

Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel Folder Box 179 66 526

Report on the Zionist Congress, 1939.

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Cleveland Chapter of Hadassah

MONTHLY



BULLETIN

VOLUME IV - No. 1

5700 TISHRI — SEPTEMBER 1939

A New Year Message

For Jews, Rosh Hashanah is more than the celebration of the New Year: these holidays are days of remembering and days of planning.

Never before in our long memories have Jews had more problems to face, never have we been more determined that the new year season shall be one of renewal for our hopes—a challenge to our courage and a prophecy of continual rebirth. We, whose past is filled with struggles against oppression, shall continue our fight and be victorious.

May the New Year bring to us and to all peoples strength and courage and surcease of suffering. May truth and peace triumph among the nations and all its people be comforted.

JUDITH E. EPSTEIN, President National Hadassah.



RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Beloved Leader, Outstanding Liberal, Important Writer in the field of higher criticism, one of the world's strongest voices and agents in behalf of Zionism.

WELCOME MEETING

FOR OLD AND NEW MEMBERS
CLEVELAND HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1939 2:30 P. M.

MESSAGE AND GREETINGS BY OUR PRESIDENT, MRS. ABRAHAM STRAUSS SPEAKER:

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Subject:

"FIRST HAND INTERPRETATION OF WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS AND THE WORLD SCENE"

COME AND BRING A GUEST!!!

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Published monthly as the official organ of the CLEVELAND CHAPTER OF HADASSAH 10616 Euclid Ave. CEdar 4977

Mrs. Abraham Strauss......President
Mrs. Chas. C. Colman.....Editor

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THE PROPELLING IDEA

Events of the past two weeks, culminating as they have in the solemn and tragic declaration of war in Europe, tighten our throats at once with tears of despair and relief—despair over the impending holocaust of European civilization and humanity; relief over the assurance that the forces of brutality and evil will now be overcome. These momentous beginnings tend to "black out" all our normal habits of thought and action. But despite heavy hearts and tense nerves we will have to hold ourselves strictly accountable for our obligations.

One of those obligations is the support and promotion of Hadassah with her manifold undertakings. For in spite of chaos and destruction in Europe, Palestine and its valiant population must be succored, and Hadassah must continue to do her share in ever-widening scope. In fact we must be even more effective and efficient than in the past. With looming horrors of war, our hospitals are likely to be overcrowded. They must be equipped for any emergency and strain. Land-buying must go on, for if we are intrenched on the land, we shall not be dislodged. And Youth Aliyah must continue with its augmented program, accepting now not only youth in the 15-17 year old category but also children from 12-15 years of age. We dare not allow these projects to slacken or languish either because of lack of courage to go forward, or because of sick and unproductive sorrow for the plight of humanity.

Our first objective is to increase our membership to the fullest extent for two reasons: for the importance of every woman to Hadassah with her additional strength, inspiration and enthusiasm, and for the good of each individual accepting membership in the great Hadassah family . . . for the feeling of group solidarity that membership gives her in these soul-shaking days when she needs her people to cling to and important things to do.

Membership is of paramount importance. It is the foundation on which we build, for from each member Hadassah receives more than mere dues. Hadassah receives from us thoughtful cooperation, for it is rooted, not in mere philanthropies, but in an idea and an ideal as century old as the first dispersion of the Jews, namely that the Jews must and shall have a homeland, that these homeless wanderings shall cease. Zionism is the propelling idea. Its projects are the concrete means of implementing this idea. Some members work through the idea to the projects. Most work from the projects to the heart of the idea. But all—nearly all—work.

It is work we need for the continued upbuilding of the land for those who, for reasons either too personal and deep to scrutinize or too obvious and ugly to restate, are returning to the land.

Mrs. Abraham Strauss, Pres.

CALENDAR FOR 1939-1940

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 20, 1939, 2:30 P. M.—First Open Meeting—Cleveland Hotel—Speaker, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

Wednesday evening, October 18, 1939, 8:30 P. M.—Senior-Junior Meeting— Cleveland Hotel—Speaker Mrs. Joseph Ehrlich, National Vice-President.

Wednesday, November 15, 1939, 2:30 P. M.—Open Meeting—Cleveland Hotel —Speaker to be announced.

Wednesday, December 13, 1939, 8:30 P. M.—Donor—Cleveland Hotel—Program to be announced.

Wednesday, January 17, 1940, 2:30 P. M.
—Open Meeting—Medical Library —
Speaker, Abram Sachar.

Wednesday, March 20, 1940, 2:30 P. M.
—Jewish National Fund Meeting —
Medical Library—Speaker to be announced.

Wednesday, April 17, 1940, 2:30 P. M.— Open Meeting — Medical Library — Speaker, Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner.

Tuesday, May 21, 1940, 12:30 P. M.— Annual Meeting — Cleveland Hotel — Speaker to be announced.

Saturday, October 14, 1939, 2:00 P. M.— Oneg Shabbat—Jewish Center.

EDUCATION MEETING

All education meetings are held at the Hadassah office, 10616 Euclid, at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 11, 1939—"Jews in Biblical Times."

Wednesday, October 25, 1939—"Life of the Jew in Talmudic Times."

Wednesday, November 8, 1939—"Jews in the Roman Empire."

Wednesday, November 29, 1939 — Jews and Arabs in Spain."

Wednesday, December 20, 1939 — "Jews in France and Germany."

Wednesday, January 10, 1940—"Jews in Medieval Cities in Europe."

Wednesday, January 24, 1940 — "Distribution of Jews Throughout the World."

Wednesday, February 14, 1940 — "Jews in the Labor Movement."

Wednesday, February 28, 1940—Debate on Current Jewish Topic.

Wednesday, March 13, 1940 — Tschernichowsky.

Wednesday, March 27, 1940—Book Re-

Wednesday, April 10, 1940—Book Review.

Do you know that:

Hadassah offers you, an American Jewess, a dynamic program of Jewish education and companionship in America?

Hadassah is an outlet for constructive Zionist work in Palestine?

Hadassah offers you a chance to express best your deep sense of humanity and hope for the Jewish people?

Hadassah maintains a medical organization in Palestine?

Hadassah furnishes permanent health education to the masses?

Hadassah, through the Jewish National Fund helps to redeem the soil of Palestine for perpetual ownership by the Jewish people?

Hadassah through Youth Aliyah furthers immigration and colonization in Palestine?

Therefore

Do something about it! Bring in a member!



A Great Opening Meeting

The World Zionist Congress

and

Zionism and Palestine in the Present World Crisis

will be discussed by our own

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

President of the Cleveland Zionist Society

ON SUNDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 1st, 1939

8:15 p. m.

In Mahler Hall of The Temple, East 105th and Ansel Rd.

What took place at the Zionist Congress in Geneva? What of Palestine in war time? What will follow the war? What is the role which American Jewry must now play in the affairs of Palestine and of world Jewry.

These subjects will be discussed by Dr. Silver, National Chairman of the United Palestine Appeal and of the United Jewish Appeal.

THE MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A special section of Mahler Hall will be reserved for members of The Cleveland Zionist Society.

The Palestine Movement

CONCLUSION OF CONGRESS

Dr. Weizmann's Moving Speech "L'HITRAOT"

[From our Special Correspondent—GENEVA]

The political resolutions which were adopted by Congress during the closing sessions were those which I gave in advance in my last message. An important addition was the one which referred to Arab-Jewish relations. It ran:

"The Congress instructs the Executive to appoint a Committee to study Jewish-Arab relations in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields, to explore the possibilities of co-operation between Jews and Arabs in these spheres of life, and to report to the organs of the Zionist Movement.

Earlier on the Thursday, the organisation resolutions were considered. Among those which were referred to the Zionist General Council was a resolution that the special representation of Palestinian Jewry at Congress should be abolished.

Those adopted included a resolution to reduce the price of the Shekel for the East European countries in which there is economic distress and to instruct the Executive to fix the price in those countries in accordance with this resolution.

Memorable scenes marked the speech on Thursday evening of Dr. Weizmann, who had to leave shortly before Congress concluded in order to fly to London on urgent business. Perhaps "speech" is the wrong word to use, for it was more in the nature of a heart-to-heart talk, a word of cheer and encouragement at a time when hearts were heavy from the point of view of both the latest news in the international crisis and the Palestine situation. More than once Dr. Weizmann had to muster all his will power to stop himself from breaking down.

First he made a passionate plea for Shalom in Zionist ranks at that grave hour in order that the Executive which would be elected would have wholehearted support and co-operation in the arduous and responsible work that lay ahead of it. That was a dark hour for them, he said, and it was very difficult to see through the black clouds.

Then Dr. Weizmann, with his eyes brimming over with tears, declared that they had had their differences with the Government. "But the fight of the Western democracies," he declared, "is our fight, their cares our cares."

He addressed words of solace in particular to Polish Jewry in the tragic position that confronted them and to the Yishuv, and concluded with the word להתראות.

All present jumped to their feet and cheered Dr. Weizmann for many minutes, during which he took his farewell of Mr. Ussishkin and Mr. Ben Gurion, and shook each member of the Executive and other leaders of the Zionist Movement on the platform heartily by the hand. When he was about to leave, the whole gathering rose to its feet to sing Hatikvah.

In the name of the Jewish people, Mr. Ussishkin wished Dr. Weizmann health and strength to be able to carry on his work and assured him on their behalf that they would rally round him in every possible way.

The Executive was, as I had foreshadowed, re-elected, and the Zionist General Council was empowered to add to its number if they thought that this ought to be done. The Zionist members of the Administrative Committee and the Jewish Agency were also re-elected.

The concluding speech was given by Mr. Ussishkin, and Congress came to an end at 1 o'clock on Friday morning with the singing again of Hatikvah.

SUMMARY OF THE RESOLUTIONS

The first resolution denied the validity of the White Paper and rejected it as violating the rights of the Jewish people and repudiating Britain's obligations under the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate. Congress declared that the Jewish people would not acquiesce in the reduction of its status in Palestine to that of a minority and reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Jewish people to return to Palestine.

Congress declared that the Mandatory obligations were undertaken towards the Jewish people as a whole and not towards the Jews of Palestine

The second resolution expressed appreciation of the attitude of leading

members of all parties in the British Parliament.

A protest against the suspension of Jewish immigration was the subject of the third resolution, while the fourth welcomed the unanimous conclusion of the Permanent Mandates Commission that the Government's policy is not in accordance with the Mandate as hitherto interpreted and the majority viewpoint that the new policy is not in conformity with the

The fifth resolution declared that resistance to the White Paper was not directed against the interests of the Arab people, and reaffirmed the resolve of the Jewish people to establish relations of mutual goodwill and co-operation with them. "Despite four years of bloodshed and destruction, the Congress expresses its opinion that, on the basis of mutual recognition of the respective rights of both races, a way can be found to harmonise Jewish and Arab aspirations, and instructs the Zionist Executive to persevere in its efforts towards that end."

Congress instructed the Executive "to appoint a Committee to study Jewish-Arab relations in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields. to explore the possibilities of co-operation between Jews and Arabs in these spheres of life, and to report to the organs of the Zionist Movement." Appreciation of the "loyal and dignified stand of the Jewish delegation at

the Palestine Conferences in London" was also recorded. The last resolution sent "brotherly greetings to Zionists in Soviet Russia and expresses the hope that the U.S.S.R. will change its attitude towards the Zionist Movement and Zionist activities. It is hoped that the ban on Jews in Russia wishing to immigrate into Palestine will be removed.'

The Zionist Executive has decided that a special committee represent-

ing American Zionists should be nominated and authorised to represent

the Executive in the United States.

Rabbi Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Rabbi Solomon Goldman, President of the Zionist Organisation of America, and Mr. Louis Lipsky have been nominated members of this Committee and authorised to co-opt representatives of the General Zionists, Hadassah, and the Labour Zionist groups.

GENERAL ZIONISTS GROUP B

A Summary of Policy

From Mr. JOSEPH I. RIVLIN

To the Editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

SIR,—The following is a brief outline of the resolutions submitted by the World General Zionists (Group B), known as the Brith Hazionim Haklaliim, to the twenty-first Zionist Congress at Geneva:

The group will endeavour, at all costs, to uphold and further the cause of Zionism. It will, in spite of all obstacles, endeavour to keep the doors of Palestine open to the multitude of Jewish immigrants seeking, "as of right and not on sufferance," a haven in our Homeland. We will, to the last of our resources, resist organised terror, smash and uproot all terror whether from within or from without.

We are struggling neither against the Arab nor against the British peoples but to the bitter end against those whose policy systematically

aims at depriving us of our last hope.

We will lend no hand to any administration which aims at carrying out a policy based on the White Paper. We will make every effort to train and teach the Yishuv to become a self-contained community with a maximum consumption of home-made goods (Tozereth Haaretz).

Our Group demands a system of elections to the Congress based on proportional representation.

We demand a radical change in the administration of the Zionist Movement; the abolition of the one-party system of Zionist government, which does not allow for constructive criticism and exercises an undebated authority which may eventually lead to tyranny.

If a measure of democracy, and indeed tolerance, is to prevail, regardless of party affiliation, it is inconceivable that all administrative functions, i.e., those concerned with finance, political work, labour, immigration, and colonisation should remain in the hands of one party. We therefore demand a system of "Separation of Powers" and genuine popular control over all political, labour, immigration, and colonisation departments.

The Group demands the abolition of the Agency's present system of immigration, which is so framed that to all intents and purposes it excludes all regular Jewish immigrants who are not identified with the party in

The Group is opposed to the exercise of arbitrary and discretionary powers by the party in power on matters of immigration. Immigration to Palestine must be kept open to all Jews regardless of their Zionist political

The Group deems it high time for a standing committee to be formed whose functions shall be the control of expenditure and various other administrative activities of the Zionist Organisation.

The Group demands that a budget shall be allotted to support the "Farmers' Federation" and the "Federation of Industrialists." Every possible help-financial and otherwise-should be given to these bodies to expand in their fields of endeavour.

The Group demands that full recognition be granted to the "Mifdeh Haezrachi" as a central financial institution, whose purpose is to help

the middle-class citizen in Pa'estine.

Similarly, the Group demands full recognition of various other institutions, e.g., "Degel Tzyon," "Ovdei Yisroel," "League for Jewish Aviation in Palestine," and the "Zebulun League" as national organisations and vital to the progress of our cause.

The Group, in these critical days, aims at mobilising and uniting all forces behind the ideology of Zionism. It will make every effort to bring about the re-entrance of the Revisionists into the Zionist Organisation, for

only by a united front can we hope to achieve our goal. It is the intention of the World General Zionists to enlighten Jewry at large, and British and American Jewry in particular, on the true state of affairs prevailing in the Yishuv. With that in mind it has been resolved to make Britain a starting point of our endeavour. We

aim, therefore, at establishing a permanent office with its headquarters in London for the furtherance of our cause.

I am, &c., 31, Sinclair Grove,

Golders Green, N.W.11.

JOSEPH I. RIVLIN

ZIONIST FEDERATION Propaganda Drive Arranged

[COMMUNICATED]

The various sub-committees of the Zionist Federation are now preparing plans for the coming session. The Education Committee has in course of preparation a series of Speakers' Notes on various aspects of the present position in Palestine. A detailed study-circle syllabus of seven lectures on Zionism and Palestine has been prepared, and is available, free, on application.

The Organisation Committee has convened a London Regional Conference on Sunday next, to which delegates from all affiliated London groups have been invited to discuss organisation and propaganda in the coming session. An intensive drive has been prepared for the next few months for the establishment of new Zionist societies and the consolidation of existing groups. It is hoped to arrange a Provincial Regional Conference early in the session in Birmingham.

The Tozereth Haaretz Committee has been pursuing active negotiations with the Foreign Trade Institute in Palestine in order to help in the sale of Palestinian products in this country. Those interested should communicate with the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Percy P. Baker, c/o 75, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

WIZO'S NEW EXECUTIVE

[COMMUNICATED]

The following were elected at the tenth biennial conference of the

W.I.Z.O. at Geneva:

The Viscountess Samuel, Hon. President; Mesdames Henrietta Irwell, M. Gaster, and D. L. Nathan, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Galut Executive (London): Mesdames I. M. Sieff, Paul Goodman, G. Olga Alman, Edith (London): Mesdames I. M. Sieff, Paul Goodman, G. Olga Alman, Edith Eder, M. Epstein, I. Feldman, H. Irwell, Harry Sacher, Dr. Celine Sokolow, Mesdames R. B. Solomon, Leonard Stein, Selma M. Margulies, J. Hodess, J. Bloch, and Warshaw; Continent and Overseas (Czecho-Slovakia): Hanna Steiner; Greater Germany: Sofie Loewenherz; Holland: S. R. Polak van Cleeff, and B. Vromen-Snapper; Jugoslavia: Reza Steindler; Canada: A. J. Freiman, O.B.E.; Poland: Marie Apte, Salomea Lewite, and Dr. Ada Reichenstein; South Africa: Mrs. B. Reinhold; Transylvania: Dr. Ilonka Roth and Mrs. Lunka Reiter; France: Mrs. Robert Stern; Palestine: The Hon. Mrs. Edwin Samuel, Mrs. Ch. Weizmann, Dr. Rosa Ginzberg, Mrs. Jenny Blumenfeld, Mrs. Anna Braudo, Miss Ada Fishman, Dr. Helene Kagan-Hauser, Dr. Rachel Kagan, Dr. Rachel Klompus, Mrs. Beba Idelsohn, Mrs. Nanny Margulies, Mrs. Rachel Rubashow, Dr. Miriam Scheuer Goldes, Mrs. Esther Smoira, and Mrs. Rosa Yewnin. Scheuer Goldes, Mrs. Esther Smoira, and Mrs. Rosa Yewnin.

YOUTH ALIYAH CONFERENCE CANCELLED

[COMMUNICATED]

In view of the political situation in Europe it has been considered necessary to cancel the Third World Youth Aliyah Conference which was to have been held in Amsterdam from September 2 to 5.

The report of the work in the various countries covering the period since the last bi-annual conference, which was compiled for the conference in Amsterdam, will be issued within the next few weeks.

PALESTINE MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES

UNITED ZIONISTS-The Society has now formed a Synagogue at its headquarters, at 5, Clapton Square, E. Services are held every Friday evening and Saturday morning, and arrangements are being made for special services for the forthcoming High Festivals. Further particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. Warshavski, 33, Wickford Street, E.1.

BOW BNEI ZION-The society held a "Reminiscences of 1939 Summer School" function last week at the Synagogue Hall, Harley Grove, E., with Mr. Oscar Rose as the guest of honour.

HERZLIA-This society begins its programme on September 12 with a gramophone recital, and the proceeds will aid the Anglo-Baltic Kibbutz. Those interested in the society should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Miss I. Frochwaig, 119, Uxbridge Road, W.12.



Land of Israel News

EFFECTS OF THE CRISIS

The Yishuv Prepared

NASHASHIBIS PROMISE LOYALTY

Owing to the international situation, the local civil and military authorities are in constant consultation. General Wavell, commanding the British troops in the Middle East, conferred with Lieut.-General Barker, the General Officer Commanding the British troops in Palestine, last week-end. The military authorities are preparing additional transport facilities in readiness for an emergency, and doctors have been invited to volunteer for service. The Jerusalem broadcasting station has started additional morning broadcasts in order to allay the spreading of different rumours. All leave of the Jewish civilian guard (notrim) has been cancelled.

As a test of air raid precautions, there was a black-out throughout

Haifa on Monday night.

All Government army and police officials have had their leave cancelled as a precautionary measure in connection with the world

situation.

The Jewish Agency, after an examination of different reports, finds that the food situation of the Yishuv is satisfactory. This is a consequence of the considerably larger imports of essential commodities and raw materials in the first half of 1939, as compared with 1938. There has been an increase of 255 per cent. in wheat imports, 162 per cent. of animal food, 85 per cent. of rice, and 93 per cent. increase of tinned meat imports. There was also a good local crop of cereals.

The High Commissioner returned to Palestine on Saturday last. At an extraordinary meeting of the Tel-Aviv muncipality, it was decided to empower the Security Committee to purchase gas masks, to apply to the Government to issue price-fixing regulations, and also to urge the Government to make grants in order to finance activities in connection with the present situation. Air raid precautions instructions have been issued to the civil guard, and the Jewish Agency has opened offices for co-ordination in A.R.P. work, Leading Jewish banks have prepared a plan in order to avoid panic in a time of emergency. A bank holiday of three days was declared on Sunday.

At Haifa, special work is in progress for the protection of the

harbour and the oil pipe-line.

Dr. Bernard Joseph and Mr. Dov Hos, representing the Executive of the Jewish Agency, were received on Sunday by the General Officer Commanding, Lieut.-General Barker.

An Arab delegation headed by Ragheb Bey Nashashibi, the leader of the Arab moderates, was received by Sir Harold MacMichael on Monday, and declared that the majority of the Palestine Arabs wished to confirm their loyalty to England. FALASTIN stated that the Arabs will support the Powers who serve their political interests. The Arabs, it further states, are inclined to give their support to the democracies, which will undoubtedly fulfil the Arab demands.

BRITISH POLICE KISS RESCUED **CHILDREN**

2,000 Refugees to be Released from Camp

[From our Correspondent-JERUSALEM, August 28]

Four more ships carrying refugees from countries of persecution in Europe are stated to be on their way towards Palestine waters, ostensibly with visas for China, but it is anticipated that once they get within motor-boat reach of Eretz Yisrael they will make for the Promised Land.

The arrival of refugees is becoming almost a daily occurrence along the coast of Palestine, but the enthusiastic welcome they receive from the Yishuv grows more pronounced as each ship arrives. Nor is the attitude of the British policemen and soldiers any less humane. When 800 refugees arrived on Saturday morning, August 19, some of them landed at Nathanya; and policemen waded into the water to bring in the women and half-naked, haggard children, kissing the tots and comforting them with chocolates, giving cigarettes and money to the haggard-looking adults, who had not eaten a square meal for

The men and women on the Greek s.s. Parita, which was beached opposite the Ritz Hotel in Yarkon Street, on the Tel-Aviv foreshore, on August 22, had been at sea eleven weeks. What wonder then that many of them, as they stepped on dry land at last, bent down to kiss the sand they picked up, or lay prostrate in the warm Mediter-

ranean sun-in Eretz Yisrael at last!

The Yishuv is showing its fine sense of hospitality to the newcomers. Clothing and food have been given generously to each shipload of arrivals. Groups of women volunteers have assisted the Jewish institutions in tending the unfortunate wanderers, a large proportion of whom have had to be taken to hospital owing to their complete exhaustion from exposure to the elements and under-nourishment. It is a wonder how they manage to survive so huddled together in the small vessels which bring them over such great distances.

Eye-witnesses report with pride the demeanour of the young men at Nathanya on Saturday, August 19, when a chorus of cries from the foreshore, on which the motor-boat Nicholas had run aground (the passengers thinking the craft was foundering), was the first intimation that 207 men, 109 women, and fourteen children were near the beach. Stripping themselves, the colony's youth maintained a line of communication with the stranded boat, swimming backwards and forwards in rough seas and pitch darkness carrying food, water, and blankets, and staying up all night so as to be among the first to help the people

The boat contained the refugees from the ill-fated steamer Rim,