUTURE ORGANIZATION

Dr. Eisendrath reported that since the last meeting of the Interim Committee his Committee had met twice to consider the two items in the plan on future organization which had been referred back to it. He stated that as to one of them - consideration of the statement "in all other fields the organization shall function through recognized agencies or through such agencies as the organization itself may create" - the Committee had decided to delete the paragraph entirely since, in its judgment, it was, in effect, a limitation of the powers of the new organization. As to the question of cumulative voting, which was to be discontinued, the Committee had decided to retain the original language, but had agreed that it was necessary to find and formulate a plan which would secure representation for minority groups in one form or another.

In the opinion of his Committee, the plan which, with the changes indicated, was being submitted for final approval, represented a decisive step forward in the direction of establishing a permanent body which would be representative of all points of view in American Jewish life.

MOTION: Dr. Eisendrath moved the approval of the report as a basis for negotiation with national agencies within the Conference, with national agencies outside the Conference, and consultations with community councils, it being understood that each member of the Interim Committee would vote in his personal capacity and would not thereby commit the organization he represented.

MINORITY REPORT: A minority report was presented by Mr. Ginsburg, a member of the Committee. He felt that the plan, as presented, was not likely to receive the support of the entire Jewish community. In his opinion, the national organizations which opposed a stronger plan, would eventually agree to a reasonable compromise if the democratic power of public opinion were permitted to operate freely. He urged that the Interim Committee should not approve the plan as presented by the majority of the Committee unless it first made the following amendments:

a) The paragraph relating to purpose and scope should state explicitly that in all fields and issues germane to the stated purpose of the new organization, it would be free to act.

b) Paragraphs 1c and 1d, dealing with the defense of Jewish rights in the U.S. and overseas relief and rehabilitation, should give the new organization greater powers of action in these fields.

c) The national council should meet at least once a year.

d) Direct elections should be held in all communities.

Acceptance of his suggestions, Mr. Ginsburg pointed out, would not require the repudiation of the Committee's report or of its work. Except for the four amendments proposed, he concurred in the majority-approved plan and urged its adoption.

MOTION: Mr. Stanton moved that discussion on Dr. Eisendrath's motion be deferred until the next meeting of the Interim Committee and that in the meantime the minority report be circulated.

MOTION: Mr. Lipsky moved that Mr. Stanton's motion be laid on the table. Seconded by Mr. Rothstein and CARRIED.

The session adjourned at 2 p.m. and reconvened at 3:10 p.m.

V. CONSULTATIONS ON PEACE TREATIES

The Chairman of the Executive Committee was authorized to appoint three or four persons to represent the Conference at the forthcoming consultations among the nine Jewish organizations to draft common proposal in respect to the peace treaties with Germany and Austria.

VI. FOURTH SESSION

The Executive Committee was authorized to formulate rules for filling delegate vacancies to the Fourth Session. The Executive Committee was also authorized to establish appropriate committees in New York and Chicago to carry out the arrangements for the Fourth Session.

VII. FINANCES

In the absence of the Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, Mr. Lipsky reported on the financial condition of the Conference and pointed out that New York City had not met its quota, with the result that the budget was adversely affected.

He reported that Mr. Droock had tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Ehrlich moved that the resignation of Mr. Droock be accepted and that the Chairman of the Interim Committee be authorized to communicate with Mr. Droock and express to him the gratitude and appreciation of the Interim Committee for his devoted and outstanding service to the Conference. CARRIED.

The Executive Committee was authorized to appoint a Chairman, and, if necessary, a co-chairman, for the Budget and Finance Committee.

VIII. COOPTIONS

MOTION: On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Mr. Lipsky moved the cooption of Rabbi Joseph Shubow of Brighton, Mass., to the Interim Committee, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Adolph Rosenberg. Seconded by Mr. Stern and CARRIED.

IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FUTURE ORGANIZATION (CONTINUED)

There was a discussion of the proposed plan and of Dr. Eisendrath's report in which Professor Fineman, Rabbi Miller, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Monsky, Mrs. Pool, Dr. Eisendrath and Mr. Ehrlich participated.

During the discussion, Mr. Lipsky assumed the Chair.

MOTION: Mrs. Perlman moved that a time limit be fixed for organizations within the Conference to act upon the proposed plan. Seconded by Mrs. Pool and Defeated.

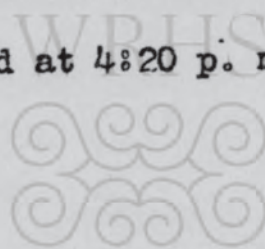
MOTION: Professor Fineman moved that the negotiating committee be appointed and when presenting the plan, add a note which would indicate that sub-paragraphs a,b,c, and d of Section I would not limit the activities of the new organization, and that it was not implied that if the new body should find it necessary to create new institutions of its own to implement the program, without contradicting the provisions of sub-paragraphs a,b,c, and d, it would have the right to do so.

The Chairman observed that Professor Fineman's suggestion was implicit in the recommendation of the Committee on Future Organization, and Professor Fineman did not press for consideration of his motion.

As previously moved, the plan in its final form, as presented by Dr. Eisendrath, was APPROVED.

A recess was called at 4:15 when it was realized that Mr. Monsky was very ill.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p. m.



American Jewish Conference

521 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

June 13, 1947

Dr. Israel Goldstein
270 West 79th Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

At a meeting of the Interim Committee held on June 12th, it was decided to set up a committee to consider the program for the Fourth Session.

The committee is to be composed of one member representing each of the nine groups in the Conference.

Since this is a very important committee and must undertake its work immediately, we are asking you to designate your representative who is to serve on this committee by Friday, June 20th.

May we suggest that you name some one in New York City or vicinity so that he will be able to attend meetings which may be called frequently and on short notice.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Lipsky, Chairman
Executive Committee

LL:lf

cc: Dr. Silver

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P

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Call
TO
The Fourth Session
OF THE
American Jewish Conference
AUGUST 30TH - SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1947

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

To the Delegates of the American Jewish Conference

The historic call for the First Session of the American Jewish Conference on May 22, 1943, issued in the shadow of the continuous mass murder of European Jewry, declared:

"In common with all men, we Jews have a vital stake in the general peace that is to come after Victory. The right of Jews to freedom, equality and justice should find place in the new world that will emerge when peace comes. The economic rehabilitation of Jewish life should be integrated in the plans for world reconstruction. And the rights of the Jewish people with respect to Palestine should be fully implemented."

As we issue this call for the Fourth Session of the Conference, the longed for peace has not come to our people.

Two years after V-E Day, almost a quarter of a million Jews are still displaced wanderers; 153,000 still languish in assembly centers on hostile German soil. Eretz Israel, toward which most of them look for permanent settlement, is still closed to them. In defiance of its international commitments, the British Government, by a chain of delaying tactics, continues to blockade the Jewish homeland against the homeless Jews. The Palestine issue has finally been referred to the United Nations, and it now becomes the task of the Jewish people to secure a just and binding decision from the world's foremost international body.

* * *

The signal contribution of the American Jewish Conference in the battle for rights and status for the Jewish people is by now fully and widely recognized. As we take stock of our activities for the past eighteen months, we take justifiable pride in our accomplishments.

The deliberations of the chosen representatives of American Jewry at the three previous sessions have guided the day-to-day work of the Interim and Executive Committees in ameliorating the situation of European Jewry and supporting the struggle for Palestine.

At the first United Nations Conference in San Francisco in 1945, the American Jewish Conference played a leading role in protecting human rights and in defending the legal status of the Jewish National Home. Article 80 of the UN Charter, which was included as the result of Jewish

representations, was an important achievement, and proved its worth at the recent General Assembly discussions.

At the Paris Peace Conference in 1946, the American Jewish Conference succeeded in forging a united world-wide Jewish front, which presented a unanimously agreed upon set of proposals to the peace makers. Thus, the treaties with the Axis satellite countries now contain clauses guaranteeing equal rights and restitution of property to Jews, and the allocation of heirless Jewish property to the rehabilitation and resettlement of Jewish survivors.

A Jewish Restitution Commission, envisaged by the previous sessions of the Conference to handle restitution claims for the Jewish people, has been established. It will act as trustee and utilize the proceeds of such property for the benefit of Jewish survivors.

If the German and Austrian treaties, still to be written, are to bring freedom, equality and justice to the Jews in those unhappy lands, and secure fair restitution for the survivors, similar provisions must be made part of the peace settlements with those countries.

With this in view, the Conference has again stimulated the cooperation of all the major Jewish organizations that had worked together so well in Paris.

* * *

We have not yet passed the time of crisis. Much remains to be done. In their eagerness to rehabilitate the war-maker, the world's leading powers have turned their eyes away from his victims. Upon American Jewry falls the major responsibility for rectifying this situation by securing the daily sustenance and long-term rehabilitation of Europe's Jews.

* * *

The most significant contribution of the American Jewish Conference is the lesson and the experience in unity which it has brought to American Jewry. The Third Session expressed its recognition of the importance of this development when it adopted the following resolution:

"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."

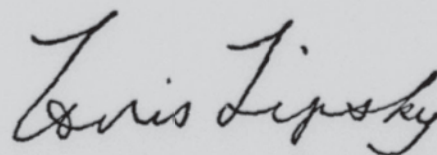
Laboring to fulfill this directive, the Conference Committee on Future Organization devised a plan for the organization of a permanent body. It considered the desires and opinions of all segments of the American Jewish community. Every point of view was represented on the Committee. Divergences were reconciled and a cohesive and practical plan was evolved.

The preliminary phases of the work have now been completed. The basic plan for the establishment of the representative Jewish body to speak for all of American Jewry has been made public. The plan contains the essential ingredients for the long-sought overall representative organization. It includes the American scene as well as activities in behalf of overseas Jewry. The plan also provides for amendments to the constitution of the permanent body, to meet the expanding needs and changing dynamics of Jewish life in the United States. Upon this foundation we should be able to gather the overwhelming support of organized Jewish life—nationally and locally.

At the Fourth Session, the delegates of the American Jewish Conference, duly elected spokesmen of their communities and organizations, will receive an accounting of Conference activities during the past eighteen months. They will also, it is ardently hoped and confidently expected, lay the cornerstone of the new, permanent, democratic representative body—the united voice of American Jewry.

We urge all the delegates to prepare to attend this historic session of the American Jewish Conference.

May 28, 1947.



Chairman, Executive Committee
AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE