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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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American Jewish Conference, 1944.



*American Jewish Conf.*

Dr. Silver - My good friends, I know that you are tired after a long day's session. I know that I am very tired, and I shall therefore try to make my report brief. Most of the things that I should like to say for the Palestine Commission are in the printed report which you have received. The value of a printed report is that it spares you a long speech, and the printed report is not read anyhow, so you gain twice.

At the first session of the American Jewish Conference, the first day of September of last year, you passed an historic resolution with reference to Jewish rights to Palestine and Jewish rights in Palestine. You called for an end of the infamous White Paper which restricted and finally planned to terminate Jewish immigration, restricted the right of Jewish settlement in most of the parts of Palestine and proposed to freeze the Jewish population to a one-third minority of the total population of what was hoped to be an Arab state. You demanded an end of that unwarranted and illegal document which distorted the clear intent and purpose of the Mandate, which Great Britain had voluntarily assumed at the hands of fifty-two nations of the world and by the terms of which it committed itself to rebuild the Jewish National home in Palestine, by facilitating Jewish immigration and Jewish settlement upon the soil. You also demanded in that resolution, that the Jewish Agency be entrusted with control over Jewish immigration into Palestine so as to insure that Palestine shall become, in the quickest possible time, that which it was intended to become, by the proper interpretation of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate, a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. (Applause)

This was your resolution, and your Palestine Commission was charged with the responsibility of doing its utmost to implement it as far as it was within its power to implement, to use its own apparatus or whatever was available on the American Jewish scene to that end. I believe that the declaration itself of September 1st of last year was an act of tremendous importance, quite apart from the consequences which may flow from it. This Palestine Resolution was ratified by most of the organizations, though not by all. It was the privilege of those organizations which for one reason



or another chose not to ratify, so to do. However, those who could not find it possible to ratify that resolution, nevertheless remained within the structure of the American Jewish Conference, -- all but one.

An organization does not compromise its principles if it remains in an overall democratically controlled body, but declares its opposition to the decisions of the majority, and remains free to advocate its principles. (Applause) This slogan of "Jewish Unity" which was used fifteen months ago in a desperate effort to defeat your Palestine Resolution, and which was used throughout these last fifteen months to discredit the composition, the authority and the purposes of the American Jewish Conference -- this slogan of Jewish Unity, is one of the most misleading and disruptive ones in American Jewish life.

Every organization seeking to maintain a privileged position, -- every organization unwilling to submit to the judgment of the majority, and every one who out of assimilationist tendencies wishes to hold down American Jewish life to a minimal program, has sheltered himself behind this slogan of unity. No people of five million souls anywhere in the world is unified on the basic issues which affect its life. Only dictatorship can achieve such a specious unity of action, never of thought, and certainly not for any long time. It is not ~~xx~~ unity which is essential, my dear friends, but organization, democratic organization, in which all points of view can find their legitimate expression and by means of which the majority can properly receive its authority to speak and act for the entire community. (Applause) Minorities in Jewish life have the right to be heard, to organize, and to advocate their point of view. They have no right to speak as if they represented the majority and they have no right to sabotage and disrupt efforts at organization in the hope of keeping the majority from exercising its rightful authority, of preserving for themselves a special status of vested privileges.

Your Palestine Commission, receiving its authority from the American Jewish Conference, which in turn received its authority from the overwhelming majority of



the Jewish population in the United States, proceeded during these last fifteen months, in cooperation with the great organizations operating on the American Jewish scene on behalf of Palestine, first of all to try to educate the American public opinion, to arouse America — America which had become absorbed in the war, in so many global problems and in its own complicated economic, social and political problems.

The plight of a doomed people against which one of the mightiest empires of the world has decreed a war of annihilation, the plight of that people had not penetrated deeply into the consciousness and the conscience of the American people, not because the American people is callous or indifferent — not at all. This is a good and kindly people in the midst of which we live, but ours is not the only problem which clamors for its attention and interest. We had to make the American people aware of our problems: the problem of the abnormal status of the Jewish people in the world and of the right solution for this problem, the basic, the fundamental solution, voiced in that historic Palestine Resolution which was adopted by this Conference.

And so throughout more than a year, through the American Zionist Emergency Council, through the many Zionist bodies, through the many pro-Palestine bodies, the many non-Jewish pro-Palestine bodies on the American scene, we sought to arouse, to explain, to reach the press, the pulpit, the universities, the colleges, the journals, the magazines, the newspapers through hundreds of meetings throughout the nation. This work is continuing; this work must continue. We have not scored a total victory in this area at all, but we have done a pretty good job.

The next important action of the Zionist groups, the pro-Palestine groups, and the American Jewish Conference, during this year, was the introduction of the Palestine Resolutions in the Congress of the United States. It was of utmost importance to raise the question of Palestine onto the national and international stage, to put it on the agenda of the thinking of the world, to bring it out of the corner into which mankind had shoved it, as though it were a small and insignificant



problem that could be thrust aside. The surest way of making the subject of Palestine world noted, to draw the attention of the world to it, was to introduce a resolution in the Congress of the United States, the most important public forum of the world today. The very act of the introduction, the hearings, the discussions, were a political act of first magnitude.

You know the story. I need not recount it here. The House of Representatives, in its Foreign Affairs Committee held hearings on the Resolution. The Congressmen and Senators were prepared to vote on it favorably. Then military objections were raised and action on our Palestine resolutions were deferred. But almost simultaneously <sup>was</sup> with the deferment came a moment of great political significance. The President of the United States graciously received one of the co-Chairmen of the American Jewish Conference, Dr. Wise, and the Chairman of the Palestine Commission, and following the interview, ~~he~~ authorized the issuance of a statement: "The President authorized us to say that the American Government has never given its approval to the White Paper of 1939." (Applause) That was the first statement of our Government in all the years of the White Paper. Speaking through its Chief Executive, it expressed disapproval of a policy of the British Government with reference to Palestine. This expression of a divergent viewpoint was given as a result of the many protests against the White Paper policy, which poured into the White House. That was a gain, a significant gain.

A further step in the progress of our work came during the summer months when the voice of the American people spoke through its great political conventions, by the introduction of highly gratifying planks in the party platforms of the two major political parties. In one of these plans reference was made for the first time to a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. That was another step forward in keeping with the resolutions which you adopted fifteen months ago. These resolutions which, a year ago, were looked upon as extreme and doctrinaire, were now beginning to percolate into the political thought of the American people.

Shortly before our recent elections, another significant forward step was achieved. The standard-bearers of both great parties issued statements personally



approving and endorsing the Jewish Commonwealth. The more significant of the two statements, -- both warm, both friendly, both embodying what you said in your resolutions in almost the exact words -- was of course the statement of the President of the United States in which after expressing his satisfaction at the Palestine plank included in the Democratic Party platform, said: "Efforts will be made to find appropriate ways and means of effectuating this policy as soon as practicable. I know how long and ardently the Jewish people have worked and prayed for the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. I am convinced, " said the President of the United States, "that the American People give their support to this aim, and if re-elected, I shall help to bring about its realization." (Applause)

Many people said: Of course you can get all these statements from political candidates. It is campaign stuff. But those who say these things do not understand the mind and heart of the American people. The test came within this week, when the resolutions introduced nearly ten months ago in the Congress of the United States, and then deferred because of military objections, were brought up again for action, since Secretary of War Stimson had indicated in an official letter that the military objections were no longer the decisive factors in the situation. In the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, the following resolution was voted out and approved, and now awaits action by the House of Representatives. I will read this resolution.

This is a resolution which was voted out, after election day, by one of the most important committees of the House, a committee which for four long days had sat through hearings on this resolution -- had heard the opposition, as well as the spokesmen of the American Council for Judaism, and of the Arabs -- hearings which have since been printed in a 700 page volume.

This is the deliberate judgment of that committee of the House of Representatives. This is what it says:

"WHEREAS the sixty-seventh Congress of the United States on June 30, 1922, unanimously resolved 'that the United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and



religious rights of Christian and all other non-Jewish communities, in Palestine, and that the holy places and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected'; and

"WHEREAS, the ruthless persecutions of the Jewish people in Europe has clearly demonstrated the need for a Jewish homeland as a haven for the large numbers who have become homeless as a result of this persecution; therefore be it

"RESOLVED, that the United States shall use its good offices to the end that the doors of Palestine shall be opened for free entry of Jews into that country, and that there shall be full opportunity for colonization, so that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic commonwealth." (Vigorous applause.)

I call your attention to the wording of this resolution. It does not say that Palestine should be constituted as a free and democratic commonwealth. It says that the Jewish people may ultimately reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic commonwealth. Of course, if the Jewish people given the right of free immigration and free colonization, and recognized as a people, and summoned to reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic commonwealth, choose to create it a Turkish commonwealth, or an Irish commonwealth, that would be the act of a very bright people....

I have received today a telegram from the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Sol Bloom, who was very helpful in piloting through this resolution, which piloting was not without its major difficulties. Congressman Bloom wires:

"I have every reason to believe, hope and pray that we will be able to have the Rules Committee report favorably a rule so that this resolution may be reported to the House of Representatives and favorably passed upon before this Congress adjourns. Personally I cannot see any reason and cannot think of a reason why the Congress should not favorably pass this resolution." (Applause)

I am persuaded from having spent this last week in Washington that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unless something very unforeseen occurs, will vote favorably upon the resolution.



And so what fifteen months ago was characterized as the extreme views of a few fanatics (you will remember the Waldorf-Astoria Meeting) — those "morally irresponsible" fanatics who were trying to force upon the Jewish people and upon the American people, a conception of Palestine redeemed which they would never accept, and which was considered untimely — is now, fifteen months later, approved by the President of the United States. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives voted, as you did fifteen months ago. The whole Congress of the United States will probably vote with you within a week or ten days. (Vigorous applause).

My good friends, all these forward steps to which I have pointed may be written down as victories but they are not yet Victory. The White Paper is still the law of the land in Palestine. No new policy has as yet been announced. No final decisions with reference to Palestine have as yet been made. Our battle days are far from over. Our enemies are still very busy at home, abroad — bitter, relentless, cunning, unscrupulous — particularly our Jewish enemies at home.

We are going to win a free Palestine, just as our forefathers won a free Palestine a long, long time ago, the hard way, the very hard way. For Palestine we have to wage a war on the barrenness and the sterility of the soil, on the ravages of neglect, and centuries of erosion. We have to wage war upon the callousness and the indifference of a world which had reconciled itself through these dreadful centuries to our national homelessness, our dispersion and our national degradation. We shall have to wage a war, as we are doing, upon those in our own midst, the blind who will not see, the bitter, poisoned enemies of Israel. We shall have to continue to wage war for that one prized objective which I believe will probably be the only good thing that will emerge for Israel out of the holocaust and the horror, the unspeakable horror, of these years.

I listened to the reports, as you did this evening, on Rescue and Rehabilitation. My good friends, you tried to stop an avalanche but you were helpless. We could not rescue our people! We could not rescue a fraction of a fraction of our people! As you plan for the future, do not raise your hopes too high about plans of reconstruction



and rehabilitation. I am afraid, -- and I hope that I am wrong -- I pray that I shall be proved wrong, -- that you will be disillusioned. Our people are moving into a decade or two of stress and tension and disorganization and economic chaos in the world, and bitter national and class rivalries after the war, which will make their lot in Europe, and perhaps elsewhere, hard, almost desperate, in spite of all the things which you will and should attempt to do. The rebuilding of a free Jewish life in Palestine may yet prove the one blessedness which will emerge out of the untold malediction which have fallen on the poor, tired heads of our people during these recent years.

For this one good, oh good friends, we have to strain ourselves to the utmost. Do not relent! Do not be discouraged! Let no obstacles -- and there will be many in the way -- keep you from the goal clearly before you. We must not relax now that we have gained a few significant victories on the political scene. We have to move, from here on, onto the long road ahead. We have to call for action now because <sup>the</sup> tensions in the Jewish National Home must be relieved. There is mounting tension there which is leading to the most lamentable and tragic occurrences, which we all deprecate, occurrences which are foreign to the nature, the spirit, the moral code of the Jew -- occurrences which are, however, uncontrollable and for which we cannot accept group responsibility. Our hands have not spilt this blood!...

How long can a people put up with this -- a people fighting for its very life with 3,000,000 of its sons and daughters already slain in chambers of death and camps of slaughter? How long can a people put up with immigration schedules, with "Strumas," with "Patrias," with rotten hulks of boats carrying broken, human cargo which is denied sanctuary even in the land of Israel? No people should be indefinitely subjected to such mental torture as the Jewish people has been subjected to in Palestine in the last ten years. There is one sure way of ending terrorism in Palestine, and that is a generous, whole-hearted implementation in letter and spirit of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine.

We shall be able to build the Jewish Commonwealth. We shall be able to plan



the economic reconstruction of the country, the creation of absorptive capacity and the speeding up of industrial developments, so as to take in the hundreds of thousands who will seek the haven of Palestine, if we remember the basic scriptures of our movement -- our testament, both old and new -- that there is no solution for our existence in the Galuth. tragic problem without national restoration! This is the unvarying truth of Jewish/

I do not know who it was who said that nature reveals her secrets in abnormalities, in monstrosities. Hitlerism is a frightful monstrosity, a horrible abnormality; and yet this very monstrosity reveals the secret which is known to the thoughtful among us -- which should be known to every Jew. There will be Galuth everywhere on the face of the earth until such a time as there will be a Jewish national home somewhere! This is the secret: that world progress and enlightenment does not necessarily improve and make secure the status of the Jew, that persecutions are not necessarily and exclusively a product of dark ages, and that the Jewish minority problem is not just another minority problem like the minority problem of other peoples.

Whenever the hammer of history begins to beat out some significant change, whether in the economic, political, social or religious life of the people, the strokes of that hammer fall most heavily upon the Jewish minority. And no talk of universalism or prophetic Judaism will justify the deaths of the 3,000,000 Jews in the human abattoirs of Poland, or will make life more durable for millions of helpless Jewish refugees today or at any other time.

Nordau once said, "Jews sometimes become too headlessly logical." This is a profound observation. We thought that because enlightenment was coming to Europe and the rights of citizenship and human rights generally were being established, the Jew, too, would come to share on an absolute basis of equality, with everyone else in Europe. Logically, it was an unanswerable position to take. But, unfortunately, we overlooked the fact that constitutional equality is not yet real equality. A country may be officially democratic but bitterly anti-Semitic at the same time. Witness Poland before the war, and Weimar Germany. We forgot that political equality / is not yet brotherhood; that a century and a half of progressive emancipation and



enlightenment in Europe did not mitigate the anti-Semitism of the European countries, but rather speeded up its tempo. Why do I say all this? Because, unless we bear this hard fact of our existence in mind, we shall not be prepared to endure the hard stages through which our movement must pass before it reaches its blessed consummation.

We ask of the nations of the world today to give the historic solution for our historic problem. Nothing else will meet the situation - no new asylums, no philanthropic ventures. Those things have never helped us in the past. They cannot help us in the future, because they do not reach down to the roots of the tragedy which is the national homelessness of the Jewish people in the world. If this is to be a day of new beginnings, if the world is really reaching out for a new order of human dignity and worth, and the statesmen of the world in whose hands will be entrusted the reshaping of the world for a durable peace tomorrow are truly willing to be helpful, then they must be made aware of the fact that only a political solution of the political problem of the Jewish people is adequate to the need.

This is what you had the vision to grasp more than a year ago when you voted for a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. We want the nations of the world to give us -- no we don't want them to give us anything -- we just want them to let us build that to which we have set our hands. We know how to build, and we know how to build with our own blood and with our own sweat and with our own tears. We have a certain kind of vision for our building. We want to build in that little land, so dear to our past and so full of promise for our future, a kind of a free and noble society which will reflect something of the beauty and the grandeur of the prophetic social vision of our prophets. We want to build, without terror, without regimentation, without dictatorship, a new order of life in which men will voluntarily cooperate in the building not of wealth but of a Commonwealth of free and happy men. We say to the world: Let us alone! Remove the obstacles and the political shackles! Give us a chance to build, to pour out the energy of our minds and hearts, of our own substance, to build there where we built so beautifully and nobly in the past, and where we hope to build as nobly and as beautifully in the future!



I do not know, my good friends, whether the world will listen to us. I think some are beginning to listen. I have been encouraged by what has happened in our own blessed country. Good people are listening to what we are saying and are agreeing with us. They are giving us their hand of fellowship and helpfulness. They want us to succeed. If that is so, and if I am not misled or deluded, and if we can win over ~~some~~ friends also in England and elsewhere among the free nations of the world, then there is a hope that just as out of that Wilderness of long ago, where our people wandered for forty long and weary years, where a whole generation perished -- there came to our people the blessings of the Torah, the Mishkan (Tabernacle), Manna, Mitzvot (Commandments) and much else that was good and fine -- there is hope that out of this Wilderness through which we are now passing -- full of scorpions and serpents, devouring a whole generation of our people -- out of this Wilderness, too, there may yet come to us things great and good: Yerushalayim Ha-benuyah -- Jerusalem Rebuilt, to which our sons and daughters will stream from all parts of the world. There may yet come the third and final redemption after the third and final exile. There may yet emerge a truly free Jewish people in a truly free Jewish land. May God grant that it be so! (All rise and applaud vigorously and sing Hatikvah).



1) Sep. 1 '43 - Report in print = J. rights to P - J. rights in P.  
Answer to White Paper - whence - entrust J. Gurney -  
develop it into autonomy of Gov.

2) Your Commission - entrusted to implement - own apparatus  
① Declaration itself - not all org. ratify - privilege - some bolted  
criticized - An org. does not compromise its principles if it re-  
mains in an over-all democ. constituted body but declares  
its opposition to the decision of the majority & remain free to  
advocate its principles" (Quote)

② Edward Porter Garrison - Explain - Press - Pulpit -  
intellectual - Publications - Meetings.  
Amer. Pol. Cons - Chr. Council for Pol.

③ Resolutions - nat. & inter. agenda - Very discussions  
a pol. event. Jan. 21. Feb. 2.

Conference - entrusted - plan to express - editors -  
military opinion to decide at that time.

④ Pres. statement on March 9 (Quote) - shook a long silence -  
first expression of disapproval of British policy -  
a divergent viewpoint.

⑤ VA step further -  
Vote of Am. at great pol. Convention - Plan 12.

⑥ Another advance.  
Oct. 15 - (Quote).

⑦ And still another.  
Schuman Oct. 10 - Blum - Salisbury - Franklin -  
Pol. considerations and  
through the military - Senate -

It is our hope -



3/ See this has but no victories - not Victory!

this is still our Seed-time - not our Fruit-time.

White Paper still law, the land -

no new policy yet announced.

no final decisions have as yet been made -

Our battle-days are far from over.

Our enemies still busy - at home - abroad.

bitter - rejections - cunning - misapprehensions -

War Remembrance - final pol. decisions go through many  
stages and pass through many hands, are frequently  
reversed at last moment.

4) We shall carry on + one good thing - emerge!

We shall urge action - speedy -

Sustained and growing tension - commitment

and tragic acts - can never cease -

NK can not assume responsibility - 12/1/1/31

Surest way - to achieve monetary stability - implement

An end to unjust "Patron" "Favor" "Arbitrary"

Roll the cargo boats carrying broken human cargos  
finding no sanctuary even in the land & land



5) Even as we are doing things in right & just poli. decisions  
without which - ground-work cannot be laid - econ.  
absorption capacity.

6) We shall be able to accomplish - if  
"basic scriptures of our movement" - the testament  
of our faith -

no solution without nat. restoration!

"Nature reveals her secrets in abnormalities - monster

- Hitlerism only revealed frighteningly - secret known  
Progress - not normalization - persecution - not just another  
minority problem - selective killing effect.

- Whenever the Hammer of Hist. - we bear the heaviest  
strokes.

- No National Statues =

- No talk of Universalism will make the deaths -  
sublime - Treblinka more clear

- Or life more durable for millions of our refugees

7). Too heedlessly logical . Carotid. Equality - no thing!  
Real Equal -

A country may be officially democrat - But by Antis  
Pop. Equality is not yet Brotherhood

- A country is - of evenness - using tempo -



8/ Nations must give historic solution -

4/ this is truly like a day of New Beginning -  
Let us build, we know how! <sup>Hope & Despair</sup> Our own blood  
A free future society - cooperation and love

9/ Out, wilderness ① 3/3/4 ② plan ③ 1/4

① 2nd + much else

3/3/4 plan

3rd & Final Redemption for 3rd & 4th Exile

A Return to the Temple in a free society. 1st



- 1) On Eve - Boat wrecked - They who set out -  
Even deny - Superior Race - raucous - Fichte  
Removal tell-tale signs - Anti-J. - placards  
- just burnt bodies - erase evidences of  
hesitancy.
- 2) Superior race, sword - cut down by sword  
- crest, blood - drowned in its own
- 3) In latest plot - Esau - + Jacob  
7 H3 3211 27.

0311 1122 - per bic.  
 0103 216 - 033 218 -  
 "Every people reflects its essential life interest  
 in its concept of the Hereafter" Happy Hunting Ground  
 4) Triumph for Israel's idols - idolatry  
Not for People! "Chastisement of our People  
 was upon him - with his  
 stripes we were healed"  
Emergence - most ravaged - 5-10 yrs  
Carnages - 1000 of civilian - exiles  
- a floating pop. of women in many  
"That which has fallen is war & that - stay"  
- Few homes to return to - even -  
- no physical obstacles - occupied not by  
invaders - native pop.  
- Decimated cemeteries  
- A world of tensions -  
- World journey from a play. + sp. crisis  
of appalling proportions



5). As a people - most ravaged - most compensated <sup>- sacrifice - Fight</sup>  
- most betrayed.

6). The world is not thinking - solving an  
national problem - along nat. lines  
- problem ind. Jews - along phil. lines  
- Will not friendly pos - (Isolation)  
- 1 1/2 - creates in every land - Refugees

7) Boycott - persecution will end with advance  
of Govt -

Fund. error - only in dark ages  
= Expulsion - height, the Roman Empire  
flourish, exorbitant - Sec. Ant. 1st  
Exploration - in full tide  
= and most harmful - 20 C - "Jew"

8). Only another Timonid problem -  
- solved when pol. progress ceases

Falsch Unifor

- Selective killing effect - some sub factors  
which leave normal tissue cells  
unharmed - but are deadly to a specific  
abnormal tissue



Nat. Humanism is the Problem. Nat. Rights! <sup>(3)</sup>

- 9) Of course - we demand -  
but, the Pre-requisites - Universal Ball, Rights  
prophet  
Soc. must re-establish the world -  
lost world decade - destroyed - Civilisation  
never was stable - industry - covered  
- Decline & independence - after war

- 10) But - not to raise our hopes too high.  
Rights - <sup>not necessarily logical</sup> after last war. <sup>Const. equality</sup> <sup>new</sup> ..  
A country may be formal Dem. people  
littered by Autocracy  
within Poland - German Germany  
Pol. Equality is not yet Brotherhood  
and the century & 1/2 of J. Emancipation  
- rising tempo of Autocracy.  
- J. Emancipation - Byproduct, new pol. themes  
- rights, man - include also Jews  
- were really offered -  
- A people without a Home!



13/ <sup>Courage</sup> ~~Out~~ | Witnesses came (1) 2012  
(2) John (3) 12 (4) 2nd and  
much else

- when we lost a whole generation  
will come -

(a) 2012 with - Sons & Daughters

(b) Third & Final Redemption for Third  
and last Exile

(c) G. Reborn 110 to 120

(d) 100 free + demer. 1 1/2





# The Conference Record

Issued by the AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

Vol. I, No. 15

521 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

November, 1944

## The Program of the Second Session

THE SECOND session of the American Jewish Conference will convene on Sunday, Dec. 3rd, at 2 p.m. at the William Penn Hotel, in Pittsburgh. The session will continue through Dec. 4th and 5th.

The delegates to the session will receive reports from the Interim Committee and the three Commissions created by that body to implement the decisions of the first session and will decide on the course of action to be pursued by the Conference in the future.

On the basis of reports from the organizations and the communities, it is expected that close to 500 delegates and alternates will be present.

### Attendance

As of Nov. 20th, 318 of the original 379 community delegates have declared their intention to attend the session. Of the remainder, deaths and resignations account for 10 and successors have been named. Another 26 have selected alternates in accordance with the rules for filling vacancies, while only 25 have not yet acted.

The 63 national organizations, which are represented by 120 delegates, have designated 100 delegates as their spokesmen. There have been 26 substitutions.

### The Program

The General Committee will meet in advance of the session, beginning on Friday, Dec. 1st, at 10 a.m. to perfect arrangements for the three-day meeting. The second session is a continuation of the first and, unless the delegates vote otherwise, the standing committees, rules and procedures of the first session will remain unchanged. A number of changes, however, are being recommended by the Interim Committee and these will be considered by the General Committee.

Registration of delegates will begin Saturday, Dec. 2nd, at 7 p.m. and will continue the following day. A number of the groups formed at the first session will meet Saturday evening.

The first plenary meeting will be held Sunday afternoon and will be devoted to the presentation of the report of the Interim Committee by the Co-Chairmen. In the evening, the Chairmen of the three Commis-

sions, the Commission on Rescue, the Commission on Palestine and the Commission on Post-War, will submit their reports.

The second day, Monday, Dec. 4th, is set aside for general debate in which the delegates may participate. It will begin, if possible, on the previous evening, and it will continue Monday afternoon and evening.

The standing committees will meet Monday and Tuesday mornings and will bring in their reports to the plenum on Tuesday afternoon and evening. Provision is made for minority reports. These sessions are reserved for action on the committee reports and the transaction of such business as may arise from these reports.

That is the outline of the tentative agenda to be submitted to the General Committee by the Interim Committee. No provision is made for any formal functions and there is a minimum of official addresses from the platform, for it is intended that a maximum opportunity will be afforded to the delegates to present their views and to engage in the fullest possible debate.

### The Question of Relevancy

The Interim Committee, at its last meeting on Oct. 24th, voted to recommend a change in procedure which will enable the plenum to pass upon the relevancy of resolutions.

The General Committee will assign all resolutions that are introduced by the delegates or submitted by the Commissions to the appropriate standing committee of the Conference. As at the first session, it will have the authority to rule whether resolutions are outside the scope of the Conference.

However, under the proposal of the Interim Committee, the General Committee will report to the plenum if it should withhold its approval from any resolution on the ground that it is outside of the agenda. The question then before the delegates will be upon the acceptance of the report of the General Committee.

All existing standing committees of the Conference will remain unchanged, except that the General Com-



mittee will fill vacancies and act on recommendations for substitutions to be submitted by the various groups in the Conference. There may be some changes, however, growing out of the fact that the relative strength of the groups has been altered within the last few weeks.

### The Groups

The Interim Committee voted earlier this year to permit delegates to change their group affiliation if they so desired, but placed a Nov. 10th deadline on changes, so that the business of the Conference would not be delayed by last-minute shifts in group membership.

Few delegates availed themselves of the opportunity. Up to Nov. 10th, only 21 had transferred their allegiance. However, one new group, the "Independent Bloc" was formed, led by Alex Stanton and Arnold R. Ginsburg of Philadelphia, and consisting of 14 delegates.

Subsequent to Nov. 10th, several delegates informed the Administrative Committee of their desire to join the "Assembly Bloc" which was formed on the initiative of Gus Kaplan of Harrisburg, Pa. and Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg, of Easton, Pa.

Inasmuch as registration was to close on Nov. 10th, it will be up to the General Committee to determine the status of these delegates and of such other delegates who wish to change on the eve of the session.

As a result of the changes registered prior to Nov. 10th, the standing of the groups was as follows:

	1943	1944
American Jewish Congress.....	111	98
B'nai B'rith .....	63	60
Conservative Religious.....	19	20
General Zionist .....	116	114
Jewish Labor Committee.....	16	16
Labor Zionist .....	49	48
Non-Partisan .....	42	40
Reform Religious .....	21	22
Religious National Orthodox..	61	62
Independent .....	—	14
No designation .....	3	4
	501	498

However, this does not take into account the fact that alternates and new delegates have the right, under the rule, to change up to the eve of the session. These figures will thus be affected, both by that consideration and by the fact that there will be a small number of delegates absent and unrepresented by alternates.

The committee in charge of arrangements at Pittsburgh is headed by Edgar J. Kaufmann, member of the Praesidium at the first session. Samuel L. Fuss is secretary.

## The Plight of Rumania's Jews

**F**OLLOWING REPORTS from Rumania that the economic and political disabilities forced upon the Jews of that country continue in effect and that the overwhelming majority of the Jews of Rumania suffer deeply from lack of food and clothing, the American Jewish Conference has appealed for the immediate implementation of the terms of the armistice between the Allies and Rumania and has taken action to alleviate the precarious condition to which Rumanian Jews have been reduced.

The Conference acted in concert with the World Jewish Congress and in consultation with one of the Conference affiliates, the United Roumanian Jews of America. The first meeting of the new Joint Planning Committee of the Conference and the Congress was devoted to the problem and among the steps that have been taken are the following:

At a meeting with Director General Herbert H. Lehman of UNRRA on Wednesday, Nov. 1st, Jane Evans and Dr. Arie Tartakower, representing the Conference and the Congress respectively, urged that the Jews in Rumania be regarded as displaced persons in ex-enemy territory and that they be given relief by UNRRA under the new powers of that body.

Officials of the State Department in charge of Rumanian and South-Eastern European affairs were interviewed by Dr. A. S. Kohanski of the Conference with a view to ascertaining the possibility of adequate action by the authorities in charge of the execution of the armistice terms.

At a meeting with the Joint Distribution Committee, Herman Shulman of the Conference and Dr. Tartakower sought to ascertain steps taken and contemplated by the JDC to aid Rumanian Jews.

A joint statement, issued by the Conference and the Congress, declared in part:

The terms of the armistice between the Allies and Rumania affecting the status of the Jews in that country will remain an empty gesture unless immediate steps are taken for their implementation. Economic and political disabilities forced upon the Jews in Rumania continue in effect. Confiscated Jewish property has not yet been returned. The overwhelming majority of Jews in Rumania suffer deeply from lack of food and clothing.

Though the Rumanian Government has obligated itself to abolish all Nazi vestiges of discrimination—political, social and economic—the administration, controlled by the Nazi-minded generals and officials associated with the pro-German Iron Guard, continue to govern the country in the very same spirit preceding the armistice. The only measure thus far indicating equality before the law was a decree drafting Jews

(Continued on Page 8)



# Tentative Agenda

## of the

# American Jewish Conference

(Second Session)

**DEC. 1-5, 1944**

WILLIAM PENN HOTEL, PITTSBURGH, PA.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 1ST

#### 10.00 a.m.—Meeting of General Committee

- 1—To establish the registry of the General Committee.
- 2—To act on the final agenda of the session.
- 3—To receive and validate recommendations from the groups for the filling of vacancies on standing committees.
- 4—To agree on the list of the members of the Praesidium.
- 5—To consider for reference to the appropriate standing committees the resolutions received from the Interim Committee and its Commissions and from groups; and to agree on procedure in regard to the introduction of all subsequent resolutions.
- 6—To consider the rules of procedure to be submitted for adoption by the Conference; and to establish rules to govern the general debate.
- 7—Such other business as may arise.

### SATURDAY, DEC. 2ND

#### 7.00 p.m.—Registration of Delegates

#### 8.00 p.m.—Meeting of Groups

### SUNDAY, DEC. 3RD

#### 10.00 a.m.—Registration of Delegates (cont'd) —Meeting of General Committee

#### 2.00 p.m.—First Plenary Session

- 1—Opening Ceremonies.
- 2—Proposals of the General Committee as to the Praesidium.
- 3—Election of Praesidium.
- 4—Report of Committee on Elections and Admissions.
- 5—Report of the Interim Committee by the Co-Chairmen.
- 6—Proposals of the General Committee on Changes in standing committees.

#### 5.30 p.m.—Meetings of Committees for Purposes of Organization

#### 8.30 p.m.—Second Plenary Session

- 1—Proposals of the General Committee on rules of procedure.
- 2—Report of the Credentials Committee.
- 3—Report of the Commission on Rescue.
- 4—Report of the Commission on Post-War.
- 5—Report of the Commission on Palestine.
- 6—Opening of General Debate on all reports and the Conference.

### MONDAY, DEC. 4TH

#### 10.00 a.m.—Meetings of Standing Committees

#### 2.00 p.m.—Third Plenary Session

- 1—Continuation of the General Debate.

#### 8.30 p.m.—Fourth Plenary Session

- 1—Continuation of the General Debate.
- 2—Report of the General Committee on disposition of resolutions rejected on constitutional grounds.

### TUESDAY, DEC. 5TH

#### 10.00 a.m.—Meetings of Standing Committees

#### 2.00 p.m.—Fifth Plenary Session

- 1—Resolutions reported by the standing Committee on Rescue.
- 2—Resolutions reported by the standing Committee on Post-War.
- 3—Resolutions reported by the standing Committee on Palestine.
- 4—Resolutions reported by the standing Committee on Organization.

#### 8.00 p.m.—Sixth Plenary Session

- 1—Resolutions reported by the standing General Resolutions Committee.
- 2—Resolutions reported by the standing Finance Committee.
- 3—Elections.
- 4—Unfinished business.
- 5—Final addresses.

The above agenda is submitted by the Administrative Committee to the General Committee, and is subject to revision; the issues will be disclosed through the resolutions reported by the committees.



## New Delegates

### Organizations

*New Delegate*  
 Arthur Gilbert  
 Sam Berke  
 Rabbi J. X. Cohen  
 Mrs. A. H. Vixman  
 Maurice Bisgyer  
 N. Ben Dov Waldman  
 Mrs. Robert Szold  
 Frank A. Simons  
 Joseph F. Barr  
 Abraham Kraditor  
 Mrs. Jessie C. Gneslin  
 Mrs. Bessie Kronberg  
 Mrs. Lionel Golub  
 Mrs. Albert J. May  
 Simeon F. Gross  
 Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman  
 Elijah Stein  
 Milton Berger  
  
 Mrs. I. L. Giffen  
 Miss Sarah Kussy  
 Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein  
 William Weiss  
 Solomon Kerstein  
 Michael Stavitsky

*Predecessor*  
 E. A. Grause  
 Dr. Simon Segal  
 Dr. Harry Friedenwald  
 Mrs. Lee L. Rosenthal  
 Edwin J. Schanfarber  
 Louis M. Rimsky  
 Mrs. Edward Jacobs  
 Maxwell E. Verlin  
 Benjamin Kaufman  
 Harry Schaffer  
 Mrs. Rae K. Schoenberg  
 Mrs. H. L. Kraditor  
 Mrs. Max S. Rosenfeld  
 Mrs. Maurice L. Goldman  
 J. David Delman  
 Irving M. Bunim  
 Harry G. Fromberg  
 Rabbi Max D. Klein  
  
 Mrs. Barnett E. Kopelman  
 Mrs. M. Klein  
 Benjamin Koenigsberg  
 M. Morton Rubenstein  
 Louis Flashenberg  
 Louis J. Moss

*Organization*  
 Aleph Zedek Aleph (Youth Organizations)  
 American Federation for Polish Jews  
 American Jewish Congress  
 American Jewish Congress, Women's Division  
 B'nai B'rith  
 Bnai Zion  
 Hadassah  
 Independent Order Brith Sholom  
 Jewish War Veterans of the United States  
 Jewish War Veterans of the United States  
 Jewish War Veterans, National Ladies' Auxiliary  
 Jewish War Veterans, National Ladies' Auxiliary  
 Mizrahi Women's Organization  
 National Council of Jewish Women  
 National Council of Young Israel  
 National Council of Young Israel  
 National Council of Young Israel  
 National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs  
 of the United Synagogue of America  
 National Women's League of the United Synagogue  
 National Women's League of the United Synagogue  
 Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations  
 Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations  
 United Galician Jews of America  
 United Synagogue of America

### Alternates

#### Organizations

*Alternate*  
 H. Schuld  
 Ferdinand T. Weil

*Alternate For*  
 Meyer W. Weisgal  
 Roger W. Straus

*Organization*  
 Jewish National Workers' Alliance  
 National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods

## New Delegates

### Communities

*New Delegate*  
 A. David Benjamin  
 Jacob Brown  
 Philip Cohen  
 David L. Goldenberg  
 Abraham I. Kirschenbaum  
 Rabbi Moshe H. Levinson  
 Rabbi Arthur H. Neulander  
 A. Arthur Pekelner  
 Rabbi Louis Simsovit  
 Mrs. Leon J. Tiber  
 John J. Untermann

*Predecessor*  
 Judge Edward Lazansky  
 Benjamin Winter  
 Milton Kutz  
 Aaron B. Horwitz  
 Charles Rubinstein  
 Rabbi Joshua Klavan  
 Dr. Robert Gordis  
 Isidor Sack  
 Louis Shanok  
 Mrs. A. Sieroty  
 Judge William M. Untermann

*Community*  
 Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Manhattan, N. Y.  
 Wilmington, Del.  
 Duluth, Minn.  
 Bronx, N. Y.  
 Washington, D. C.  
 Queens, N. Y.  
 Yonkers, N. Y.  
 Port Chester, N. Y.  
 Los Angeles, Cal.  
 Newark, N. J.

### Alternates

#### Communities

*Alternate*  
 Dr. M. W. Belzer  
 Jack Y. Berman  
 Mrs. Ralph Davidson  
 Mrs. Maurice Davis  
 Rabbi G. George Fox  
 Morrice Uman

*Alternate For*  
 Judge Samuel Mellitz  
 David Coleman  
 Mrs. Joseph H. Ehrlich  
 Charles J. Rosenbloom  
 A. F. Mecklenburger  
 Day J. Apte

*Community*  
 Bridgeport, Conn.  
 Los Angeles, Cal.  
 Detroit, Mich.  
 Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Chicago, Ill.  
 Tampa, Fla.



## The Interim Committee Report

THE REPORTS of the Interim Committee and the three Commissions of the American Jewish Conference, detailing the work that has been carried on up until November 1st, have been published and are being sent to the delegates of the Conference in advance of the second session.

The reports are confined to a review of past action. Recommendations for the future will be presented by the Commissions to the session.

The Interim Committee report refers briefly to the internal organization of the Conference and the organization of the three Commissions. The report of the Interim Committee concludes:

The Interim Committee, during the past year, has been a forum at which Jewish problems on the world scene were considered and discussed. It has received reports continuously from the three Commissions on the progress of their work and it has formulated policies and given directives as new developments in the world scene called for new decisions.

Because of its representative character and the procedures it adopted, the Interim Committee has served as the Conference in miniature, continuing the democratic and unifying process in American Jewish life begun so auspiciously with the establishment of the American Jewish Conference in 1943.

### The Reports of the Commissions

The reports of the Commissions are detailed. The Commission on Rescue records the major activities in the unequal battle to rescue the Jews of Europe from the Nazi terror: the establishment of the War Refugee Board; efforts to break through the Nazi wall and

transmit assistance to beleaguered Jews with the co-operation of the underground; the establishment of a refugee rescue shelter in this country; the series of warnings initiated in the psychological warfare against the Nazis and their satellites; the evacuation of Jews to Palestine; the mobilization of public opinion; and the efforts the Commission made to achieve unity.

The report of the Commission on Palestine relates the steady progress during the fourteen months since the Conference adjourned, to win acceptance for the Palestine Resolution adopted at the Conference. It details the political work at Washington, and the public relations activities carried forward on a large scale throughout the country by the American Zionist Emergency Council, which worked in close cooperation with the Palestine Commission, and the culmination of these efforts in the statement by President Roosevelt on October 15th.

The report also deals with developments inside Palestine during the year.

The report of the Commission on Post-War analyzes the issues involved in the promulgation of an International Bill of Rights, the restoration of rights to Jews, the punishment of war criminals, and the problems of re-settlement and repatriation. The report details the activities of the Commission to project the Conference viewpoint in advance of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference and the second session of the Council of UNRRA.

The volume, consisting of 128 pages, contains the major statements issued by the Conference agencies during the year.

#### *Alternate*

Mrs. Oscar Geballe  
Mrs. Mary Greenberg  
Albert Hurwitz  
Samson Krupnick  
Mrs. Ann Lebow  
Mrs. Elsa Levinson  
Philip Meyers  
Alexander Pfeiffer  
Edward Raff  
Aaron Riche  
Charles H. Roemer  
Rabbi Herman H. Rubenovitz  
Dr. Maxwell L. Sacks  
Mrs. Irving Sands  
Rabbi Irving Silnan  
Mrs. Raphael Turover  
Samuel Z. Troy  
Abram S. Turteltaub  
Mrs. Louis Walc  
Robert Weksler  
Dr. David Weiner

#### *Alternate For*

Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel  
Joseph Ominsky  
Joseph I. Seifert  
Dr. David Sacks  
Dr. Nathan S. Saltzman  
Morris A. Robbins  
Herbert R. Bloch  
Harry N. Wessel  
Samuel Goldstein  
David Blumberg  
Abe J. Greene  
Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman  
Morris A. Zeldin  
Mrs. Benjamin Spitzer  
Howard Mack  
Edmund I. Kaufmann  
Israel November  
Edward Berman  
Mrs. Abraham Shapiro  
Dr. Bernard Rodin  
Rabbi Judah Washer

#### *Community*

San Francisco, Cal.  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Boston, Mass.  
Chicago, Ill.  
Los Angeles, Cal.  
Seattle, Wash.  
Cincinnati, O.  
Manhattan, N. Y.  
Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Los Angeles, Cal.  
Paterson, N. J.  
Boston, Mass.  
Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Bergen, N. J.  
Washington, D. C.  
Richmond, Va.  
Bayonne, N. J.  
Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Chicago, Ill.  
Western, Pa.



## REPORTS

### THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

#### Meeting on October 24th

The Interim Committee met on Oct. 24th in New York with Dr. Israel Goldstein, Co-Chairman, presiding. Henry Monsky, Co-Chairman, later took the chair. Present were the following members and alternates: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Co-Chairman, \*Rabbi Abba Abrams, Maurice Bisgyer, \*Max Bressler, Samuel Caplan, Rabbi William Drazin, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Jane Evans, \*Mrs. Ida Cook Farber, Rabbi Simon Federbusch, J. George Fredman, Daniel Frisch, \*William Gerber, Frank Goldman, \*Mrs. L. Golub, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Dr. James G. Heller, Charles P. Kramer, Sidney G. Kusworm, Louis Lipsky, \*Mrs. Albert J. May, Mrs. David De Sola Pool, \*Herman Z. Quittman, Dvorah Rothbard, Hon. Morris Rothenberg, Samuel Rothstein, Herman Shulman, \*Mrs. Herman Shulman, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Hon. Meier Steinbrink, Hermann Stern, Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, \*Mrs. A. H. Vixman, Meyer W. Weisgal, \*William Weiss, David Wertheim, \*Rabbi David Wice, Baruch Zuckerman and members of the staff, I. L. Kenen, Meir Grossman, Dr. A. S. Kohanski and Mrs. Ann Jarcho. Guest, Bernard Postal.

#### \* Alternates

On behalf of the Administrative Committee, Mr. Lipsky, chairman, reported on arrangements for the second session, the attendance of delegates, the participation of organizations, the preparation of reports, and rules for the second session.

It was agreed to recommend to the next session the admission of a delegate from the National Association of Jewish Center Workers.

It was agreed to recommend the following rules to the second session:

*Committees*—All Committees in existence at the first session shall continue in the second session unchanged, except that the General Committee shall be authorized to make appointments required to fill vacancies and to make such changes as are necessary to reflect the proportionate strength of the groups.

(The right of the groups to submit substitutes will continue as in the past.)

*Appeals from Decisions of the Chair*—The existing rule providing for appeals from the chair to the Praesidium is to be repealed, and Roberts Rules of Order will apply to this and all other matters of procedure not governed by rules adopted by the Conference.

*Disposition of Resolutions*—The General Committee shall act as the administrative agency for the distribution of all resolutions to the appropriate standing committees, except that if the General Committee shall find that a resolution is irrelevant to the call of the Conference, it shall report such decision to the plenum and the question before the plenum shall be on the adoption of the General Committee's report.

*Minority Reports*—Any 10 members in any committee may bring up a minority report for consideration in the plenum of the Conference and any 50 members, not members of a committee, may bring up out of committee a resolution defeated there and have it placed before the plenum of the Conference.

It was reported that a joint planning committee and a working committee had been established to implement the agreement for collaboration with the World Jewish Congress. The Conference representatives on this committee are Rabbi Eisendrath, Miss Evans, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Shulman, Rabbi Trachtenberg and Dr. Kohanski. The Conference members of the working committee are Mr. Grossman and Mr. Kenen.

It was agreed that the members of these committees act as observers from the Conference to the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress.

On behalf of the Palestine Commission, Dr. Silver, chairman, submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted:

The Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference hails the historic declaration by President Roosevelt on Oct. 15th, favoring the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth and pledging his efforts to achieve its realization. The President's statement attests the widespread sympathy and support of the American people for Jewish aspirations in Palestine, as voiced in behalf of American Jewry by the American Jewish Conference on Sept. 1, 1943. With this declaration, we look forward confidently to the complete realization of the age-old aims of the Jewish people in relation to Palestine.

The Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference records its appreciation of the statement by Governor Thomas E. Dewey favoring the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. With this statement, Governor Dewey joins the distinguished group of American statesmen who have given their wholehearted support to the fulfillment of the promise made to the Jewish people by 52 nations of the world following the last conflict.

On behalf of the Post-War Commission, Rabbi Eisendrath, Co-Chairman, reported on the Conference delegation to UNRRA in Montreal.

The Commission, he stated, was now studying a proposal looking to the establishment of a Council of Jewish Delegations which would unify delegations from all countries in presentations to international conferences concerned with problems of the peace.

The proposal was informally discussed and was referred back to the Post-War Commission with a view to its submission to the second session.

The Interim Committee adjourned until Nov. 27th.



## COMMISSION ON PALESTINE

## Meeting on October 24th

The Commission met on October 24th, with Dr. Abba Hillel Silver presiding. Present were: Dr. Abba Abrams, Jacob Alson, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Isaac Hamlin, Rabbi James G. Heller, Bernard A. Rosenblatt, Max J. Schneider, Mrs. Albert P. Schoolman, Herman Shulman, Dr. Benjamin Shwadrin, David Wertheim, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, and I. L. Kenen.

The commission recommended to the Interim Committee the adoption of resolutions welcoming the statements by President Roosevelt and Governor Dewey on Palestine. (See Interim Committee report.)

The statement of President Roosevelt, which was in the form of a message to the 47th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America on Oct. 15th, follows:

Please express my satisfaction that in accord with traditional American policy, and in keeping with the spirit of the four freedoms, the Democratic party at its July convention this year included the following plank in its platform: "We favor the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth."

Efforts will be made to find appropriate ways and means of effectuating this policy as soon as practicable. I know how long and ardently the Jewish people have worked and prayed for the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth. I am convinced that the American people give their support to this aim; and if re-elected, I shall help to bring about its realization.

On October 12th, Governor Dewey issued the following statement:

I heartily endorse the Palestine plank in the Republican party platform. Again I repeat what I previously stated to the great leader of the American Zionist movement and distinguished American, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, that I am for the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth in accordance with the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the Resolution of the Republican Congress in 1922. I have also stated to Dr. Silver that in order to give refuge to millions of distressed Jews driven from their homes by tyranny, I favor the opening of Palestine to their unlimited immigration and land ownership.

The American people have time and again declared themselves in favor of these principles. The Republican party has at all times been the traditional friend of the movement.

As President, I would use my best offices to have our Government working together with Great Britain to achieve this great objective for a people that have suffered so much and deserve so much at the hands of mankind.

The Commission considered and took action on its report to the second session.

## COMMISSION ON POST-WAR

## Meeting on October 23rd

The Commission met on October 23rd with Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Co-Chairman, presiding. Present were Hayim Greenberg, Co-Chairman, and Nathan H. Brodsky, Meyer Brown, Jane Evans, Isaac Kornfeld, Louis Lipsky, Mrs. Albert J. May, Herman Muller, Dr. Joseph Schechtman, Dr. Joshua Trachtenberg, Z. Warhaftig, Rabbi David Wice, Leo Wolfson, and Meir Grossman, I. L. Kenen, and Dr. A. S. Kohanski.

Rabbi Eisendrath reported on a meeting with representatives of peace-planning organizations, at which the Conference position on an International Bill of Rights and the punishment of war criminals was discussed.

Miss Evans, Chairman of the sub-committee on UNRRA, reported on the work of the Conference delegation, which included Dr. Kohanski and herself, to the second session of the Council of UNRRA in Montreal. (See CONFERENCE RECORD, October.)

Dr. Trachtenberg, Chairman of the sub-committee on Political Status, submitted a proposal for the formation of a Jewish Representation. This was referred to the Interim Committee for consideration of the principle.

On motion of Mr. Wolfson, the chair was authorized to appoint a sub-committee on Rumanian affairs, in view of the situation of the Jews in that country.

## Immigration to Palestine

The Palestine Administration has liberalized its immigration policy in Palestine to the extent that it will make available a number of certificates for Jewish refugees who are now in liberated territory, it was announced in October.

It will allot 10,300 certificates to the Jewish Agency for Palestine, at the rate of 1500 a month, retroactive to Oct 1st.

In recent months immigration into Palestine had come to a virtual standstill because the Administration insisted on reserving certificates for persons in Axis-occupied territory. This policy was protested by the Jewish Agency.

On Sept. 25th, the American Jewish Conference submitted a memorandum to the British Embassy, charging that the Administration was "hoarding" the certificates and seeking to perpetuate the White Paper policy. It appealed for a revision of the policy asking that certificates be granted for refugees both in Axis-occupied and liberated territories.

The Conference memorandum also protested against recent statements by British officials seeking to discourage Jews from seeking admission to Palestine and against the continued detention of some 1500 Jews deported to Mauritius more than three years ago.



## THE PLIGHT OF RUMANIAN JEWS

(Continued from Page 2)

into the combat service of the army from which they had previously been barred. The majority of Jews are still unable to re-occupy the homes from which they were driven, or to resume their former occupations both in the government service and private industry.

The Allied military commission, created to supervise the execution of the armistice terms, has a moral obligation to insure that justice is done to the Jewish population. Unless immediate and energetic steps are taken by the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia, the liberation of the Jews in Rumania, brought about by the victory of the Allied armies, will be nullified.

Of the pre-war Jewish population of about 850,000, no more than 290,000 remain there now, partly because of the annexation of certain Rumanian territories by Hungary, but mainly because of the terrible process of persecution, starvation and extermination to which Rumanian Jewry had been subjected since the affiliation of Rumania with the Axis in 1940. The number of Rumanian Jews who had died by the end of 1943 as a result of persecution is estimated at a quarter of a million, of whom 125,000 were murdered and the remainder died in the course of deportation and as a result of starvation. Rumanian Jews were ousted from their economic positions by discriminatory laws and practices; their property was looted. Actually, the overwhelming majority of Rumanian Jews can be regarded as consisting of displaced persons; 185,000 of them were deported to the Rumanian-occupied part of Russia (so-called Transnistria) in the middle of 1942; of this number, almost 100,000 perished, whereas about 15,000 may have been repatriated to Rumania at the beginning of 1944 and left there without any protection or assistance.

According to authentic information, out of approx-

imately 290,000 Jewish survivors in Rumania, the following categories are almost completely destitute: 90,000 returned from forced labor service; 17,000 repatriated deportees; 20,000 returning from outlying districts; 10,000 evacuees from war-stricken regions and 20,000 persons who had been bombed out of their homes in Bucharest.

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**FIRST SESSION**

**August 29–September 2, 1943**

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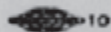
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