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Zionist Organization of America, 1948.

ADDRESS OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE JEWISH AGENCY  
AND THE AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL  
DELIVERED AT THE CONVENTION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA  
PITTSBURGH, PA.  
SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1948

When I addressed you a year ago at the Z.O.A. Convention, I concluded my political report with the following words:

"It is clear that for our Movement the coming year will be a very critical one. It is clear that for the success of our Movement, the role of the American government will be a decisive one. It is clear, therefore, that the Zionists of America must remain fully alerted and thoroughly mobilized. They must act with wisdom and with courage.

"We face the future not without concern, certainly not with unrestrained optimism and yet, not without a large measure of confidence. Our confidence derives from the essential justice and moral character of our cause which the nations of the world a quarter of a century ago recognized and acknowledged, and which the nations of the world, we hope, will soon re-affirm.

"The mainspring of our confidence is in the firm resolve of American Jewry and of the Jewries of the world that regardless of cost and heedless of sacrifice, the millennial hope of our people for national restoration shall not at this final stage be defeated. The surest mainspring of our confidence is the superb resolution of the Yishuv to continue to build the Jewish National Home in the face of all opposition, in the very teeth of repression and administrative lawlessness.

"These are the sources of our confidence as we face another great crisis in the evolution of our historic movement which began 1900 years ago and which will reach its destined consummation under God when the Jewish State will be fully re-established."

This destined consummation to which we looked forward was reached during this year. Our confidence in American Jewry to stand by during the critical year, and hold fast were not misplaced. The Jewish State has been re-established!

The last year will be numbered among the great years in Jewish History. It taxed us mightily and made great demands upon us, but it replenished our souls. It was a fulfilling year. Necessity and emergency rowelled their spurs into our sides, but we were amply rewarded. We arrived at our goal--an important goal. We are not unmindful of the fact that there are no final goals in history and that we must move at once towards new goals.



When we last met in July 1947, the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine had not yet presented its report and recommendations to the United Nations. Two months were to elapse before that report was made public. Two additional months were to pass before the recommendations contained in that report for the setting up of two independent states in Palestine within an economic union and for an international regime for the city of Jerusalem were to be accepted by the United Nations. It is not necessary here to review the manifold activities on the part of the Jewish Agency, the American Zionist Emergency Council, and Jewish organizations here and throughout the world which culminated in the decision of November 29th. The main outlines of the story are, I am sure, still fresh in your minds, and the fuller have been properly recorded. Altogether, it was a magnificent achievement which was made possible only by colossal effort, by careful and skillful planning and execution, and by boundless devotion on the part of unnumbered men and women here and in many other parts of the world.

American Zionists were faced with the responsibility of marshalling support in the United States for the settlement proposed by UNSCOP. It was clearly realized that the position of the American government would prove decisive in the United Nations. But what that position was, proved to be a matter of greatest uncertainty and concern. Ever since the Special Assembly of the United Nations met in the spring of last year to consider the question of the future government of Palestine which had been referred to it by Great Britain, the United States had given no indication as to what its position would be, what solution it favored, and what it would be prepared to do by way of implementing the solution which it favored. Our government maintained this unrevealing position even after the report of UNSCOP was made public. Until almost the very eve of November 29th, it was not clear whether our government would back the partition resolution with that measure of wholeheartedness which would influence other nations to do likewise. American Zionists remained apprehensive almost to the very end. They could not and did not relax even for a moment their efforts to organize public opinion, both Jewish and non-Jewish, in order to activate our government to move in the direction of positive and decisive action. There were powerful forces in our government who were opposed to the establishment of a Jewish state, who maneuvered adroitly for a purely formal, half-hearted endorsement, on the part of our government, of the partition proposal for the sake of the record, a position which would insure its final defeat at the United Nations. These forces had to be out-guessed and out-maneuvered, and their plans set at naught.

Fortunately, this was accomplished. But the victory was short-lived.

American Zionists were soon confronted with a grave challenge which called for a new mobilization of forces and another tremendous expenditure of energy and effort to defend what had been achieved, but which was now again gravely imperilled. The United Nations resolution of November 29th was a signal for the Arabs inside and outside of Palestine to launch a campaign of violence and terrorism in an attempt to alter by force the partition settlement. The Mandatory government which, while formally accepting the solution of the United Nations, stated that it had no intention to assist in its implementation, and soon gave ample evidence of its determination to frustrate the plan in every way possible. This, of course, further encouraged Arab aggression and intransigence. It made the work of the United Nations Commission nigh impossible, and it so reported to the Security Council on February 16th.

"Powerful Arab interests, both inside and outside Palestine, are defying the resolution of the General Assembly, and are engaged in a deliberate effort to alter by force the settlement envisaged therein", it declared, and it asked for effective assistance from the Security Council.

The unreconciled opponents of a Jewish state within government circles in Washington soon began to re-assert themselves. The disorders in Palestine were seized upon as an excuse to discredit the United Nations settlement. A conspiracy was hatched in government circles to scuttle the partition plan and to force a new solution more acceptable to Great Britain and the Arabs. This conspiracy, which was backed by a powerful oil lobby in Washington, by British propaganda, by pro-Arab Near-East missionary groups in the United States, and spear-headed by Forrestal and Henderson, matured in March of this year and brought about a total reversal of the American position. Storm signals of what was impending could be read quite early in the embargo on the shipment of arms to the Middle East which was imposed by our government as early as December 5th, and which, of course, was aimed against the Jewish state since the Arab countries were being supplied with arms by Great Britain. They could be read also in the failure of our government to protest the invasion of Palestine by Arab troops from neighboring countries in blatant defiance of the Charter of the United Nations.

The attack upon the partition plan was begun by our government in the Security Council on February 24th when the legal right of the United Nations to implement partition was challenged by the United States delegation in an elaborate and labored argument which made crooked what had been straight and which hopelessly confounded the clear and simple facts and duties in the case into a tangled perplexity of legal sophistries and evasive double talk. The American government called for renewed negotiations and consultations between Jews and Arabs for an agreed settlement.

On March 5th a resolution was adopted by the Security Council which requested the permanent members of the Council to consult with regard to the situation with respect to Palestine and to make recommendations regarding the instructions which the Council might usefully give to the Palestine Commission with a view of implementing the resolution of the General Assembly. The failure of the American government fully and sincerely to back the partition plan at the Security Council and to demand action on the part of the Security Council in the face of the breach of the peace which the invasion of troops from the neighboring Arab countries clearly constituted, impressed the members of the Security Council with the conviction that the American government had decided to throw overboard the partition plan. As a result nothing came of the consultations among the permanent members of the Council. They refused to agree that a threat to peace existed in Palestine or to demand that the countries responsible for the invasion should withdraw their forces immediately. *stop*

On the morning of March 19th the Chairman of the United States delegation reported on the discussions which had taken place among the permanent members, the facts which had been developed during the discussions, and stated that "as a result of the consultations the permanent members find that a continuation of the infiltration into Palestine by land and by sea of groups and persons with the purpose of taking part in violence would aggravate still further the situation, and that they recommend that the Security Council should make it clear to the parties and governments concerned that the Security Council is determined not to permit the existence of a threat to international peace in Palestine and that the Security Council should take further action by all means available to it to bring about the immediate cessation of violence and the restoration of peace and order in Palestine."

This was the windy report which was made by the head of the American delegation on the morning of March 19th. Albeit, there was still no suggestion here that the American government had decided to abandon partition, but in the afternoon of the same day, the same head of the American delegation declared that inasmuch as the Council was not prepared to proceed with efforts to implement the plan, and inasmuch as the plan could not be carried by peaceful means, and inasmuch as the termination of the Mandate on May 15th would result in chaos unless there was a successor government on hand in Palestine, the United States proposed that a temporary trusteeship for Palestine should be established, that a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations should be convoked to that end, and that pending this meeting, the Security Council should instruct the Palestine Commission to suspend its effort to implement the proposed partition plan.



This was a stunning blow to our hopes. What had been so painfully and laboriously achieved on November 29th was now in mortal danger as a result of the sudden defection of the most powerful government on earth without whose support the plan could never be carried out.

American Zionists were thus confronted with the necessity of beginning all over again. They had to inaugurate another mighty campaign to fight the attempt to impose a trusteeship on Palestine which would indefinitely postpone the establishment of the Jewish state. Fortunately for us the reaction of the American people and of the American press to the shocking reversal on the part of our government was all that we could have wished for. The vacillation and the instability of our government were denounced from coast to coast by a bewildered and angered American public opinion. American Zionists found ready allies in their fight to defeat the unsound and shabbily improvised trusteeship proposal of the American government.

The second special session of the United Nations to consider further the future government of Palestine met on April 16th. Prior to that date the Security Council spent much time to negotiate a truce between the Jews and the Arabs. When that failed, it set about to work out a plan to impose a truce. It finally adopted such a plan and appointed a truce commission composed of representatives of France, Belgium and the United States, to supervise the implementation of this truce. Nothing ever came of it. It was window dressing.

When the second special session of the United Nations met on April 16th, the United States presented no special proposals for a trusteeship, but only a working paper of 47 articles, and invited discussion. Our government did not wish to assume the onus of responsibility either for formally moving for the revocation of the decision of November 29th or for making a specific substitute proposal of its own. Quite the contrary. To the very last the President and the Secretary of State kept reassuring the American public that they were still for partition. Trusteeship was not a substitute, <sup>they said</sup> but only a temporary stop-gap. The working paper of the American government was subjected to a thorough-going critique on the part of the spokesmen of the Jewish Agency, as well as on the part of certain delegations in the United Nations. ~~who wanted to know what states would be prepared to implement the trusteeship decision, whether force would be required to implement a trusteeship, and if so, why did the American delegation object to the use of force to implement partition. They wanted to know further what provisions were made for Jewish immigration and land purchases, there being a most disconcerting ambiguity in the American proposals on both of these subjects.~~ The debate on the American trusteeship working paper dragged on for weary days, but it was evident quite early that there was no chance for such a proposal to be adopted. Nor was there any chance formally to revoke the November 29th decision.

In fact, the First Committee - that is to say, the political committee of the General Assembly - could not agree on any plan. Finally on May 14th, on the very eve of the termination of the Mandate, a make-shift resolution was proposed by the First committee to the General Assembly which affirmed the support of the General Assembly of the efforts of the Security Council to secure a truce and empowered a United Nations mediator to use his good offices with the local and community authorities in Palestine to arrange for the operation of common services, to assure the protection of the holy places, and to promote a peaceful adjustment of the situation in Palestine.

But even as the members of the United Nations were futilely debating on May 14th this emaciated and washed-out resolution, the Jewish people of Palestine, in conformity with their oft-repeated warning that the recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their independent state may not be revoked and that the right of the Jewish people to be a nation like all other nations in its own sovereign state was self-evident, and that they would act alone if the United Nations failed to act, solemnly proclaimed the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine and called it Israel. Thus, strong hands took over where feeble and faltering hands were hopelessly fumbling. And while the voting was still going on in the Assembly of the United Nations, the news was flashed to the world that the President of the United States had recognized this new state of Israel.

The position of the American government between February 24th and May 14th, when the President of the United States fortunately and dramatically reversed the policy of the American government and brought it back to the main highway from which it had been detoured, was one of extreme danger to our movement, of tragic consequences to Palestine, and of gravest hurt to the prestige and authority of the United Nations. One can fully understand and sympathize with the moral indignation voiced by Mr. Sumner Welles in his recent book, "We Need Not Fail", when he summarizes the situation in the following words:

"The policy of the United States in the case of Palestine has been devoid of vision and devoid of principle. It has been devoid of principle in that justice and the struggle for freedom of a bitterly afflicted people have been prostituted to the shabby exigencies of local politics and of powerful domestic interests, and subordinated to the influence of militarism. It has been devoid of vision in that the cause of collective security, by whose triumph alone the United States can insure its lasting safety, has been sacrificed to short-sighted and selfish expediency."

It should be noted in passing that when it became clear to the members of the United States delegation that its trusteeship plan would fail of acceptance, it made tremendous efforts to persuade the Jewish Agency to accept a new truce proposal. Jews and Arabs were to agree on a truce for 90 days during which time another effort would be made to reach an agreement. No indication was given by the American government as to what would follow if after 90 days no agreement was reached. To all inquiries as to whether the American government would then support the Jewish state or whether the American government would lift the embargo in case the Jews were attacked upon the termination of the truce, no answers were forthcoming. This last-minute proposal was clearly a device to achieve through the formula of a truce what the United States delegation had failed to achieve through the formula of a trusteeship--namely the indefinite postponement of the establishment of the Jewish State.

Some of our own leaders were in danger of falling into this skillfully camouflaged trap. Fortunately, better counsel prevailed.

When it became clear to us that the trusteeship proposal was dead and that the new truce maneuver would likewise fail and that the Jewish people of Palestine would, upon the termination of the British Mandate on May 15th, proceed without fail to proclaim the establishment of their state, there remained but one more important step for us to take--namely, to persuade the President of the United States to recognize the Jewish State immediately upon its establishment. ~~This would, of course, be of tremendous encouragement to the new state. It would enormously strengthen its position and it would encourage other countries to do likewise.~~

In the period immediately preceding May 14th, while the fruitless debates on truce and trusteeship were dragging on in the United Nations, a tremendous activity was carried on to enlist leaders of American public opinion and friends and supporters everywhere to persuade the President of the United States to take this wise and statesman-like step. *It was most gratifying that* ~~We are profoundly grateful to President Truman for~~ ~~having~~ utilized the precise historic moment for his great act of recognition which, with one clean sweep, brushed aside all the accumulated legal, rubbish and clumsy political artifices and stratagems of months, redeemed the honor and integrity of the United States, and imbued the gallant builders and defenders of Israel with new hope and courage.

~~He has written his name indelibly upon a page of history of a grateful and unforgetting people.~~



If one were to summarize the work of the United Nations with reference to Palestine since February 24th, it would have to be in the following terms: The Security Council failed to back up the decision of the Assembly of November 29th. The United Nations Palestine Commission, when it began its work, was told that the Security Council would assume its full share of responsibility in the implementation of the Assembly resolution, and that the Commission might properly assume that the Security Council would not fail to exercise to the fullest and without exception every necessary power entrusted to it by the Charter in order to assist it in fulfilling the mission. This promise was never made good. The Security Council failed to use the machinery available to it under the Charter to restore law and order in Palestine. After many weeks of legalistic discussion and much sophistry, it passed a truce resolution without providing the means of enforcing it. The Trusteeship Council of the United Nations likewise failed utterly to carry out the scheme for setting up an international regime for Jerusalem on which a tremendous amount of detailed study by experts was spent. Nothing decisive was done to end the hostilities in the Holy City and to protect its holy places. At long last a neutral municipal commissioner was appointed for the Holy City with no power to implement even the very limited functions assigned to him, and to quote a recent writer, "On May 15th when the Mandate ended, Jerusalem was left without a government or even provision for a government, and it became the first major battleground between the Jews and the neighboring Arabs." As regards the Assembly of the United Nations itself, all its labors resulted in the appointment of a mediator who is to promote a peaceful adjustment of the situation in Palestine.

If, therefore, there is a Jewish state in Palestine today, recognized by 15 nations of the world, fully functioning and carrying on all the activities of a modern state and successfully defending its borders against invasion and attack, it is due entirely to the initiative, courage, and determination of the Jewish people themselves. They and they alone have created and are defending it. Never has a dictum been so completely vindicated that freedom is achieved, it is never given. It will be good for the soul of our people in all future time to remain aware of this fact that it is due to their own struggles and sacrifices and to their own unfaltering courage and determination that the third Jewish Commonwealth was established. History records that that was exactly how the first and second Jewish commonwealths were likewise established.

And now as to the future. A great year has ended. Another great year is upon us. The United Nations mediator, Count Bernadotte, has succeeded in bringing about a four-weeks truce in Palestine. This period is drawing to a close. Count Bernadotte has made tentative suggestions to Arabs and Jews for a peaceful adjustment of the situation in Palestine. The detailed suggestions which reportedly are tentative and are intended only to serve as a basis for discussions have not been made available to us, and we are, therefore, in no position to analyze them. The meager reports in the press seem to suggest that some sacrifice in territory on the part of the state of Israel in the form of interchange of territory will be asked, and that Jerusalem is to be included in the Arab state. Perhaps other suggestions concerning the internationalization of the port of Haifa, economic union and some coordination also of foreign policy and defense are also included. The final decision as to the acceptability of such proposals by the Jewish people will, of course, be made by the government of the state of Israel. We here cannot make the decision, nor should we wish to do it. In the final analysis the Jewish people of Palestine will have to defend with their own lives whatever decision they make.

But knowing their grain and temper, I am sure that the citizens of Israel will insist on complete political independence. They will also not consent to restricted immigration or to a third partition of Palestine, whatever minor frontier rectifications they may be inclined to accept. It should be recalled that under pressure of the United States delegation, a considerable part of the Negev on the Egyptian frontier, which was voted to the Jewish state by UNSCOP as well as the city of Jaffa, were surrendered by the Jewish Agency for the sake of a final settlement. The Jews today effectively control all of territory of Israel plus Western Galilee and the city of Jaffa. The Egyptian forces have "invaded" only the Arab territory of the Negev. The Jewish people of Palestine will not readily consent to further territorial concessions in order to save the face of those who, in defiance of the United Nations, have invaded Palestine. Count Bernadotte must surely realize that his function and authority do not include proposals for a new political settlement other than that of November 29th, and he will not wish to exceed his authority.

I am also sure that they will not consent to have the City of Jerusalem, whose population is by so large a majority Jewish and which has such sacred and indissoluble associations with the history of the Jewish people throughout the centuries, become the capital of a Moslem country. There are more Jews in Jerusalem than in the whole of Egypt or in the whole of Iraq, and they are unwilling to become the subjects of King Abdullah.

Nor can we believe that the Christian world would consent to such an arrangement. The Jewish people was prepared to agree to the internationalization of the city of Jerusalem because it is sacred to the three great historic religions of mankind. They agreed to it even though the majority of its population is Jewish. It is unthinkable that the Jewish or the Christian world would consent to have Abdullah set up his throne in Jerusalem.

The efforts of Count Bernadotte to mediate may succeed. If so, they will be acclaimed by the entire civilized world. Neither Jew or Arab stands to gain from the resumption of hostilities in Palestine. But his efforts may fail, and war may be resumed. If war is resumed, it will mean that Great Britain is determined to force a detroncation of the state of Israel. The only serious fighting force in Palestine today is the Arab Legion. The Arab Legion will not move into battle again - it did not move into battle after May 15th - without the tacit approval of Great Britain. The Arab Legion, as is well known, is British-lead, British-trained, British-commanded, and British-financed. It is through the Arab Legion that Great Britain, up to the time of the truce, waged war on the state of Israel. It was Great Britain through the Arab Legion which bombarded and desecrated the Holy City of Jerusalem, destroyed the Jewish Quarter, and killed and wounded hundreds of men, women, and children. It was Great Britain through the Arab Legion which attempted to starve the new city of Jerusalem into surrender by blocking the lifeline from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The blood of those who died at the battle of Latrun, as well as those who perished at Kfar Etzion are on Bevin's head. While Great Britain proposed the present truce in Palestine, it has not abandoned its war against the state of Israel. It has refused to recognize the state of Israel and has induced other countries to delay recognition. Mr. Bevin, only partly chastened by the action of the American government, the violent anti-British sentiment which his conduct aroused in the United States, and by opposition in the Cabinet, is using the period of the truce to pressure for the closest approximation to the kind of a solution which he has always aimed at - a pre-Arab and a pro-British solution.

Great Britain is making every effort to induce our government to collaborate with it. It may find the same ready ears in the State Department as it did in the past. Failing to achieve his purposes, Mr. Bevin may give the signal for the resumption of the war in Palestine in order to beat the Jewish people down into bloody submission. Thus, the state of Israel, in spite of the truce, is in gravest political and physical danger. The United States still remains the one country which, because of its authority and prestige, can protect it, if it so desires, against the evil plotting of Mr. Bevin and the British Foreign Office.

Here lies the next great task for the Zionists of America - to use their best offices with their government which has recognized the state of Israel and which recognition, according to the statement of our Secretary of State, carried with it also the recognition of its boundaries, to support the political and territorial integrity of the new state. It is in this connection that we hail with deep satisfaction the resolution on Israel which was included in the platform of the Republican Party at its recent convention in Philadelphia:

"We welcome Israel into the family of nations and take pride in the fact that the Republican Party was the first to call for the establishment of a free and independent Jewish Commonwealth. The vacillation of the Democratic Administration on this question has undermined the prestige of the United Nations. Subject to the letter and spirit of the United Nations Charter, we pledge to Israel full recognition, with its boundaries as sanctioned by the United Nations, and aid in developing its economy."

We hope confidently that the Democratic Party, when it, too, meets in Convention soon, will similarly voice its conviction that the new Jewish state should be safeguarded against aggression and amputation, and that it should be given whatever economic support can properly be given to it to help it gain a strong and sure footing.

Should the peace negotiations break down, we shall have to turn to our government and ask for the immediate revision of the embargo so that the defenders of the state of Israel may be able to acquire arms and ammunition in this country which prides itself upon being the arsenal of democracy. Surely an immediate de jure recognition of the state of Israel would strengthen and greatly hearten the new state which is now going through a period of great trial and peril. Whatever strong indications our government can give at this time of



utmost sincerity and determination in supporting the state of Israel will contribute to the pacification of the situation in the Near East and to an early reconciliation of the Arab peoples to the existence and the integrity of the state of Israel. It would be heartening also to have our own country sponsor the admission of the state of Israel to the United Nations.

The appointment of Mr. James G. MacDonald as head of a United States mission to Israel was a most welcome gesture of goodwill and friendly cooperation. Mr. MacDonald has been among the most understanding and helpful friends of the historic cause of our people over a period of many years. We wonder whether the appointment of Mr. MacDonald may not be taken to indicate that the end of the era of Loy Henderson in the State Department is fast approaching. It is high time that this arch foe of Zionism who has done so much mischief should be removed from a position where he can frustrate, as he has time and again by adroit manipulation on the lower levels, the purposes of his government and the wishes of the American people. The Baerley-Henderson axis must finally be broken.

Should the unprovoked and dastardly war upon the state of Israel be resumed, we must be prepared to pour out our resources in its defense--our resources of money and our resources of manpower. We shall not permit military gangsters and adventurers to destroy the Jewish State whose right to exist the nations of the world proclaimed, and whose existence some of the foremost nations of the world, including our own country, have recognized. American citizens have in the past, time and again, rushed to the defense of embattled democracies which were threatened by tyrants and enemies of civilization; and the American people warmly applauded them. Our own beloved country was in its hour of peril, served mightily by freedom loving volunteers from other lands, and America has cherished the memory of those who came to its defense. We shall ask of our own government as a champion of freedom and of the rights of small peoples all over the world, to make it possible for the same support to be given to the State of Israel menaced as it is by countries which our own country has branded as aggressors.

Let there be no mistake about our position. The Jews of the entire world are involved in that life and death struggle of the 600,000 in Israel, and they will not let them down! As the need

arises they will call upon us, and we shall respond. And foremost among those who will respond will be men from among those who fought for America out of love for America, in the last World War.

I should like to conclude my address today with the very words with which I concluded my address to you last year, and which I quoted at the very beginning of my address:

"It is clear that for our Movement the coming year will be a very critical one. It is clear that for the success of our Movement the role of the American government will be a decisive one. It is clear, therefore, that the Zionists of America must remain fully alerted and thoroughly mobilized. They must act with wisdom and with courage."





ADDRESS OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE JEWISH AGENCY  
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"We face the future not without concern, certainly not with unrestrained optimism and yet, not without a large measure of confidence. Our confidence derives from the essential justice and moral character of our cause which the nations of the world a quarter of a century ago recognized and acknowledged, and which the nations of the world, we hope, will soon re-affirm.

"The mainspring of our confidence is the firm resolve of American Jewry and of the Jewries of the world that regardless of cost and headless of sacrifice, the millennial hope of our people for national restoration shall not at this final stage be defeated. The surest mainspring of our confidence is the superb resolution of the Yishuv to continue to build the Jewish National Home in the face of all opposition, in the very teeth of repression and administrative lawlessness.

"These are the sources of our confidence as we face another great crisis in the evolution of our historic movement which began 1900 years ago and which will reach its destined consummation under God when the Jewish State will be fully re-established."

This destined consummation to which we looked forward was reached during this year. Our confidence in American Jewry to stand by during the critical year, and more especially, our confidence in the irrefragable resolution of the Yishuv to endure and hold fast were not misplaced. The Jewish State has been re-established!

The last year will be numbered among the great years in Jewish history. It taxed us mightily and made great demands upon us, but it replenished our souls. It was a fulfilling year. Necessity and emergency revelled their spurs into our sides, but we were amply rewarded. We arrived at our goal, an important goal. We are not unaware of the fact that there are no final goals in history and that we must move on. We have not yet presented its report and recommendations to the United Nations. Two months were to elapse before that report was made public. Two additional months were to pass before the recommendations contained in that report for the setting up of two independent states in Palestine within an economic union and for an international regime for the city of Jerusalem were to be accepted by the United Nations. It is not necessary here to review the manifold activities on the part of the Jewish Agency, the American Zionist Emergency Council, and Jewish organizations here and throughout the world which culminated in the decision of November 29th. The main outlines of the story are, I am sure, still fresh in your minds, and the fuller details have been properly recorded. Altogether, it was a magnificent achievement which was made possible only by colossal effort, by careful and skillful planning and execution, and by boundless devotion on the part of unnumbered men and women here and in many other parts of the world.

American Zionists were faced with the responsibility of marshalling support in the United States for the settlement proposed by UNSCOP. It was clearly realized that the position of the American government would prove decisive in the United Nations. But what that position was, proved to be a matter of greatest uncertainty and concern. Ever since the Special Assembly of the United Nations met in the spring of last year to consider the question of the future government of Palestine which had been referred to it by Great Britain, the United States had given no indication as to what its position would be, what solution it favored, and what it would be prepared to do by way of implementing the solution which it favored. Our government maintained this unrevealing position even after the report of UNSCOP was made public. Until almost the

very eve of November 29th, it was not clear whether our government would back the partition resolution with that measure of wholeheartedness which would influence other nations to do likewise. American Zionists remained apprehensive almost to the very end. They could not and did not relax even for a moment their efforts to organize public opinion, both Jewish and non-Jewish, in order to activate our government to move in the direction of positive and decisive action. There were powerful forces in our government who were opposed to the establishment of a Jewish state, who maneuvered adroitly for a purely formal, half-hearted endorsement, on the part of our government, of the partition proposal for the sake of the record, <sup>a position</sup> which would insure its final defeat at the United Nations. These forces had to be out-guessed and out-maneuvered, and their plans set at naught.

Fortunately, this was accomplished. But the victory was short-lived.

American Zionists were soon confronted with a grave challenge which called for a new mobilization of forces and another tremendous expenditure of energy and effort to defend what had been achieved, but which was now <sup>gravely</sup> imperilled. The United Nations resolution of November 29th was a signal for the Arabs inside and outside of Palestine to launch a campaign of violence and terrorism in an attempt to alter by force the partition settlement. The Mandatory government which, while formally accepting the solution of the United Nations, stated that it had no intention to assist in its implementation, and soon gave ample evidence of its determination to frustrate the plan in every way possible. This, of course, further encouraged Arab aggression and intransigence. It made the work of the United Nations Commission high impossible, and it so reported to the Security Council on February 16th.

"Powerful Arab interests, both inside and outside Palestine, are defying the resolution of the General Assembly, and are engaged in a deliberate effort to alter by force the settlement envisaged therein," it declared, and it asked for effective assistance from the Security Council.

The unreconciled opponents of a Jewish state within government circles in Washington soon began to re-assert themselves. The disorders in Palestine were seized upon as an excuse to discredit the United Nations settlement. A conspiracy was hatched in government circles to scuttle the partition plan and to force a new solution more acceptable to Great Britain and the Arabs. This conspiracy, which was backed by a powerful oil lobby in Washington, by British propaganda, by pro-Arab Near-East missionary groups in the United States, and spear-headed by Forrestal and Henderson, matured in March of this year and brought about a total reversal of the American position. Storm signals of what was impending could be read quite early in the embargo on the shipment of arms to the Middle East which was imposed by our government as early as December 5th, and which, of course, was aimed against the Jewish state since the Arab countries were being supplied with arms by Great Britain. They could be read also in the failure of our government to protect the invasion of Palestine by Arab troops from neighboring countries in blatant defiance of the Charter of the United Nations.

The attack upon the partition plan was begun by our government in the Security Council on February 24th when the legal right of the United Nations to implement partition was challenged by the United States delegation in an elaborate and labored argument which made crooked what had been straight and which hopelessly confounded the clear and simple facts and duties in the case with a tangled perplexity of legal <sup>into</sup> sophistries and evasive double talk. The American government called for renewed negotiations and consultations between Jews and Arabs for an agreed settlement.

On March 5th a resolution was adopted by the Security Council which requested the permanent members of the Council to consult with regard to the situation with respect to Palestine and to make recommendations regarding the instructions which the Council might usefully give to the Palestine Commission with a view of implementing the resolution of the General Assembly. The failure of the American government fully and sincerely to back the partition plan at the Security Council and to demand action

on the part of the Security Council in the face of the breach of the peace which the invasion of troops from the neighboring Arab countries clearly constituted, impressed the members of the Security Council with the conviction that the American government had decided to throw overboard the partition plan. As a result nothing came of the consultations among the permanent members of the Council. They refused to agree that a threat to peace existed in Palestine or to demand that the countries responsible for the invasion should withdraw their forces immediately.

On the morning of March 19th the Chairman of the United States delegation reported on the discussions which had taken place among the permanent members, the facts which had been developed during the discussions, and stated that "as a result of the consultations the permanent members find that a continuation of the infiltration into Palestine by land and by sea of groups and persons with the purpose of taking part in violence would aggravate still further the situation, and that they recommend that the Security Council should make it clear to the parties and governments concerned that the Security Council is determined not to permit the existence of a threat to international peace in Palestine and that the Security Council should take further action by all means available to it to bring about the immediate cessation of violence and the restoration of peace and order in Palestine".

This was the windy report which was made by the head of the American delegation on the morning of March 19th. Albeit, there was still no suggestion here that the American government had <sup>decided to</sup> ~~abandoned~~ partition, but in the afternoon of the same day, the same head of the American delegation declared that inasmuch as the Council was not prepared to proceed with efforts to implement the plan, and inasmuch as the plan could not be carried by peaceful means, and inasmuch as the termination of the Mandate on May 15th would result in chaos unless there was a successor government <sup>on hand</sup> in Palestine, the United States proposed that a temporary trusteeship for Palestine should be established, that a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations should



be convoked to that end, and that pending this meeting, the Security Council should instruct the Palestine Commission to suspend its effort to implement the proposed partition plan.

This was a stunning blow to our hopes. What had been so painfully and laboriously achieved on November 29th was now in mortal danger as a result of the sudden defection of the most powerful government on earth without whose support the plan could never be carried out.

American Zionists were thus confronted with the necessity of beginning all over again. They had to inaugurate another mighty campaign to fight the attempt to impose a trusteeship on Palestine which would indefinitely postpone the establishment of the Jewish state. Fortunately for us the reaction of the American people and of the American press to the shocking reversal on the part of our government was all that we could have wished for. The ~~vacillation~~ <sup>weakness</sup> and the ~~instability~~ <sup>weakness</sup> of our government was denounced from coast to coast by a bewildered and angered American public opinion. American Zionists found ready allies in their fight to defeat the unsound and shabby improvised trusteeship proposal of the American government.

The second special session of the United Nations to consider further the future government of Palestine met on April 16th. Prior to that date the Security Council spent much time to negotiate a truce between the Jews and the Arabs. When that failed, it set about to work out a plan to impose a truce. It finally adopted such a plan and appointed a truce commission composed of representatives of France, Belgium and the United States, to supervise the implementation of this truce. Nothing ever came of it. It was window dressing.

When the second special session of the United Nations met on April 16th, the United States presented no special proposals for a trusteeship, but only a working paper of 47 articles, and invited discussion. Our government did not wish to assume the onus of responsibility either for formally moving for the revocation of the decision of November 29th or for making a specific substitute proposal of its own.



Quite the contrary. To the very last the President and the Secretary of State kept reassuring the American public that they were still for partition. Trusteeship was not a substitute, but only a temporary stop-gap. The working paper of the American government was subjected to a thorough-going critique on the part of the spokesman of the Jewish Agency, as well as on the part of certain delegations in the United Nations who wanted to know what states would be prepared to implement the trusteeship decision, whether force would be required to implement a trusteeship, and if so, why did the American delegation object to the use of force to implement partition. They wanted to know <sup>further</sup> what provisions were made for Jewish immigration and land purchase, there being a most disconcerting ambiguity in the American proposals on both of these subjects. The debate on the American trusteeship working paper dragged on for weary days, but it was evident quite early that there was no chance for such a proposal to be adopted. Nor was there any chance formally to revoke the November 29th decision.

In fact, the First Committee - that is to say, the political committee of the General Assembly - could not agree on any plan. Finally on May 14th, on the very eve of the termination of the Mandate, a make-shift resolution was proposed by the First Committee to the General Assembly which affirmed the support of the General Assembly of the efforts of the Security Council to secure a truce and empowered a United Nations mediator to use his good offices with the local and community authorities in Palestine to arrange for the operation of common services, to secure the protection of the holy places, and to promote a peaceful adjustment of the situation in Palestine.

But even as the members of the United Nations were futilely debating on May 14th this emaciated and washed-out resolution, the Jewish people of Palestine, in conformity with their oft-repeated warning that the recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their independent state may not be revoked and that the right of the Jewish people to be a nation like all other nations in its own sovereign state was self-evident, and that they would act alone if the United Nations failed to act,

solemnly proclaimed the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine and called it Israel. Thus, strong hands took over <sup>where</sup> ~~when~~ feeble and faltering hands were hopelessly fumbling. And while the voting was still going on in the Assembly of the United Nations, the news was flashed to the world that the President of the United States had recognized this new state of Israel.

The position of the American government between February 24th and May 14th, when the President of the United States fortunately and dramatically reversed the policy of the American government and brought it back to the main highway from which it had been detoured, was one of extreme danger to our movement, of tragic consequences to Palestine, and of gravest hurt to the prestige and authority of the United Nations. One can fully understand and sympathize with the moral indignation voiced by Mr. Sumner Welles in his recent book, "We Need Not Fall", when he summarizes the situation in the following words:

"The policy of the United States in the case of Palestine has been devoid of vision and devoid of principle. It has been devoid of principle in that justice and the struggle for freedom of a bitterly afflicted people have been prostituted to the shabby exigencies of local politics and of powerful domestic interests, and subordinated to the influence of militarism. It has been devoid of vision in that the cause of collective security, by whose triumph alone the United States can insure its lasting safety, has been sacrificed to short-sighted and selfish expediency."

It should be noted in passing that when it became clear to the members of the United States delegation that its trusteeship plan would fail of acceptance, it made tremendous efforts to persuade the Jewish Agency to accept a new truce proposal. Jews and Arabs were to agree on a truce for 90 days during which time another effort would be made to reach an agreement. No indication was given by the American government as to what would follow if after 90 days no agreement was reached. To all inquiries as to whether the American government would then support the Jewish state or whether the American government would lift the embargo in case the Jews were attacked upon the

termination of the truce, no answers were forthcoming. This last-minute proposal was clearly a device to achieve through the formula of a truce what the United States delegation had failed to achieve through the formula of a trusteeship - namely the indefinite postponement of the establishment of the Jewish state.

Some of our own leaders were in danger of falling into this ~~trap~~ skillfully camouflaged. Fortunately, better counsel prevailed.

When it became clear to us that the trusteeship proposal was dead and that the new truce maneuver would likewise fail and that the Jewish people of Palestine would, upon the termination of the British Mandate on May 15th, proceed without fail to proclaim the establishment of their state, there remained but one more important step for us to take - namely, to persuade the President of the United States to recognize the Jewish state immediately upon its establishment. This would, of course, be of tremendous encouragement to the new state. It would enormously strengthen its position and it would encourage other countries to do likewise.

In the period immediately preceding May 14th, while the fruitless debates on truce and trusteeship were dragging on in the United Nations, a tremendous activity was carried on to enlist leaders of American public opinion and friends and supporters everywhere to persuade the President of the United States to take this wise and statesman-like step. We are profoundly grateful to President Truman for having utilized the precise historic moment for his great act of recognition which, with one clean sweep, brushed aside all the accumulated legal rubbish and clumsy political artifices and stratagems of months, redeemed the honor and integrity of the United States, and <sup>emboldened</sup> the gallant builders and defenders of Israel with new hope and courage. He has written his name indelibly upon a page of history of <sup>a grateful</sup> an unforgetting people.

If one were to summarize the work of the United Nations with reference to Palestine since February 24th, it would have to be in the following terms: The Security Council failed to back up the decision of the Assembly of November 29th. The United Nations Palestine Commission, when it began its work, was told that the Security Council would

assume its full share of responsibility in the implementation of the Assembly resolution, and that the Commission might properly assume that the Security Council would not fail to exercise to the fullest and without exception every necessary power entrusted to it by the Charter in order to assist it in fulfilling the mission. This promise was never made good. The Security Council failed to use the machinery available to it under the Charter to restore law and order in Palestine. After many weeks of legalistic discussion and much sophistry, it passed a truce resolution without providing the means of enforcing it. The Trusteeship Council of the United Nations likewise failed utterly to carry out the scheme for setting up an international regime for Jerusalem on which a tremendous amount of detailed study by experts was spent. Nothing decisive was done to end the hostilities in the Holy City and to protect its holy places. It long last a neutral municipal commissioner was appointed for the Holy City with no power to implement even the very limited functions assigned to him, and to quote a recent writer, "On May 15th when the Mandate ended, Jerusalem was left without a government or even provision for a government, and it became the first major battleground between the Jews and the Neighboring Arabs." As regards the Assembly of the United Nations itself, all its labors resulted in the appointment of a mediator who is to promote a peaceful adjustment of the situation in Palestine.

7 If, therefore, there is a Jewish state in Palestine today, recognized by 15 nations of the world, fully functioning and carrying on all the activities of a modern state and successfully defending its borders against invasion and attack, it is due entirely to the initiative, courage, and determination of the Jewish people themselves. They and they alone have created and are defending it. Never has a dream been so completely vindicated that freedom is achieved, it is never given. It will be good for the soul of our people in all future time to remain aware of this fact that it is due to their own struggles and sacrifices and to their own unfaltering courage and determination that the third Jewish Commonwealth was established. History records that that was exactly how the first and second Jewish commonwealths were <sup>also</sup> established.

And now as to the future. A great year has ended. Another great year is upon us. The United Nations mediator, Count Bernadotte, has succeeded in bringing about a four-weeks truce in Palestine. This period is drawing to a close. Count Bernadotte has made tentative suggestions to Arabs and Jews for a peaceful adjustment of the situation in Palestine. The detailed suggestions which reportedly are tentative and are intended to <sup>only</sup> serve as a basis for discussions have not been made available to us, and we are, therefore, in no position to analyze them. The meager reports in the press seem to suggest that some sacrifice in territory on the part of the state of Israel in the form of interchange of territory will be asked, and that Jerusalem is to be included in the Arab state. Perhaps other suggestions concerning the internationalization of the <sup>of</sup> part of Haifa, economic union and some coordination also of foreign policy and defense are also included. The final decision as to the acceptability of such proposals by the Jewish people will, of course, be made by the government of the state of Israel. <sup>WRHS</sup> We here cannot make the decision, nor should we wish to do it. In the final analysis the Jewish people of Palestine will have to defend with their own lives whatever decision they make.

But knowing their grain and temper, I am sure that the citizens of Israel will insist on complete political independence. They will also not consent to a third partition of Palestine, whatever minor frontier rectifications they may be inclined to accept. It should be recalled that under pressure of the United States delegation, a considerable part of the Negev on the Egyptian frontier, which was voted to the Jewish state by UNSCOP as well as the city of Jaffa, <sup>was</sup> surrendered by the Jewish Agency for the sake of a final settlement. The Jews today effectively control all of territory of Israel plus Western Galilee and the city of Jaffa. The Egyptian forces have "invaded" only the Arab territory of the Negev. The Jewish people of Palestine will not readily consent to further territorial concessions in order to save the face of those who, in defiance of the United Nations, have invaded Palestine. Count Bernadotte must surely realize that his function and authority do not include proposals for a new political settlement other than that of November 29th, and he will not wish to exceed his authority.



I am also sure that they will not consent to have the Holy City of Jerusalem, whose population is by so large a majority Jewish and which has such sacred and indissoluble associations with the history of the Jewish people throughout the centuries, become the capital of a Moslem country. There are more Jews in Jerusalem than in the whole of Egypt or in the whole of Iraq, and they are unwilling to become the subjects of King Abdullah.

Nor can we believe that the Christian world would consent to such an arrangement. The Jewish people was prepared to agree to the internationalization of the city of Jerusalem because it is sacred to the three great historic religions of mankind. They agreed to it even though the majority of its population is Jewish. It is unthinkable that the Jewish or the Christian world would consent to have Abdullah set up his throne in Jerusalem.

The efforts of Count Bernadotte to mediate may succeed. If so, they will be acclaimed by the entire civilized world. Neither Jew nor Arab stands to gain from the resumption of hostilities in Palestine. But his efforts may fail, and war may be resumed. If war is resumed, it will mean that Great Britain is determined to force a detroncation of the state of Israel. The only serious fighting force in Palestine today is the Arab Legion. The Arab Legion will not move into battle again - it did not move into battle after May 15th - without the tacit approval of Great Britain. The Arab Legion, as is well known, is British-led, British-trained, British-commanded, and British-financed. It is through the Arab Legion that Great Britain, up to the time of the truce, ~~was~~ waged war on the state of Israel. It was Great Britain through the Arab Legion which bombarded and desecrated the Holy City of Jerusalem, destroyed the Jewish quarter, and killed and wounded hundreds of men, women, and children. It was Great Britain through the Arab Legion which attempted to starve the new city of Jerusalem into surrender by blocking the lifeline from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The blood of those who died at the battle of Latrun, as well as those who perished at Kfar Etzion



# World Jewry Will Not Let Israel Down

When we last met in July 1947, the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine had not yet presented its report and recommendations to the United Nations. Two months were to elapse before that report was made public. Two additional months were to pass before the recommendations contained in that report for the setting up of two independent states in Palestine within an economic union and for an international regime for the city of Jerusalem were to be accepted by the United Nations. It is not necessary here to review the manifold activities on the part of the Jewish Agency, the American Zionist Emergency Council and Jewish organizations here and throughout the world which culminated in the decision of November 29.

American Zionists were faced with the responsibility of marshalling support in the United States for the settlement proposed by UNSCOP. It was clearly realized that the position of the American government would prove decisive in the United Nations. But what that position was, proved to be a matter of greatest uncertainty and concern.

Until the very eve of November 29, it was not clear whether our government would back the partition resolution with that measure of wholeheartedness which would influence other nations to do likewise. American Zionists remained apprehensive almost to the very end. They could not and did not relax even for a moment their efforts to organize public opinion, both Jewish and non-Jewish, in order to activate our government to move in the direction of positive and decisive action. There were powerful forces in our government who were opposed to the establishment of a Jewish state, who maneuvered adroitly for a purely formal, half-hearted endorsement, on the part of our government, of the partition proposal for the sake of the record, a position which would insure its final defeat at the United Nations. These forces had to be out-guessed and out-maneuvered and their plans set at naught.

Fortunately, this was accomplished. But the victory was short-lived.

## Conspiracy Hatched

The unreconciled opponents of a Jewish state within government circles in Washington soon began to reassert themselves. The disorders in Palestine were seized upon as an excuse to discredit the United Nations settlement. A conspiracy was hatched in government circles to scuttle the partition plan and to force a new solution more acceptable to Great Britain and the Arabs. This conspiracy, which was backed by a powerful oil lobby in Washington, by British propaganda, by pro-Arab Near-East missionary groups in the United States and spear-headed by Forrestal and Henderson, matured in March of this year and brought about a total reversal of the American position.

On the morning of March 19, the chairman of the United States delegation reported on the discussions which had taken place among the permanent members, the facts which have been developed during the discussions, and stated that "as a result of the consultations, the permanent members find that a continuation of the infiltration into Palestine by land and by sea of groups and persons with the purpose of taking part in violence would aggravate still further the situation, and that they recommended that the Security Council should make it clear to the parties and governments concerned that the Security Council is determined not to permit the existence of a threat to international peace in Palestine and that the Security Council should take further action by all means available to it to bring about the immediate cessation of violence and the restoration of peace and order in Palestine."

## Stunning Blow

This was the windy report which was made by the head of the American delegation on the morning of March 19. Albeit, there was still no suggestion here that the American government had decided to abandon partition but in the afternoon of the same day, the same head of the American delegation declared that inasmuch as the Council was not prepared to proceed with efforts to implement the plan, and inasmuch as the plan could not be carried by peaceful means and inasmuch as the termination of the Mandate on May 15 would result in chaos unless there was a successor government on hand in Palestine the United States proposed that a temporary trusteeship for Palestine should be established, that a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations should be convoked to that end, and that pending this meeting, the Security Council should instruct the Palestine Commission to suspend its effort to implement the proposed partition plan.

This was a stunning blow to our hopes. What had been so painfully and laboriously achieved on November 29 was now in mortal danger as a result of the sudden defection of the most powerful government on

## A Review of the Year On the Political Front



By DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

earth without whose support the plan could never be carried out.

American Zionists were thus confronted with the necessity of beginning all over again. They had to inaugurate another mighty campaign to fight the attempt to impose a trusteeship on Palestine which would indefinitely postpone the establishment of the Jewish state. Fortunately for us the reaction of the American people and of the American press to the shocking reversal on the part of our government was all that we could have wished for. The vacillation and the instability of our government were denounced from coast to coast by a bewildered and angered American public opinion. American Zionists found ready allies in their fight to defeat the unsound and shabbily improvised trusteeship proposal of the American government.

Finally on May 14, on the very eve of the termination of the Mandate, a make-shift resolution was proposed by the First Committee to the General Assembly which affirmed the support of the General Assembly of the efforts of the Security Council to secure a truce and empowered a United Nations mediator to use his good offices with the local and community authorities in Palestine to arrange for the operation of common services to assure the protection of the holy places and to announce a peaceful adjustment of the situation in Palestine.

But even as the members of the United Nations were futilely debating on May 14 this canceled and washed-out resolution, the Jewish people of Palestine, in conformity with their oft-repeated warning that the recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their independent state may not be revoked and that the right of the Jewish people to be a nation like all other nations in its own sovereign state was self-evident and that they would act alone if the United Nations failed to act, solemnly proclaimed the establishment of the Jewish State in Palestine and called it Israel. Thus, strong hands took over where feeble and fluttering hands were hopelessly fumbling. And while the voting was still going on in the Assembly of the United Nations, the news was flashed to the world that the President of the United States had recognized this new State of Israel.

## U. S. Honor Redeemed

When it became clear to us that the trusteeship proposal was dead and that the new truce maneuver would likewise fail and that the Jewish people of Palestine would, upon the termination of the British Mandate on May 15, proceed without fail to proclaim the establishment of their state, there remained but one more important step for us to take—namely, to persuade the President of the United States to recognize the Jewish State immediately upon its establishment. This would, of course, be of tremendous encouragement to the new state. It would enormously strengthen its position and it would encourage other countries to do likewise.

In the period immediately preceding May 14, while the fruitless debates on truce and trusteeship were dragging on in the United Nations, a tremendous activity was carried on to enlist leaders of American public opinion and friends and supporters everywhere to persuade the President of the United States to take this wise and statesman-like step. We are profoundly grateful to President Truman for having utilized the precise historic moment for his great act of recognition which, with one clean sweep, brushed aside all the accumulated legal rubbish and clumsy political artifices and stratagems of months, redeemed the honor and integrity of the United States, and imbued the gallant builders and defenders of Israel with new hope and courage.

If one were to summarize the work of the United Nations with reference to Palestine since February 24, it would have to be in the following terms: The Security Council failed to back up the decision of the Assembly of November 29. The United Nations Palestine Com-

mission, when it began its work, was told that the Security Council would assume its full share of responsibility in the implementation of the Assembly resolution, and that the Commission might properly assume that the Security Council would not fail to exercise to the fullest and without exception every necessary power entrusted to it by the Charter in order to assist it in fulfilling the mission. This promise was never made good. The Security Council failed to use the machinery available to it under the Charter to restore law and order in Palestine. After many weeks of legalistic discussion and much sophistry, it passed a truce resolution without providing the means of enforcing it.

The final decision as to the acceptability of proposals to the Jewish people will, of course, be made by the government of the State of Israel. We here cannot make the decisions, nor should we wish to do it. In the final analysis the Jewish people of Palestine will have to defend with their own lives whatever decision they make.

## Freedom Achieved

If, therefore, there is a Jewish state in Palestine today, recognized by 15 nations of the world, fully functioning and carrying on all the activities of a modern state and successfully defending its borders against invasion and attack, it is due entirely to the initiative, courage and determination of the Jewish people themselves. They and they alone have created and are defending it. Never has a dictum been so completely vindicated that freedom is achieved, it is never given. It will be good for the soul of our people in all future time to remain aware of this fact that it is due to their own struggles and sacrifices and to their own unfaltering courage and determination that the third Jewish Commonwealth was established. History records that that was exactly how the first and second Jewish commonwealths were likewise established.

The efforts of Count Bernadotte to mediate may succeed. If so, they will be acclaimed by the entire civilized world. Neither Jew nor Arab stand to gain from the resumption of hostilities in Palestine. But his efforts may fail, and war may be resumed. If war is resumed, it will mean that Great Britain is determined to force a destruction of the State of Israel. The only serious fighting force in Palestine today is the Arab Legion. The Arab Legion will not move into battle again—it did not move into battle after May 15—without the tacit approval of Great Britain. The Arab Legion, as is well known, is British-led, British-trained, British-commanded, and British-financed. It is through the Arab Legion that Great Britain, up to the time of the truce, waged war on the State of Israel. It was Great Britain through the Arab Legion which bombarded and desecrated the Holy City of Jerusalem, destroyed the Jewish Quarter, and killed and wounded hundreds of men, women, and children. It was Great Britain through the Arab Legion which attempted to starve the new city of Jerusalem into surrender by blocking the lifeline from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The blood of those who died at the battle of Latrun as well as those who perished at Kfar Etzion are on Bevin's head. While Great Britain proposed the present truce in Palestine, it has not abandoned its war against the State of Israel. It has refused to recognize the State of Israel and has induced other countries to delay recognition.

## We Will Not Let Them Down

Should the unprovoked and dastardly war upon the State of Israel be resumed, we must be prepared to pour out our resources in its defense—our resources of money and our resources of manpower. We shall not permit military gangsters and adventurers to destroy the Jewish State, whose right to exist the nations of the world proclaimed, and whose existence some of the foremost nations of the world, including our own country, have recognized. American citizens have in the past, time and again, rushed to the defense of embattled democracies which were threatened by tyrants and enemies of civilization; and the American people warmly applauded them. Our own beloved country was in its hour of peril, served mightily by freedom loving volunteers from other lands, and America has cherished the memory of those who came to its defense. We shall ask of our own government as a champion of freedom and of the rights of small peoples all over the world, to make it possible for the same support to be given to the State of Israel menaced as it is by countries which our own country has branded as aggressors.

Let there be no mistake about our position. The Jews of the entire world are involved in that life and death struggle of the 600,000 in Israel, and they will not let them down! As the need arises they will call upon us, and we shall respond. And foremost among those who will respond will be men from among those who fought for America out of love for America, in the last World War.

# Victory Banquet Honoring Silver Ends Sessions

Neumann, Eban, Hilldring,  
Crum, Frisch, May Laud  
His Leadership in U. S.

By BEN ROSS

Ending most impressively, the 51st annual ZOA convention reached its climax at the final banquet session, a victory dinner in honor of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, at which one prominent speaker after another paid tribute to the indefatigable labors of the American Zionist leader. The tribute was capped by Dr. Emanuel Neumann who stated in his opening remarks that although Dr. Silver has earned a rest, "what is he going to do if Zionists the world over should call upon him in the near future, to assume the Presidency of the World Zionist Organization? Will he resist such a call for further service to the cause which is so dear to his heart?"

Among those who spoke at this final session before a jammed ballroom of delegates and admirers of Dr. Silver were Dr. Silver, himself; Daniel Frisch, Mortimer May, Aubrey Eban, Israel's UN representative, Gen. John Hilldring and Bartley Crum.

## "Ranking Head"

Dr. Neumann, chairman of the evening, told the convention that "by this time it is revealing no secret to say that is the stirring months through which we passed, at Lake Success—and in Washington—Dr. Silver has been chiefly responsible for our basic policies, our over-all planning and the grand strategy of our movement." The ZOA president stressed that since Dr. Silver's colleagues in the Jewish Agency, David Ben Gurion and Moshe Shertok have become members of the Israeli Government, "Dr. Silver remains as the ranking head of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization." Dr. Neumann then added his tribute by questioning whether Dr. Silver could refuse a call to head the World Zionist Organization if called upon to do so.

Dr. Neumann also read telegrams from Pennsylvania's Governor James Duff and presidential candidate Henry A. Wallace. Gov. Duff regretted that he was unable to attend the dinner and expressed his own personal regards and the good wishes of his State to the delegates. Mr.

Wallace's pro-Zionist statement prompted Dr. Neuman to comment that the convention had now received good will telegrams from all the presidential nominees.

Daniel Frisch, a ZOA vice president, declared that it was Dr. Silver "who made of the ZOA what, long ago, it should have become—a movement of the masses and a great political force." (The full text of Mr. Frisch's address appears elsewhere.)

## Hope and Faith

Mortimer May, a ZOA vice president, paid his tribute to Dr. Silver in a speech marked with erudition and culture. He quoted Carl Sandburg's books on Lincoln and recalled the crucial Civil War years as he drew a parallel with those times and the present period of crisis for the Jewish people. Declaring that we often have wondered why our generation was permitted to witness the great event of the re-establishment of Israel, Mr. May added that "some feel that it was given us in compensation for the overwhelming disaster we suffered in the last decade. This does not seem satisfying. . . . A more satisfying explanation seems that while earlier generations yearned and prayed for this event, they limited themselves to such. Largely under Messianic influences, they believed that their salvation could come from Providence alone. In the last half century there arose leaders who united the hopes of their ancestors with deep faith in the Jew himself, emphasizing the thought that God and their fellow man would help them only as they themselves asserted their every effort to secure the goal of a Jewish State."

"This new attitude," Mr. May told the delegates, "was the result of the work and thinking of a few great men, among whom Dr. Silver stands pre-eminent in our time. Bared in an environment rich with Jewish values and traditions, he, as no one else, has epitomized this synthesis of hope on the one hand, and belief in the ability of the Jewish people.

He made them to understand that redemption could come only from themselves."

Mr. May declared that "American Jewry is deserving of much praise in that it evaluates Dr. Silver's services on the high level which they merit. His ardor, his eloquence, his prescience brought a new spirit of courage and determination to American Jewry, which lead to victory."

## End Embargo—Crum

A light touch was provided by Bartley Crum, publisher of the New York Star, who decided not to deliver his prepared address, in which he, too, paid eloquent tribute to Dr. Silver and to the Zionist movement. Instead, Mr. Crum told the appreciative delegates of his recent trip to Palestine and how 'rab guides called everything Arabic and Jewish guides proudly pointed to all landmarks and called them Jewish. Turning serious, Mr. Crum asked for de jure recognition for Israel, the lifting of the arms embargo and criticized bitterly British actions in the Palestine issue.

Aubrey Eban, who in his introduction paid warm tribute to Dr. Silver, discussed the matter of the Palestine truce and, during his speech, made the first official statement of the Israeli viewpoint when he predicted that unless the mediator and the UN prevented "a resumption of Arab aggression," the truce would end, a prediction borne out by events. (Excerpts from Mr. Eban's speech are printed elsewhere in this issue.)

Gen. Hilldring, in a speech spiced with human interest stories, told the convention delegates that the DP Bill recently passed by Congress—which discriminated against Jewish DPs, "does not represent the attitude of America." He added that "I am confident that the bill will be satisfactorily modified when Congress meets again." Insofar as Palestine is concerned, Gen. Hilldring said that the major credit for the recent achievements in Israel "belong, of course, to the courage and the wisdom and the optimistic behavior of the people of Israel and of their leaders and to the great leader whom we are honoring tonight and his co-workers."

Then, Gen. Hilldring added these significant words: "You are all aware, of course, of the significant role which Dr. Silver played in the United Nations proceedings leading up to that eventful November 29. Yet I am sure that none of you may realize the full extent of Dr. Silver's participation in those proceedings. His was a magic influence upon the delegates. His irresistible logic and his dynamic yet restrained presentations of the Zionist case won for you friends and allies from many unexpected quarters."

## Leaders of Stature

The General added that "not is it possible to forget the contribution of Dr. Emanuel Neumann, who stood beside Dr. Silver and with Dr. Silver during all those trying days. And when leaders stood before that international tribunal, it was clear to all the world that these were distinguished leaders of stature—a credit to any people."

He ended his talk with a story



Four of the major speakers at the final Victory Banquet in honor of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver are shown here. They are, from left to right, Gen. Hilldring, Dr. Silver, Dr. Neumann and Aubrey Eban.

## A Call for Service

By DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN

By this time, it is revealing no secret to say that in the stirring months through which we passed, at Lake Success—and in Washington—Dr. Silver has been chiefly responsible for our basic policies, our over-all planning and the grand strategy of our movement. He has been at once our spokesman, our strategist and the Commander-in-Chief of our forces. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, he, more than anyone else, has been responsible for that great mobilization of American Jews and all friends of Zion, which has resulted in the decisive support which was forthcoming from the Government of the United States. We hail Dr. Silver as a great American, as one of the foremost citizens, and above all as one of the greatest Zionist statesmen in the history of our movement, whose name will be enshrined in the annals of our people.

Since his colleagues in the Jewish Agency, David Ben Gurion and Moshe Shertok, have been absorbed by the Provisional Government of Israel as its Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Dr. Silver remains as the ranking head of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization. Our movement could not have dispensed with his leadership during the past year. He continues to be indispensable in the critical days which still loom ahead of us. It would be understandable if after his monumental labors, he should desire to enjoy a well-earned rest. But how can he, as long as the work to which he has dedicated his great gifts, is not fully completed? What is he going to do if Zionists the world over should call upon him in the near future, to assume the Presidency of the World Zionist Organization? Will he resist such a call for further service to the cause which is so dear to heart?

about Col. David Marcus, who worked on Gen. Hilldring's staff for a period during the last war. When Gen. Hilldring asked "Mickey" Marcus how Israel's friends in the United States could help the Israeli cause, Col. Marcus said, "I wish the folks back home would be less jittery, because you know, General, they would be more helpful if they were more hopeful." It was on this note that Gen. Hilldring ended his talk.

Dr. Silver, rising to acknowledge the various deeply-felt tributes to his work, delivered a memorable address in which he declared that tributes should really be paid "to many of us," including Mrs. Silver and Dr. Neumann.

Recalling the wonder of the re-establishment of Israel, Dr. Silver said, "I envy the young people, I wish I were 21 again. The days ahead and the years ahead will be fascinating, will be challenging, will be summing to the imagination, to the idealism of our youth." Dr. Silver added that "if I were to ask for any credit for myself among the hosts of our co-workers in this coun-

try who have helped to do what we had to do here to establish the State of Israel, I would take to myself the credit that at all times and on every occasion, in the hours of the darkest gloom, I tried to keep alive in the soul of the people, this spirit of which General Hilldring spoke—optimism and faith."

The Zionist leader told the delegates at the banquet dinner that "it is a high privilege to be not merely at the close of a great epoch, for whose successful conclusion you can claim some credit, but you are also privileged to be alive at the beginning of another, a heroic chapter when the people of Israel is stepping out to write what may be a new Bible for mankind—that is a great privilege."

## G.Z.O. Sets Israel Conclave

The General Zionist Organization in Israel will hold its national conference in Tel Aviv beginning July 23. This will be the first conference after the merging of the Groups A and B.



Judge Louis Levinthal and Daniel Frisch at the dinner tribute to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver.



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*Fifty First Annual Convention*



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

*... Program ...*

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION

Zionist Organization of America

*July 2nd to 5th, 1948*

HOTEL WILLIAM PENN • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

• *Friday, July 2nd, 1948*

- 9:30 A.M. REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES  
Adonis Room, William Penn Hotel
- 2:00 P.M. COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES  
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS  
Forum Room, William Penn Hotel
- 2:00 P.M. MEETING OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
Urban Roof, William Penn Hotel
- 7:00 P.M. SABBATH SERVICES  
Pittsburgh Room, William Penn Hotel

8:00 P.M. SABBATH DINNER  
Ballroom, William Penn Hotel  
*Theme: "ZIONIST YOUTH AND ADULT EDUCATION IN THE FUTURE"*

*Chairman:* MORTIMER MAY, Nashville, Tenn.  
*Vice Chairman, National Administrative Council*

*Invocation:* DR. HARRY COHEN, Cleveland, Ohio  
KIDDUSH

*Speakers:* LOUIS SCHWEFEL  
*Chairman, General Zionist Chalutzim Commission*  
"THE FUTURE OF CHALUTZIUTH IN AMERICA"

DR. SIMON GREENBERG  
*Provost and Acting President, Jewish Theological Seminary of America*  
"ISRAEL AND AMERICAN ZIONIST EDUCATION"

HERMAN L. WEISMAN  
*Chairman, American Zionist Youth Commission*  
"AN APPROACH TO AMERICAN JEWISH YOUTH"

• **Saturday, July 3rd, 1948**

**9:00 A.M. SABBATH SERVICES**

Pittsburgh Room, William Penn Hotel

*Services:* CANTOR ISADORE ADELSMAN  
and Beth Sholom Choir

*Bad Korai:* MEYER PESKOFF  
New London, Conn.

*Sermon:* DR. DAVID POLISH  
Temple Mizpah, Chicago, Ill.

**2:00 P.M. ONEG SHABBAT**

Pittsburgh Room, William Penn Hotel

*In cooperation with Histadruth Yehud of America*

*Chairman:* MR. SAMUEL J. BOROWSKY

*Speakers:* DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN  
DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN  
MR. MENACHEM RIBALOW (in Hebrew)

*Dramatic Readings:* MR. CHAIM OSTROWSKY, of  
"TEATRON IVEI" of Israel and "PARCOT"

Community Singing

Registration of Delegates

Adonis Room, William Penn Hotel



9:00 P.M. FIRST SESSION

*Syria Mosque*

*Color Guard: JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES*

NATIONAL ANTHEM

HATIKVAH—*Soloist, SIDOR BELARSKY*

*Invocation: RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD*  
*New York, N. Y.*

*Opening of Convention: SAMUEL GOLDSTOCK*  
*Pittsburgh, Chairman, National*  
*Convention Committee*

*Chairman: RABBI IRVING MILLER, Woodmere, L. I.*

*Greetings: HON. DAVID LAWRENCE*  
*Mayor, The City of Pittsburgh*

HON. BARTLEY CRUM  
*American Christian Palestine Committee*

### **In Memoriam**

FOR DECEASED ZIONIST LEADERS  
IN AMERICA AND ABROAD

*PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN*

11:30 P.M. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS  
Forum Room, William Penn Hotel

11:30 P.M. RECEPTION TO DELEGATES  
Pittsburgh Y. M. H. A.

*Hosts: Pittsburgh Zionist District  
Abe R. Coher, President*

• **Sunday, July 4th, 1948**

9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES  
Adonis Room, William Penn Hotel

9:00 A.M. MEETING OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Political Committee (continued)  
Urban Roof, William Penn Hotel

Budget and Finance  
Music Room, Roosevelt Hotel

Youth  
Blue Room, Roosevelt Hotel

Palestine Funds  
Ballroom, William Penn Hotel

Membership and Organization  
Forum Room, William Penn Hotel

Committee on Unity  
See Bulletin Board

Chalutzith  
Presidential Suite, Roosevelt Hotel  
Economic Projects  
Marine Room, Roosevelt Hotel

10:00 A.M. SECOND SESSION  
Syria Mosque

10:00 A.M. *Part One:* INDEPENDENCE DAY EXERCISES  
to Under auspices of Allegheny Council of the  
10:30 A.M. Jewish War Veterans of the United States  
Chairman: Major William Kapelman

10:30 A.M. *Part Two:* REPORTS AND DISCUSSION  
to Theme: "THE YEAR IN REVIEW"  
12:00 Noon Chairman: Joseph Greenleaf  
Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

. . .

*Greetings from Hadassah*

. . .

GREETINGS FROM MASADA  
Jack Snyder, President

REPORT BY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
DR. SIDNEY MARKS

Report on Finances  
MILTON POLLACK  
*Chairman, National Finance Committee*

Reports by National Chairmen

Membership:  
JOSEPH GOLDBERG

American Zionist Fund:  
MENDELL M. SELIG

Committee on Unity:  
DR. FELIX A. LEVY

Life Membership:  
WILLY NORDWIND



Reports by Young People's Groups  
IRVING HEISLER, New York City

Discussion

• • •

12:00 Noon *Part Three:* JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

to

*Theme:* "ISRAEL AND THE LAND"

2:00 P.M.

*Chairman:*

JUDGE MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
New York City

*President, Jewish National Fund of America*

RAPPORTEURS:

DR. HARRIS J. LEVINE

*National J. N. F. Chairman for Z. O. A.*

MENDEL FISHER

*Executive Director, Jewish National Fund*

*Address:*

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. JAMES G. McDONALD  
*Special Representative of the United States to Israel*

2:30 P.M.

THIRD SESSION

Syria-Mosque

*Theme:* "ZIONIST HORIZONS"

Political Retrospect and Future Policies

*Chairman:* DANIEL FRISCH, New York City

*Address:*

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

*Chairman, American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine*

Report of Political Committee  
and Presentation of Resolutions

Discussion



6:30 P.M.

FOURTH SESSION

Syria Mosque

*Chairman:* DR. ABRA HILLEL SILVER  
Cleveland, Ohio

Report on Credentials

Report of Committee on Nominations

Elections

9:00 P.M.

FIFTH SESSION

Syria Mosque

*Theme:* "UNITED JEWISH APPEAL"  JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Chairman:* DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN

*National Chairman, United Palestine Appeal*  
*National Co-Chairman, United Jewish Appeal*

*Report on Keren Hayesod:*

CHARLES RESS

*President, Keren Hayesod of America*

HERMAN L. WEISMAN

*Report of Z. O. A. Activities:*

*National Z. O. A. Chairman for U. J. A.*

*Addressees:*

HON. HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR.  
*General Chairman, United Jewish Appeal*

HON. CLAUDE PEPPER  
*U. S. Senator for Florida*

• **Monday, July 5th, 1948**

8:30 A.M. BREAKFAST, AMERICAN ZIONIST FUND  
Pittsburgh Room, William Penn Hotel

9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES  
Adonis Room, William Penn Hotel

9:30 A.M. CONVENTION COMMITTEES

DR. ROBERT GORDIS, *Chairman*  
Education Committee  
Urban Roof, William Penn Hotel

General Conference

*Theme: "THE FUTURE OF ZIONIST EDUCATION"*

All other Convention Committees continued

11:00 A.M. SIXTH SESSION  
Pittsburgh Room, William Penn Hotel

*Theme: "GENERAL ZIONISM"*

*Chairman: DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN*  
New York City

*Participants: ITZHAK KARPMAN*

*Executive Director, American Section, World Confederation of General Zionists*

MEIR HARTMAN of Israel

*Special Economic Mission of Israel to the United States*  
*Director of Mifde Ezerachi*

JACOB ALKOW

*Director, American Palestine Enterprises, Inc.*

BENJAMIN DOFT

*National Chairman Z. O. A. Israel Equipment Project*

2:00 P.M. SEVENTH SESSION

Pittsburgh Room, William Penn Hotel

*Chairman:* JACQUES TORCZYNER, New York City

Reports of Convention Committees

Discussion by Delegates

Resolutions

8:00 P.M. CLOSING SESSION

Ballroom, William Penn Hotel

Banquet in Honor of DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

*Presiding:* DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN

*Invocation:* RABBI BENJAMIN A. LICHTER  
Bnai Israel Congregation, Pittsburgh, Pa.

*Greeting:* HON. JAMES H. DUFF  
Governor of Pennsylvania

*Addresses:* DANIEL FRISCH  
MORTIMER MAY  
MAJOR GENERAL JOHN H. HILDRING  
HIS EXCELLENCY HON. AUBREY S. ERAN  
*Special Representative of Israel to the United Nations*

*Soloist:* SIDOR BELARSKY

• Tuesday, July 6th, 1948

10:00 A.M. First Meeting 1949 Z. O. A. Executive Committee  
Forum Room, William Penn Hotel

# • Convention Committee •

MR. SAMUEL GOLDSTOCK

*Chairman*

DR. SIDNEY MARKS,

*Executive Director, Z.O.A.*

RABBI JEROME UNGER,

*Associate Executive Director*

MR. JACOB ALKOW

MR. LEW AUERBACH

DR. LOUIS W. BLUMENTHAL

MR. SHEPARD BROAD

MR. BENJ. G. BROWDY

MR. JESSE CALMENSEN

MR. LESTER COHEN

MR. SOB COHEN

MR. SOB COLLINS

MR. JACK COLMAN

RABBI SAMUEL COOPER

MR. ARTHUR DARMAN

MR. LOUIS DENCE

MR. BENJ. J. DOFT

MR. SHMOEL EYTINGER

MR. LOUIS A. FALK

DR. F. M. FALKMAN

MR. MENDEL FISHER

MR. JOHN J. FOX

MR. BEN M. FRIEDMAN

MR. DAVID FRIEDMAN

MR. BEN ZION GINSBURG

MR. ELLIS GOODMAN

MR. JACOB GOODMAN

MR. JOSEPH W. GREENGLASS

MR. MICHAEL HANIN

MR. JOSE HECHT

MR. LAWRENCE HOROWITZ

MR. MORRIS JACOBS

MR. WM. KAPELMAN

JUDGE JOSE KLAU

MR. EDWARD KOBLENZ

MR. ABRAHAM KRUMBEIN

MR. M. LANGBAUM

MR. PHIL LASSAR

DR. HARRY J. LEVINE

DR. MARCUS LEVINSON

MR. ABRAHAM LINZER

MR. JULIUS LIVINGSTON

MR. DAVID MOSKOWITZ

MR. HERMAN QUITTMAN

MR. SAM RIVKIN

DR. MORTON J. ROBBINS

MR. RICHARD ROSENBERG

MR. ALBERT SCHIFF

MR. MAX SHAPIRO

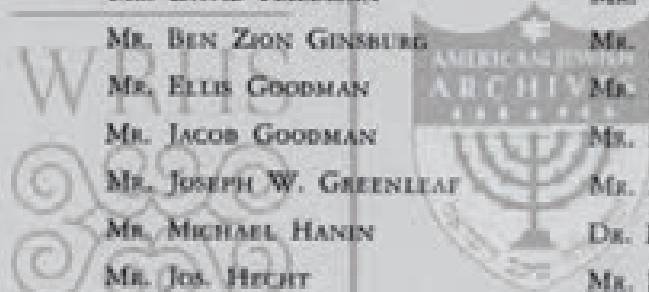
MR. BERNARD SHULMAN

MR. JOSE SPECTOR

MR. JACQUES TORCZYNER

MR. I. S. TUROVER

MR. CHARLES WOLF





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IN THE FIRST YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE  
STATE OF ISRAEL

*Fifty-first Annual Convention*

REPORT  
*to the*  
51ST ANNUAL CONVENTION  
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA



# **REPORT**

*To the 51st Annual Convention*

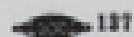


**ZIONIST ORGANIZATION  
OF AMERICA**



**JULY 3-5, 1948**

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*



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ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

*National Headquarters*

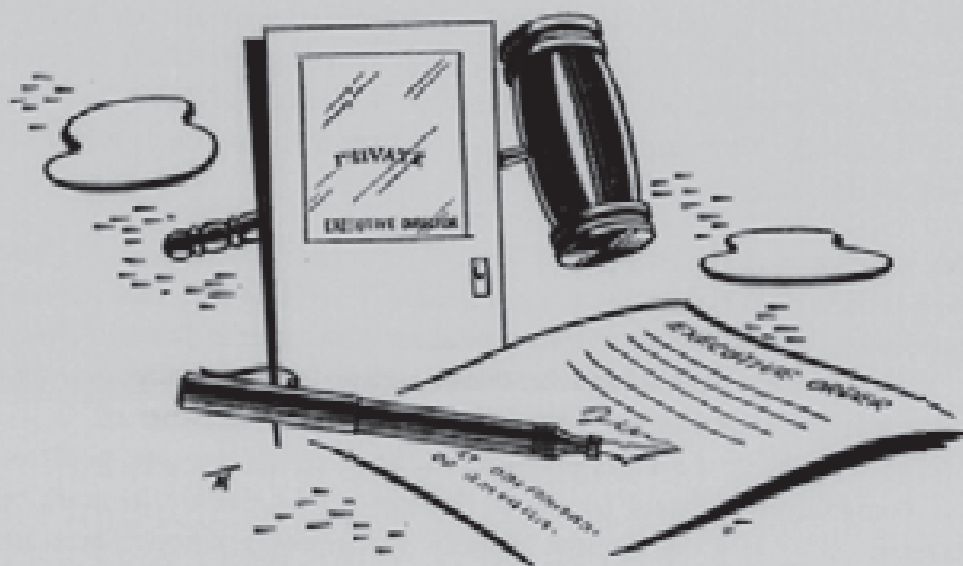
41 East 42nd Street

New York 17, N. Y.



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## executive director

Fifty-one years have passed since the Zionist Organization of America embarked on its mission. We now convene six weeks after the proclamation and establishment of the State of Israel, marking the realization of Herzl's prophetic vision. Our Convention will open a new chapter in our endeavors.

The successful administration of the organization by Dr. Emanuel Neumann and his colleagues has opened new vistas for us. In every field of activity, political, membership, education, fund-raising and public relations, we have risen to unprecedented heights. We come to this Convention as the largest and most effective Zionist body in the world.

In the political field, our outstanding role remains unchallenged. The determined stand taken by the Zionist Organization of America at the Basle Congress and the Zurich Actions Committee was fully vindicated by the course of world events, in this country before the United Nations, and in Israel. It was based upon the deliberations and decisions taken at the Fiftieth Annual Convention.

The policy program was carefully implemented by our leaders and

membership. We are the major constituent instrumentality in the American Zionist Emergency Council and the role of our leadership in fighting for our cause before the United Nations is a matter of historic record. The enlistment of public support, the mobilization of all constructive forces in this country in the fight for the Jewish State was a direct result of the efforts spearheaded by our leaders, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Emanuel Neumann, aided by a disciplined and well-informed Zionist constituency.

We meet as Israel battles for its life and existence. The creation of the Jewish State does not complete our mission. The Basle Program remains unfulfilled. The political and territorial integrity of the State of Israel is still exposed to great danger. Israel must acquire a self-sustaining economy capable of absorbing the hundreds of thousands who will enter. Jewish survival in the Diaspora is a matter of prime concern to all of us. Recognition of Israel by all of the nations of the world must be secured. Jewry in every country requires further organization. These are herculean tasks.

This Convention, meeting in these crucial days of our years, must mobilize all of our human and material resources to carry out the Basle Program. It must adopt a program of new orientation in our future policies, defining in clear terms the relationship of American Zionists to Israel, education, public relations, youth, economic aid to Israel and organization geared to the exigencies of the present and to the future tasks which still devolve upon us.

We have carefully provided the framework for these increased activities. Our impact upon world and American public opinion, through the messages brought by our superb publications, our literature, our speakers and our other organs of education and public expression has brought respect and admiration for us from press and public. These were sponsored by the American Zionist Fund.

In the fields of fund raising for the United Jewish Appeal which, as always, has taken priority in our efforts, the Jewish National Fund, the American Zionist Fund, and in the support and direction of most Jewish communal activity, our officers and membership assumed major roles of leadership and contribution. The outstanding position we occupy in the World Confederation of General Zionists and the direct contacts we maintain with world Jewish institutions bring enormous demands upon us for economic and cultural assistance. We have never failed to provide them with our unstinting aid and cooperation.

This brief introduction to the Annual Report bears comment. Our work as an organization requires the devotion and loyalties, the energies and enthusiasms of the hundreds of thousands which comprise it. Dr. Emanuel Neumann, our President, his colleagues on the National Executive Committee and Administrative Council, the National Chairmen and the Regional and District officers maintained constant and careful surveillance over our organizational structure. The remarkable progress of our organization is a reflection of that stewardship. The sacrifice of time and effort in the day to day operations by the Inner Committee is a study in Zionist selflessness and application. The names of these devoted guardians bear recording; they include Benjamin G. Browdy, Daniel Frisch, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Abraham Goodman, Joseph W. Greenleaf, Rabbi Irving Miller, Milton Pollack, Charles Ress, Mendell Selig, Dewey D. Stone, Mark Sugarman, William Sylk, Jacques Torczyner and Herman Weisman.

During the year, your Executive Director was compelled for reasons of health to take a leave of absence. During the interim period pending his return, Rabbi Jerome Unger, whose more detailed report follows, assumed the position of Acting Executive Director. The sterling quality and high standards of his labors are manifest in the accomplishments of the organization during this period and in the continued maintenance of our strong structural pattern which greeted me upon my resumption of office. These expressions to him, colleague and friend, and to my colleagues on the National Executive Staff of sincere thanks and appreciation are truly merited.

I want to extend felicitations and appreciation to the executive staff throughout the country and to the clerical department. They are devoted colleagues who are the sinews of organization.

We record the gratitude of the Organization to Samuel Goldstok, Chairman, and the Convention Committee for their fine work in the preparation of this Convention. We must also note the fine fraternal cooperation of the various Zionist agencies.

We conclude this introduction in a spirit of challenge. Victory comes with effort and struggle; it is never still-born. With the proclamation of the State of Israel come new responsibilities for Jewry. Israel requires human and material sustenance; American Jewry requires sustenance for Jewish survival. Neither is mutually exclusive but each is highly interdependent. We can—we must—provide for the future of the Jewish people everywhere. We can—we must—create that program which will ensure this future for us.

To Dr. Emanuel Neumann and his associates, to the National Executive Committee, the National Administrative Council, to the Regional and District officers and the hundreds of thousands of our members who are alerted to the needs of Jewry, we pay tribute and deem ourselves privileged to serve you. To the valiant citizens of Israel, we say "We shall continue to stand by your side."

DR. SIDNEY MARKS,  
*Executive Director*

\* \* \*

We began our fiscal year on October 1, 1947, in the midst of the opening days of the final chapter of 1900 years of struggle of the Jewish people for independence and freedom. Although out of that struggle and the indomitable hope of our people, has been born the State of Israel, the struggle continues in the face of the enemies of justice and decency. Herzl's prophecy has become a present reality. Ours is the task to see that it endures for all time.

Through the sagacity, perseverance and political formulas of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Emanuel Neumann and their associates, together with colleagues from Palestine and America, our movement labored unceasingly that the conscience of the world might respond to the urgency and justice of the cause of our people as exemplified in the Zionist program. These weeks of trial, with hope rising one day and falling the next, culminated in the grand decision of November 29, 1947, by which the Assembly of the United Nations recommended the establishment of a Jewish State in a partitioned Palestine.

Although we had achieved only the most irreducible minimum of our objectives—and that indeed only blueprinted—there was released from the heavy hearts of Jews everywhere the pent-up emotions of two millenia. The Zionist Organization of America held a gala meeting of thanksgiving in New York with tens of thousands of people unable to enter a hall filled to overflowing. Synagogues and communities everywhere joined in the highly spirited outpouring of joy. The joy quickly subsided, however, when it became apparent that the United States, which had led the fight for partition, was vacillating and that, as both Dr. Neumann and Dr. Silver had warned, our opponents had neither been vanquished nor intended to subside. This mood of despair was heightened by rapidly multiplying events reaching their climax in March, 1948, when the United States proposed to abandon the United Nations' decision of November. Weeks of futile debate in the Security



Council ended, on the one hand, with the establishment of the Provisional Government of Israel on May 14th and, on the other, with the Arab invasion of Palestine. We are even now in the days of a truce set up and administered by an agent of the United Nations—a truce tenuous in its nature and freighted with dangers inherent in the machinations of those who use it to wrest political concessions from Israel which, on the field of battle, demonstrated its claim to independence.

Through all these turbulent months our organization was in the forefront of the political struggle giving staunch and immediate fulfillment to the directives of the American Zionist Emergency Council under the guidance of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. Spearheaded by our President, Dr. Neumann, and his colleagues, executed by a loyal and tireless staff at national headquarters and in the field, and implemented by a membership throughout the land unwearied by effort and undismayed by setbacks, we pushed on fearlessly.

Matching our living to the dying of our brethren in Israel, the vast army of organized General Zionists grew in numbers and strength. Enrolling new and old members as never before, we reached an unprecedented total of a quarter of a million and more. Who can measure the debt we owe to Joseph Goldberg, our National Membership Chairman, and his colleagues? Neither personal tragedy nor the demands of health and business kept Mr. Goldberg and others from giving of their very lives for the promotion of our movement. We salute them.

We engaged in a strenuous campaign, in the midst of all other tasks, for the sale of Shekolim and exceeded all the parties in a total sale of one hundred thousand. Conscious of our strength and of the responsibility it entailed, the Z.O.A. proposed and won unity among the parties, eliminating the costly holding of an election. Mr. Jacques Torczyner and Mr. Louis A. Falk were National Co-Chairmen of the Shekel Campaign. They literally gave their waking and sleeping hours without stint and the whole movement owes them a very deep debt of gratitude.

Our organization flourished and progressed. The story of its accomplishments and success is told in the various reports contained in this booklet. Our labors have been vast and varied and have been in the hands of able and devoted servants of our people who have tirelessly maintained not only a careful supervision of our organizational structure but have given peerless leadership. Dr. Emanuel Neumann, our President; Mr. Daniel Frisch, Vice Chairman of the Inner Committee;

Rabbi Irving Miller, Chairman of the National Administrative Council; Mr. Mark Sugarman, Treasurer; Mr. Milton Pollack, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and all of the officers and members of the Inner Committee and National Committee Chairmen have rendered a service that can frankly be styled only as completely dedicated. The National Executive Committee and the National Administrative Council met regularly for full consideration of all problems and business before the Organization and made decisions of far-reaching significance.

No harder working group of men is there in our Organization than the Inner Committee which has met at least twice a month and often weekly to discuss and resolve the daily problem of our vast enterprise. Dr. Emanuel Neumann was present as Chairman at practically every meeting and absented himself only when the onerous burdens of the work with the United Nations compelled his attendance elsewhere. In his absence Mr. Daniel Frisch presided. Because he is at the office daily except when on tours to every corner of the land in behalf of the American Zionist Fund, membership and the varied activities of the Organization, and because of his deep and intimate knowledge of our problems, Mr. Frisch brought wisdom and great helpfulness to our deliberations.

I can pay no tribute too great to the selfless efforts of our Regional and District officers. Through them the work of the Organization, the directives of the American Zionist Emergency Council and all our varied activities were implemented. They are the movement at its grass roots and are the true second line of defense of Israel.

The American Zionist Fund (Expansion Fund) has been the life-blood of our Organization. Mr. Mendell Selig, its National Chairman, gave energetic and inspired leadership resulting not only in the means for carrying out our program but the spreading far and wide of its ultimate ramifications. New techniques and devices were constantly utilized to raise funds. One of the happiest of omens is the growing list of Welfare Funds to include the American Zionist Fund, vouchsafing continuing support for our work.

Aware of the deep concern of all Zionists with the United Jewish Appeal, directives were issued giving priority to the unprecedented campaign in 1948. Zionists were and are in the vanguard of its workers and contributors. Scanning the weekly reports of the progress of the campaign reveals prominently their names and identities. We salute them for their ready and stalwart participation.

Contemplation of finance brings immediately to mind the men who

guide our financial operations. It is easy to spend money. To meet budgets and expenditure schedules and guide spending trends is often a thankless task. Milton Pollack, Chairman of our Finance Committee, renders a service to our Organization that could never be purchased. With the assistance and collaboration of men like Abraham Goodman, Mark Sugarman, Bernard Singer and all the members of a large and diligent Finance Committee, a careful watch, check and guidance have been provided that result in solvency. It is the duty of our membership in the face of rising costs and expanding functions to provide the funds. Their judicious expenditure is in good hands.

Mr. Herman Weisman, National Chairman of our Youth work and of the American Zionist Youth Commission, continues to devote his extraordinary talents to the development of a deep-rooted and active youth program. As our movement increases in years, we must ever face this challenge which is indeed the challenge of creative survival. New Brandeis camps on the West Coast and on the Atlantic Seaboard are the result of an awakened Zionist membership aware of its responsibilities.

Under the wise and far-sighted leadership of Dr. Israel Goldstein, its President, the World Confederation of General Zionists is bringing new life and clear direction into all the segments of General Zionism everywhere in the world. Every support and aid that the Zionist Organization of America can offer has been at its disposal.

To provide the opportunity to participate directly in the upbuilding of the new State of Israel, the Zionist Organization of America organized the Israel Equipment Project (formerly called Palestine Equipment Project). Knowing the needs of the State, it has appealed for and collected vital machinery, clothing, food, medical supplies and other necessities for shipment to Israel. High among the men deserving of tribute is the indefatigable and resourceful Mr. Benjamin Dof, Chairman of the Project.

The new State of Israel was given only a blueprint of land. It is ours only to purchase. And that has been and will continue to be done through the Keren Kayemeth, the Jewish National Fund. Dr. Harris J. Levine, National JNF Chairman for the Zionist Organization of America, is the constant and devoted driver of us all in maintaining our obligation to this traditional arm of our movement.

All Zionist activity in America, whether it be fund-raising, educational, political or any other, must rest on a broad base that is rooted deeply in the democratic soil of our country and fed by the freedom-filled air

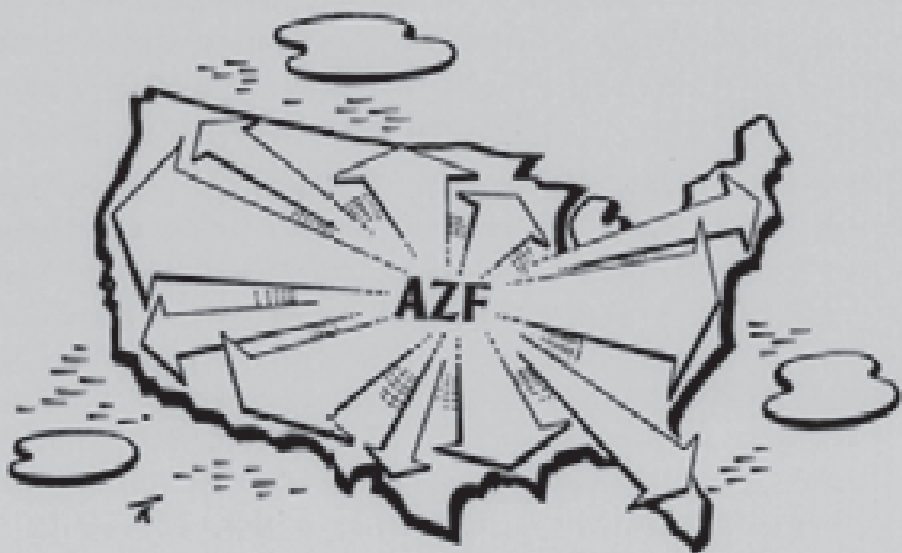
of our land. This broad base is the Zionist Organization of America, strong, vibrant, effective. The success of our long history of 51 years is the most exigent challenge to our responsibility for the future. Our leadership and our membership recognize their responsibility and will meet it.

The foregoing paragraphs give only a synoptic account of our diversified but highly coordinated program. Each department and phase of our work is described comprehensively in separate reports by its Directors in the pages following.

Before I close I want to pause as I think back over the months of my stewardship since October. My own small contribution was possible only because of my colleagues on the Executive and Clerical Staffs. They are not just hired labor but a corps of devoted men and women Zionists to the depths of their being. A comparatively small number, they have earned the gratitude of all our people for their sacrificial service. I pay them public tribute and express for them their gratitude to our leadership and membership for their understanding and comradeship. In addition to those named here and throughout these pages, there are many whose personalities and efforts, however nameless, are reflected in the shining accomplishments of our movement. They are indeed the very pillars of our organization.

I cannot conclude without expressing the gratitude of all of us to Samuel Goldstock, Chairman of this Convention. He, together with a large and hard working committee have done a superb piece of work. As we come to the end of the year we are not only elated by a series of accomplishments but inspired by the challenge of the tasks that are unfolding before us. The Yishuv cried "*Tnu lo-nu emtzayim*." We have given not just the means but all of our being. Now that Israel is again among the nations we rise to the hour and its need and pledge as did the founding fathers of America, "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." It has been for each of us a glowing privilege to serve in this cause. May God strengthen us for the days to come.

RABBI JEROME UNGER,  
*Associate Executive Director*



## **american zionist fund**

The annual financial statement issued simultaneously with this Convention report indicates that although the fiscal year of the Z.C.A. has not yet been completed, the American Zionist Fund has collected a sum almost equal to the entire collection of last year. The awareness of our membership to the necessity of implementing the program of the national organization through its fiscal agency, the American Zionist Fund, is a tribute to the calibre of our districts and regions throughout the country.

In its fourth year, the American Zionist Fund has emerged as one of the largest established Jewish fund-raising organizations in the United States. Significant is not alone the amount of money received by the national office directly, but the amounts that are by prior arrangement retained by the districts and regions to enable them to implement the national program on a district and regional level. This gross collection under the auspices of the A.Z.F., as reported to the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, indicates that we are the fourth largest Jewish fund-raising organization that operates independently of national funds.

The most significant development has been the increasing desire of communities to include the A.Z.F. in community budgets. Some 156



Welfare Funds and Federations have allocated or are in the process of allocating specific sums to the Z.O.A. The premise that the program of the Z.O.A., particularly at this time, is significant to the entirety of the community, whether members or non-members, is the determining factor by which budget committees, occasionally without being solicited, include the A.Z.F. into their community programs.

Significant, too, is the New England Zionist Chest, led by Fred Monosson, whose creation last year was reported at the Convention. This agency coordinates the fund-raising activities of the local and national Zionist agencies, of which the A.Z.F. is a major beneficiary. By filling a vital need and avoiding campaign duplication, the Chest has been included in a large number of New England Welfare Funds in sums ranging from \$300,000.00 to \$2,500.00. In communities in New England where the Chest is not included, the type of organization is conducive to an overall effort which avoids campaign duplication and fulfills the needs of all of its beneficiaries. This type of progressive idea in Zionist campaigning is being emulated in many parts of the country with successful results.

In the large communities, which by prior arrangement with the U.J.A., are allotted certain times in the year to conduct A.Z.F. campaigns, outstanding results have been achieved this year. The Metropolitan Zionist Fund, fiscal agency of the A.Z.F. in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Westchester, led by Paul Kaminsky, its president, has had a truly outstanding year; the Bronx Zionist Region, led by Abe Linzer, Dave Moskowitz, Samuel Frankel and Dr. Hyman D. Silver, has surpassed by far last year's collections; the Long Island Zionist Region, led by Ben Friedman, Benjamin Doft and Dr. Jules Blankfein, has fulfilled in entirety its obligations; the Zionist Organization of Chicago, operating on the basis of the Chest, raised a sum larger than any other in its long history under the leadership of its president, Ben Zion Ginsberg and chairman Harry Scheer; Philadelphia still leads the country despite odds, and exceeded last year's collections in a very short period, spearheaded by Judge Harry E. Kalodner, president, Judge Louis E. Levinthal and William H. Sylk, honorary chairmen, Bernard G. Segal, chairman and Mrs. Rose Bender; the Southern Pacific Region, under the leadership of Gustave Goldstein and Samuel Deutsch, excelled in the first year of their existence as a region. Excellent results were also obtained from the Southeast Region, under the leadership of Sol P. Benamy, president, Abe Goodman, Mortimer May and Max Freedman; the Southwest Region headed by Judge

Sidney Herold, president, Joseph Swiff, Dr. Marcus Levinson, Herman P. Taubman and Isaac Abramson.

The two outstanding regions in the country, however, who have really exceeded all previous efforts were the New Jersey Region, under the leadership of its president, Louis Falk, and the Seaboard Region, led by I. S. Turover, Dave Friedman, Joseph Spector and Joseph Chermer. This region exceeded last year's effort by 300%.

Architects of these developments were Mendell M. Selig, National Chairman of the American Zionist Fund, who visited and concluded agreements with almost every region in the country, gave of his time and efforts unstintingly, Dewey D. Stone, honorary chairman, and Sol P. Benamy, I. J. Caplan and Willy Nordwind, national co-chairmen. Rendering outstanding assistance were Daniel Frisch, who travelled widely on behalf of the Fund, Rabbi Irving Miller, Jacques Torczyner, Shoolen Ettinger, president of the Ohio Valley Region, among many others.

Assisting in their capacities as National Vice-Chairmen of the American Zionist Fund, all of them worthy of the highest commendation were: Abe Bancheck, Pittsburgh; Louis Berry, Detroit; Samuel Deutsch, Los Angeles; Benjamin Doft, New York; Max Freedman, Knoxville; Fred Monosson, Boston; Samuel Rivkin, Hartford; Harry Schacr, Chicago; Maurice A. Smoler, Chicago; Sydney Stanfield, Mahanoy City; Herman P. Taubman, Dallas; I. S. Turover, Bethesda; Jacob Wolk, Pittsburgh; William Cohen, Milwaukee; Charles Wolf, New York; Edmund A. Koblenz, Albany; Dr. Max P. Kanter, Columbus; Isaac Evans, Cleveland.

In addition, the following rendered exceptional service in their communities as leaders of our effort: Alex Himmelman, Milwaukee; Julius Waldman, Atlantic City; Rev. Martin Adolf, Paterson; Morris Jacobs, Detroit; Oscar D. Berris, St. Paul; Harry Schwartz, Columbus; Sam Fishman, Waterbury; Dr. F. M. Falkman, Cleveland; William G. Evans, Cleveland; Dr. Leon Levi, Indianapolis; Bernard Stroyman, Indianapolis; Julius Livingston, Tulsa; George Edelstein, San Francisco; Abraham Meltzer, Spring Valley; Sam Tarshis, Seattle; Rabbi Phillip Kleinman, Portland; Dr. Jacob Reichert, Phoenix; Phil Meisel, Phoenix; Joseph Allen, Baltimore; Aaron J. Robbins, Newark; Seymour Rubin, Miami Beach; Michael Hanin, Pottsville; Abe R. Cohen, Pittsburgh; Alex Lowenthal, Pittsburgh; Samuel Goldstock, Pittsburgh; Mortimer May, Nashville.

The A.Z.F. is also much indebted to Jack B. Cohen of Brooklyn for his original creation which inspired the "Back the Jewish State" stamp and to Dr. Albert B. Freedman, of Schenectady, N. Y., who inspired the creation of the "Back the Jewish State" matches.

The excellent American Zionist Fund literature and campaign bulletins were made possible under the expert advice and direction of Ernest E. Barbarash, Director of Z.O.A. Public Relations. The American Zionist Fund is also indebted to the entire field staff of the Z.O.A., without whose efforts our successful campaign would not have been possible.

The annual report of the organization contains accounts of the numerous projects and departments financed by the American Zionist Fund. Tribute must be paid to the excellence of these projects and departments, their lay leadership and their personnel, whose efficiency and diligence have made so worthy the cause of the American Zionist Fund.

MANUEL POSY,  
*Director*





## public relations

The period since the last convention has been marked by an unprecedented expansion in the activities of the ZOA Public Relations Department and in the volume of press coverage secured in the general, Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish press throughout the country. The extraordinary measure of interest evoked by the events in Palestine have taxed the capacity of the department in every sphere involving public information and press. As an overall result, the department has served as a vehicle not only for the furnishing of news releases, photographs and feature stories to the press but also as a source for authentic interpretations and information to individual writers and institutions in quest of enlightenment on various major events within the movement.

### *Press Coverage*

1. While an exact figure cannot be given, it can be conservatively estimated that during the past nine months some 14,000 columns of ZOA items appeared in the general, Anglo-Jewish and Yiddish press. The ratio of coverage in the general press was approximately 20 percent. These items comprised straight news releases, feature articles, Palestine dispatches and photographs.
2. Major events which were relayed on the wires of the Associated

Press, United Press and International News Service — as released by the ZOA — included coverage of all meetings of the Administrative Council, National Executive, statements and addresses by Zionist leaders. Still further, the Press Department coverage relayed on the news agencies' wires included Thirtieth Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, National ZOA Roll Call Campaign, National Shekel Campaign, addresses at the huge Manhattan Center Thanksgiving Rally to celebrate the November 29th decision of the UN, ZOA Protest of U. S. Meat Export ban to Palestine, ZOA Press Conference and tribute to Dr. Granados, statements by ZOA delegation upon the return from Actions Committee Sessions in Jerusalem, ZOA Liberation Week Observance and many other major events.

3. The publication of feature stories and articles on ZOA projects and activities in the Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish Press.
4. The draft and insertion of display advertisements on Zionism and Palestine in newspapers throughout the country.
5. The furnishing of general source and background material on Palestine and Zionism to newspaper columnists and institutions in connection with the establishment of the Republic of Israel.

#### *Special Bulletins*

6. Publication of Spot News bulletins containing the interpretations and political impacts of current events in the UN and in the international scene.
7. Publication of "Inside Palestine," a monthly bulletin imparting factual information on all phases of the economic and cultural developments of Palestine. This bulletin is sent to all District and Regional Presidents and cultural chairmen, as well as to the ZOA speakers' list, to U. S. government departments, libraries, institutions, newspaper columnists, research workers and many organizations by special request.

#### *Promotion Material*

8. The preparation and supervision in the publication of posters, handouts, illustrated literature and other promotional items in the accelerating of membership, shekel and American Zionist Fund efforts.
9. This department continues to service other ZOA departments in the preparation of every conceivable type of public relations material.

#### *Miscellaneous*

10. The Director of this department maintains constant contact with



members of the City desk and editorial staffs of the general, Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish press.

11. It might be noted that the press techniques of the ZOA Public Relations Department were singled out for praise in public lectures and in communication by outstanding writers of the daily and Anglo-Jewish press, including the New York Times and the National Jewish Post.

### *The New Palestine*

12. The New Palestine, (edited by Mr. Barbarash) with a circulation of well over 225,000 has undergone a number of changes since the last convention in accordance with suggestions and constructive criticism from Zionist leaders and workers. The popularity of the paper, as an effective policy and informational organ, is attested by the fact that its feature articles and cartoons are being widely reproduced by newspapers in this country and abroad.

Unfortunately, however, the continued newsprint shortage and the mounting cost of production and labor have severely restricted the number of pages thus preventing the devotion of more space to Palestine articles and regional and district activities.

### *Conclusions*

The adoption of a revised program by the ZOA, in light of the establishment of the Republic of Israel, will necessitate the adoption of a new approach on the part of our Public Relations Work. For the ensuing year, it is planned — of course, in line with the new ZOA program — to expand widely the informational service to the press with especial emphasis on the economic and cultural aspects in the building of Israel, and the cementing of the cultural link between Israel and American Jewry.

This approach will also have to be reflected in the contents of The New Palestine.

With the express view of capitalizing on the increased interest in Israel which will remain a focal spot in world affairs for a long time to come, the Public Relations Department plans to initiate new bulletin and photo service.

At this time, I wish to express my hearty thanks to the assistants to the editor of The New Palestine, Eugene Sattler and Harold Ribelow; to Cora Miller, assistant in the Public Relations Department; to

Asher Wolk, Yiddish publicity; to Rosalie Kroll, part-time editorial Secretary, and Phyllis Marcus, Secretary. They have been of inestimable help to me in the discharge of all functions of both these departments.

ERNEST E. BARBARASH,  
*Director*





# m e m b e r s h i p

## *Membership Campaigns*

Membership campaigns and activities are conducted in relation to the shifting fortune of Zionism. This was particularly true during the past year. Prior to Rosh Hashanah, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, our president, addressed a communication to all Rabbis asking that they appeal to their Congregations on the occasion of the New Year to solidify the ranks of American Jewry in the struggle for the Jewish State by joining the Z.O.A. In hundreds of synagogues throughout the country such appeals were made, cards drawn up by the National Membership Department were distributed and hundreds of members enrolled.

October, 1947, saw the meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations on Palestine. The reaction of the Z.O.A. in membership terms was immediate. A petition was circulated in the form of a "Roll Call for the Jewish State." American Jewry was asked to sign the petition and at the same time join the Z.O.A. by responding to the Roll Call. The climax of this effort took place on Sunday, November 2, 1947, when membership breakfasts were held throughout the country celebrating the occasion of Balfour Day. A special recording with a personal message from Dr. Neumann, and excerpts from the speech of

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver at the U. N. were played at each breakfast. Over 200 such affairs were held throughout the country and thousands of Z.O.A. membership workers spent the day enrolling members into the organization.

The Shekel Campaign in November-December somewhat subdued membership activities and with the U. N. decision of November 29th to partition Palestine it was essential that the membership approach be changed to conform with the new political situation. Entirely new literature, posters, membership slogans were introduced and new immediate objectives were evaluated and implemented, although the long range objective to obtain a Jewish State in Palestine remained unaltered.

It was at this time that the popular piece of literature, "Portrait of a Man With a Clear Conscience," was drawn up and the membership campaign again began to gather momentum under the themes, "Safeguard the Jewish State" and, referring to the U. N., "They Have Spoken—Have You?"

The months of January, February and March were devoted to regional membership conferences throughout the country. Visits were made to districts concentrating on local problems and techniques and the general process of new orientation, simultaneously stimulating campaign efforts.

In accordance with the changing political situation a Liberation Month was proclaimed by the National Administrative Council for the period of April 15 to May 15 to be devoted to membership efforts by all our districts. The districts were asked to arrange parlor meetings during Passover in celebration of our liberation 3,000 years ago and with the new freedom several weeks ahead. May 9-16th was proclaimed Liberation Week with Sunday, May 9th, devoted to a second National Mobilization Day. The whole week reached a peak in membership activities and culminated in the liberation celebration on May 16th. Districts throughout the country pledged membership goals and cables were sent to the Yishuv from the Z.O.A. promising to organize this unprecedented number of members in the Z.O.A. as active Zionists.

The past year has brought an ever-increasing number of young men and women into the Zionist Organization of America, as members of co-ed Young Zionist Districts. Young Zionist Districts differ from other districts only in the ages of their membership, which is for the most part under 35 years of age. Young Zionist Districts are fully chartered districts, and consequently participate directly in all

organizational activities, such as political action campaigns, fund-raising drives, and naturally the enrolling of members.

At present, there are Young Zionist Districts in Los Angeles, Texas, Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, Boston and the Greater New York area. The Regional Membership Chairmen of Greater New York, particularly in the Bronx and Manhattan, have fostered the development of Young Zionist Districts in their respective regions.

The success of all these efforts can well be judged by the membership figures which are the highest in the history of the organization. The membership statistics show close to a quarter of a million Jews in the ranks of the Z.O.A., an undreamed of total.

### *Organization Structure*

It is to Joseph Goldberg, National Membership Chairman, his leadership, guidance, unstinting devotion to Zionism and tremendous energy, that tribute must be paid. Early in the year it was discovered that the demand for membership activities is so great that the burden and responsibilities must be shared, and therefore the structure of membership campaigning was broadened by the appointment of National Vice Chairmen and a Membership Committee. Each vice chairman assumed responsibilities for a different area of the country: Charles Auerbach for the Ohio Valley Region, Northern Ohio and Michigan, Tri State and Seaboard Regions; Harry Bauman for Southern and Northern Pacific and the Rocky Mountain Area; Michael Hanin for Eastern Pennsylvania, Empire State, Western New York and New Jersey Regions; Willy Nordwind for Chicago, Northwest, Midwest and Central States Areas; Samuel Segal for the Southeast and Southwest Regions; Arthur Darman for New England, Rhode Island and Connecticut Regions.

Because of major concentration of Jews in large metropolitan areas, an unusual amount of effort was expended in conducting and organizing campaigns in these areas. New York with approximately 50% of the Jewish population in the U. S. has five Zionist regions. However, for the purpose of membership campaigning, an over-all New York Metropolitan Membership Committee was organized under the leadership of Philip H. Lassar of Brooklyn and David Moskowitz of the Bronx as co-chairmen with the cooperation of the regional membership chairmen: Murry Ehrlich, Bronx; Aaron Nussbaum and Harold Silvey, Brooklyn; Murray Langbaum, Long Island; Rabbi Jacob Polish, Manhattan; Thomas K. Saltzman, Westchester. The New York metropolitan area has the greatest enrollment of new membership in the history of our organization.



Similarly in Chicago Leo Pevsner assumed the membership chairmanship; in Boston and New England Dr. Arthur I. Shain; in Philadelphia Oscar Brown and Abe Birenbaum.

It is impossible to pay tribute to the hundreds of membership workers. However, in cooperation with Ernest Barbarash, editor of the New Palestine and director of our Public Relations Department, the following individuals were honored for their zeal and efforts in organizing the membership work by being chosen as Membership Chairman of the Month, and profiles concerning them appeared in the New Palestine: Adolph Fram, Baltimore; Robert Persky, Augusta, Ga.; Emanuel Stavish, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Sal Rosenthal, Los Angeles; Morris Wolf, Houston, Texas; Al Silverman, Los Angeles; S. Alexander Sterenbuch, New York City; Moe and Sam Katz, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Because only one individual can be picked as Membership Chairman of the Month, many of those who should be honored are still waiting for the proper issue in the New Palestine. Among them are Sidney Mormar of District No. 7 of New York City; Jacob Lakashok, New Rochelle; Abe Miller, Indianapolis; William H. Simons, Washington, D. C.; Sam Sinkin, San Antonio. The membership team of the Z.O.A. is one of the greatest in the world.

### *Life Membership*

Life Membership in the Zionist Organization of America is the stabilizing long-term influence which is part of the backbone of the organization. Appeals for Life Membership can be made on a personal basis only, and Mr. Willy Nordwind, National Life Membership Chairman, has done enormous work in this regard. In the past year we have increased the number of life membership by 25% of our previous total. A full-page ad in the New Palestine was devoted to explaining this phase of our organization and how it operates. Mr. Nordwind sent personal letters to thousands of Zionists who are already Life Members, asking them to enroll at least one more. He carried on a personal correspondence and contacted individuals everywhere in the United States. Through his forceful personality and continuous drive he has achieved the outstanding results of this year.

Most outstanding in Life Membership activities has been the Southwest Region, which inaugurated the plan for an Emanuel Neumann Life Membership Class. The idea caught on and throughout the country similar Life Membership efforts were undertaken with fine results.

**HERSCHEL AUERBACH,**  
*Director*



## education department

Thoroughly integrated into the activity and functioning of the enlarged Z.O.A., the organization's educational program has during the past year been enormously expanded. It has intensified its work on many fronts, has added new projects, has reached tens of thousands more people through one or more of its media of operations, and has shown itself fully prepared to assume the new responsibilities which confront Zionist education in the present historic situation.

The Education Department was this year fortunate to enjoy the guidance and supervision of a national committee of distinguished men and women, many of whom faithfully attended the more than half a dozen meetings which were held, and at which every phase of Zionist education was carefully studied and planned. Dr. Robert Gorslis, as National Chairman of Education, gave to the program of activities a direction and an impetus stemming from his own deep love of Zion, and his magnificent talents as teacher and scholar. The entire movement is indebted to him, and to his committee, for the impress which they have left upon this vital sphere of Zionist operations.

As may be observed from this report, the Education Department is composed of ten or more bureaus, each with clearly defined functions,

duties and educational responsibilities. One of the first significant steps taken by Dr. Neumann last year was the coordination and systematization of these varied activities under the present central department of education.

The more outstanding projects and activities will, for purposes of report, be dealt with individually, as follows.

### *Education Conference*

Over the week-end of Washington's birthday, and before the creation of the state of Israel, the department summoned a national conference of some fifty of American Jewry's most outstanding thinkers, writers, teachers and leaders to consider the problems inevitably involved in the coming reorientation of Zionism in America. Formal papers were presented by Dr. Simon Halkin, Menahem Boraisha, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Dr. Robert Gordis, Dr. Alexander Dushkin, Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan and Carl Alpert. A full and searching discussion followed at which, for the first time, there was earnest and unhampered exploration of the Zionist philosophy in the life of American Jewry. A full report of the proceedings has been published, and is now being made available to all who are interested. A larger scale national conference for District personnel is being planned for the fall.

### *WRHS Theatre*

Ambitious plans for the establishment of an English language Jewish theatre in the United States as a medium of Jewish education and artistic creativity received their first encouragement with the presentation, on an experimental basis, of the contemporary Palestinian three-act play, "Sword by His Side," by Max Zweig at Carnegie Hall, New York, in April. Close to three thousand persons witnessed the dramatic performance.

It should be noted that plans for the coming year call for the launching of a play-writing contest, and for the encouragement of the formation of dramatic groups under local Zionist auspices throughout the country.

### *Speakers' Bureau*

The major means of reaching the Jewish public with the message of living Zionism is still the spoken word, and records in the education department indicate that its Speakers' Bureau this year arranged programs for some 4,000 meetings, both of Zionist Districts and of other Jewish groups which came to the Bureau for assistance.

Merely to list the names of the speakers who have given of their time and talents is to give an inkling of the vast scope of this project.

Thanks and appreciation are due particularly to those who have undertaken lengthy speaking tours, or who have spoken under ZOA auspices ten or more times. In this category the following must be listed:

Sam Altman, Murray Aronoff, Charles Auerbach, Rev. Karl Baehr, Sen. Owen Brewster, Lester Cohen, Rabbi Seymour Cohen, Dr. Zev Cohen, Rabbi Aaron Dexter, Baron Hans de Meiss-Teuffen, Rabbi Benjamin Englander, Lewis I. Dublin, Alisa K. Eskol, Rabbi Solomon Faber, Gerold Frank, Daniel Frisch, Joseph Goldberg, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Rev. John S. Grauel, Rabbi Charles L. Heilperin, Yehuda Hellman, Rabbi Mayer Herman, Leon Ilutovich, William Kapelman, Ephraim Kaufman, Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum, Oscar Leonard, Miniam Laserson, Ludwig Lewisoohn, Eliezer Lipsky, Dr. James G. MacDonald, Dr. Samuel Margoshes, Rabbi Irving Miller, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Pierre van Paassen, Raphael Pinchas, Charles Ress, Alvin Rosenfeld, J. Mitchell Rosenberg, Schimon Rozowsky, Maurice Samuel, Benjamin Steuerman, Joseph Sternstein, Dr. David Tannenbaum, Abraham Tannenbaum, Dr. Joseph Thon, Harry Torczyner, Jacques Torczyner and Dr. Carl Voss.

The department also published a basic manual for speakers, sponsored a number of speakers' classes and seminars in the New York area, and encouraged the holding of similar courses in other regions.

A number of talented singers, musicians and dancers likewise made their appearance before ZOA groups under the auspices of the Speakers Bureau. A special effort was made to encourage the utilization of the talents of many gifted Palestinian artists now in this country, and the Bureau plans to undertake a special promotional campaign in this direction during the coming season.

### *Pamphlets*

Pamphleteering has always been a widely used medium for popular and mass education. An augmented demand for such material this year has led to the extension of the Z.O.A. pamphlet series, a standard set of both new and classical material made available in attractive and inexpensive form. The following titles have already appeared in this series: 1. Haganah; 2. General Zionist Program, by Dr. Israel Goldstein; 3. Autoemancipation, by Leo Pinsker; 4. Your Z. O. A.; 5. Hebrew, by Dr. William Chomsky; 6. Parties in Zionism; 7. Zionist Handbook, by Carl Alpert; 8. The Jewish Problem and How to Solve It, by Louis D. Brandeis.

Soon to be added to the series is a set of pamphlets dealing with life in Israel: the cities, villages, institutions and people of the new Jewish

State, as well as reprints of other classics for which a great demand continues.

An attractive educational brochure, "What Does Zionism Mean to the American Jew Now?" utilized the technique of cartoons to drive home its message. A considerable supply of other pamphlet material is constantly on hand to meet the requests which come in from Zionist groups, schools, libraries and similar agencies and institutions.

### *Book Publishing*

Only one new book was published this year, Volume III of the Palestine Year Book, but plans are almost complete for a number of volumes which will see the light of day next fall. Among these are an anthology of modern Palestine literature, a new history of the Jewish people, a volume of the ideology and philosophy of the Zionist movement, and Volume IV of the Yearbook.

The Yearbook, annually edited by Miss Sophie Udin, has become a modern classic, and the major source of information and reference on Palestine.

With a sale already exceeding 5,000 copies, the ZOA's "Hebrew Self-Taught," by Zvi Scharfstein, is filling a vital function in home study and in class-room work for the thousands of adults who are thus learning or brushing up on their Hebrew. Other titles in the ever-growing ZOA library continue to sell well. A special promotional campaign is being planned for Israel Cohen's "The Zionist Movement," the only complete history of Zionism in English.

### *Music*

The Education Department recognizes the role of music and the arts in their esthetic appeal as complementing the intellectual approach, and has this year launched a special program which, it is hoped, will expand even further next year.

Major undertaking in this field has been the publication of sheet music, arranged for voice and piano, of the newest folk songs from Israel. The series, known as "Shirai Tzion," to date numbers six selections: "Ani Maamin," "Tsena, Tsena," "Shir Nekama," "Zemer, Zemer Lach," "Artsa Alinu" and "Shir Hapalmash." Other songs are on the press at the time of this report. The music has for the most part been arranged by Prof. A. W. Binder, and by a new, talented young musician, Enoch Gordin.

A warm reception has also been given to the individual song cards, with words and translations, of each of these songs as published.



Plans are now being studied for the publication of a complete songster, supplementing existing books, and containing over 200 new melodies. In this field the Department of Education has cooperated extensively with the Carnegie Hall management in its annual presentation of Palestine Pops Night.

### *Palestine Fellowships*

The annual award of four fellowships for a year of study in Palestine has become one of the highlights of the ZOA educational year. Of the four awards granted last year, three were accepted at once, and the young people selected have been in Israel, though their studies were no doubt interrupted. The fourth winner will go to the Hebrew University as soon as classes resume.

Again this month four additional winners will be named. By decision of the national education committee, two of the fellowships will be awarded to qualified students for Hebrew University study, and two for enrollment in Jewish Agency orientation classes to young people who show promise of leadership in American Zionist activity. It is hoped that with the restoration of peace in Israel the number of these awards will be increased, and that local communities may be led to participate by sponsoring their own candidates for the national awards.

Thanks are due to the distinguished committee of judges who serve on the Fellowship Committee. They are: Rabbi Armond E. Cohen, chairman; Prof. William E. Albright, Prof. Clarence Efroymson, Dr. Albert Einstein, Judge Stanley Fuld, Dr. Robert Gordis, Dr. Simon Greenberg, Prof. Horace Kallen, Dr. Paul Klapper, Prof. Gustave Klausner, Meyer Levin, Dr. Ludwig Lewisohn, Robert R. Nathan, Dr. A. A. Neuman, Dr. A. L. Sachar, Dr. I. S. Wechsler and Prof. Harry Wolfson.

### *Radio*

The popularity which the two ZOA transcribed radio programs, "Palestine Speaks" and "The Drama of Palestine" continue to enjoy is most gratifying. The constant demand from radio stations for these transcriptions, and the number of times that many stations have repeated the broadcasts, is indication of the need for the production of further material of similar nature.

The Radio Bureau has this year sponsored a number of special broadcasts of major significance. One was on the occasion of Balfour Day;

another took place after the decision of November 29. Dozens of communities were enabled to hear the thrilling dramatization of the famous radio play, "Exodus 1947," which was produced in cooperation with the American Jewish Congress.

A major radio project was the all-day salute to the state of Israel presented for fourteen consecutive hours by New York's WLIB with the cooperation and assistance of the ZOA Education Department. The day's program, which included music, addresses, children's hour, commentators and a wide variety of appropriate entertainment, made radio history.

Of special interest has been the weekly program conducted by Dr. Samuel Margoshes over New York's WEVD. In addition to Dr. Margoshes' pungent comments on the news of the week, the program has presented talks by Representatives Emanuel Celler, Arthur G. Klein and Jacob Javits, James G. MacDonald, John Garfield, Daniel Frisch, Israel Goldstein, Jacques Torczyner, Dr. Joseph Thon and others; and a reading of the declaration of the creation of the state of Israel, in the original Hebrew by Hannah Rovina of the cast of *Habima*, and in English by Miss Helen Waren.

### *Programming*

In an attempt to vary the nature of Zionist District meetings, and to utilize maximum resources in each community for the presentation of programs of interest and value, the Education Department has continued the publication of the monthly Program Guide: which were inaugurated in special form last year. The guides this year included special source books on Chanukah, Purim and Passover, containing a wealth of material from classical and modern literary sources.

To measure the usefulness of these program guides, and the extent to which they are used, a questionnaire was recently sent to 400 District cultural and program chairmen of record. There were 219 replies, of which 90 declared the guides "helpful"; 74 termed them "very helpful"; and 19 stated they were "not used." The results of this poll have proven most encouraging, and publication of the material will be resumed early in the fall.

In the final analysis, no matter how carefully written may be the program material issued from the national office, their success depends upon the extent to which local District personnel, entrusted with the programming and educational responsibilities of the organization, implement the procedures and techniques which are offered.

### *Book Bureau*

From a business point of view, the ZOA Book Bureau has become a retail outlet of major importance. Its carefully studied mail order techniques have made it possible for thousands of persons, particularly those remote from the larger cities and the stores which carry Jewish literature, to obtain books of their choice dealing with Palestine, Zionism, or the broader Jewish scene. Special promotional campaigns which have been launched have also encouraged and stimulated the purchase of more books, thus fulfilling the major goal of the Bureau: to increase the number of good Jewish books in the Jewish home. Typical of the response to special catalogues and mailings has been the sale of close to 300 copies of Sumner Welles' new book, "We Must Not Fail," and it is still going strong.

The Bureau, too, has expanded this year, and has undertaken the sale and distribution of many other items associated with Jewish education in the home and in the school. A number of new maps of Palestine have been published, and some ten thousand copies have been sold, largely in bulk to Jewish schools. A handsome metal plaque of Theodor Herzl has been a popular item; new decorative tiles, commemorating the creation of Israel, have been placed on the market exclusively by the Book Bureau; lithograph reproductions of portraits of Weizmann and Ben Gurion, suitable for framing, have recently been placed in stock.

For some years the Youth Department of the Jewish Agency in Palestine had been publishing a Pioneer Library series of valuable pamphlets which had not, however, been made adequately available in this country. The ZOA Book Bureau this year became the American agency for distribution of these pamphlets, and they are being widely sold for the first time.

An interesting evidence of the diversity of interests of those who do business with the Bureau may be found in the fact that a small two-inch advertisement in "The New Palestine" announcing the availability of a book on "Arabic Self-Taught," just imported from Palestine, resulted in a mountain of orders which exhausted the supply in one day. The stock of this book, incidentally, has since been replaced, and it is hoped to make available more and more of the literature, in English and Hebrew, published in Israel.

### *Films*

While the ZOA has not yet produced any Palestine films of its own, its Film Bureau serves as a valuable clearing house for the distribution

of the more than thirty Palestine motion pictures available in this country. Plans are now also being made for cooperation with Palestine Films, Inc., in the distribution here of a monthly Palestine news reel, professionally produced under the direction of Mr. Norman Lurie.

Production has already started on the creation of film strips, a new method used in progressive education to present illustrated lectures. The Education Department is working on script and pictures for an entire series of such film strips.

### *Miscellaneous*

There are a number of projects and activities which are not easily categorized, and the following may be mentioned briefly:

The Department has this year sponsored a contest for District Bulletins. Winners will be announced at the convention and prizes awarded. It is hoped that contests of this nature will stimulate local creative interest in the production of periodicals and bulletins of interest and value to District members.

The Education Department likewise serves as an information center for thousands of persons who turn to the ZOA with their queries on Palestine and Zionism. Department staff members have been particularly helpful to scores of high school and college students who have been writing theses on Palestine and require source and documentary material.

The Director is grateful to his staff, all of whom have been loyal, helpful—and patient during hectic days of active expansion. No member of the staff of the Education Department has played an unimportant role. Deep appreciation is extended to Sarah Kisch Stein, who has been an indefatigable assistant, and to Estelle Benjamin, Edna Bloom, Judith Daniel, Beatrice Gersoff, Gloria Halpern, Abbie Brener Katz, Esther Lopatin, Gertrude Meyerhoff, Bernice Mindlin, Frances Solomon and Ruth Weiss.

The national Education Committee is composed of the following members: Dr. Robert Gordis, chairman; Charles Auerbach, Dr. Samuel Blumenfield, Samuel Borowsky, Rabbi Armond Cohen, Dr. Ben Edidin, Dr. Azriel Eisenberg, Mitchell Salem Fisher, Rabbi Roland Gittlesohn, Dr. Israel M. Goldman, Dr. Jacob S. Golub, Dr. Simon Greenberg, Dr. Abraham S. Halkin, Dr. Abraham I. Katsh, Dr. Aharon Kessler, Rabbi Simon G. Kramer, Dr. Theodore N. Lewis, Dr. Ludwig Lewisohn, Dr. Sidney Marks, Dr. Noah Nardi, Rabbi Arthur H. Neulander, Dr. Joshua H. Neumann, Rabbi Ahron Opher, Dr. David Polish, Mrs. Rose Schwefel, Harry Torczyner, Rabbi Jerome Unger, Herman I. Weisman and Dr. Trude Weiss-Rosmarin.

CARL ALPERT, *Director*



## committee on unity

As it entered its fourth year of activity among the remaining anti-Zionist and non-Zionist elements of American Jewry, the Committee on Unity for Palestine went through extensive structural and programmatic changes.

The 50th Jubilee Convention of the ZOA last July, following the special Palestine session of the United Nations General Assembly, authorized the National Administrative Council to determine the future course of the Committee. The Council, convening in December following the historic partition resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 29, 1947, asked the Committee to operate on a considerably reduced scale pending a final decision once the Jewish state was established. Under the directorship of Bernard Endelman, who succeeded Rabbi Jerome Unger as Executive Director of the Committee following the latter's appointment as Acting Executive Director of the ZOA in October, the Committee engaged in its customary direct approach to the waning core of non and anti-Zionists. The program and techniques so successfully employed by Rabbi Unger were maintained, and his influence and counsel continued with his election as a Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

*Thirtythree*

Aware that grass-roots support for the minority anti-Zionist forces spearheaded by the American Council for Judaism was almost completely absent, the Committee began to turn more to a positive approach to non-Zionists who were beginning to evince sympathy with the Zionist aim. It continued to publish its regular bulletin, "Unity for Palestine," which presented the Zionist case in a factual and dispassionate light to a select list of close to 30,000 non and anti-Zionists. New mailing pieces were constantly issued to meet the rapid pace set by changing developments with respect to Palestine.

Events after the General Assembly decision of November 29th, which saw strong United States support of partition halted and reversed sharply, served as a spur to the declining American Council for Judaism. Faced with an apathetic and generally inactive chain of local chapters, the Rosenwald group found new allies among certain State Department minor officials, Defense Department leaders, and influential oil interests who had, for the moment, successfully altered the course of American policy on Palestine set by President Truman. A stream of anti-Zionist articles appeared in large American publications in a chorus of assent for any Palestine program that would prohibit the establishment of the Jewish state. One such article, "The Fallacies of Palestine," which appeared over Lessing Rosenwald's name, was published in "Collier's." The Committee, with the full cooperation of the American Zionist Emergency Council, after having received advance notice of its publication, contacted Zionist leaders across the nation with the request that they make their displeasure known to the publishers and requesting opportunity for a presentation of the Zionist viewpoint. An article by Dr. Jorge Garcia Granados, of Guatemala, a staunch advocate of the Jewish State, appeared in "Collier's" only recently.

Because of this resurgence of anti-Zionist activity, a special meeting of the officers of the Committee on Unity was held in Chicago, at which a maximum emergency program was formulated to combat these forces.

A sweeping new program was conceived, embodying a series of new publications; extended tours by Dr. Felix A. Levy, Committee Chairman, Dr. David Polish, Co-Chairman, Mr. Nathan Straus III, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Rabbi Jerome Unger, Vice-Chairmen, and Bernard Endelman, Executive Director; establishment of Regional Committees on Unity; and complete liaison with allied and sympathetic organizations.



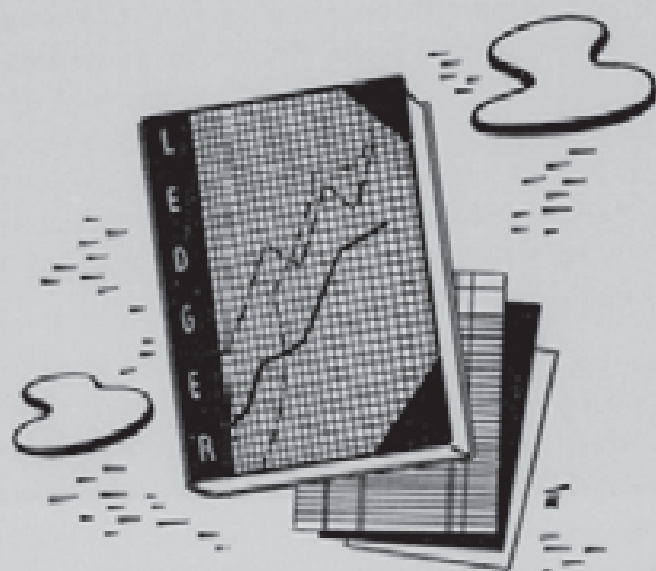
Today the American Council for Judaism is faced with the choice of continuing its fanatic opposition to the Jewish state in spite of the official stand of its government or to recognize the realities and remove themselves from the American scene. Within recent weeks one of its founders called upon the Council to disband, and several other of its most active leaders voiced resentment toward its opposition to the United Jewish Appeal campaign for aid to the *Yishuv*. A statement by Council President Lessing Rosenwald could only say that "Israel is a foreign state to Americans of Jewish faith and is not the state or homeland of the Jewish people."

Thus, the Committee on Unity, throughout the past drama-laden year, has attempted to keep pace with worldwide and national trends. The travels of its officers and friends, and visits by the Executive Director to key communities have confirmed the weak organizational structure of the American Council for Judaism and allied groups. Ample evidence of this was brought home by observers who attended the Council's National Conference in St. Louis in January, which was attended by only some 130 delegates, officers, staff members and guests. Growing opposition was indicated there of the dissatisfaction of even members of its Executive Board to the intemperate and over-zealous negative program of the organization which has gained no appreciable number of new adherents since its inception four years ago.

The history of the Committee on Unity demonstrates the foresight of the ZOA in establishing this public relations instrument which concentrated its edge upon the once-influential anti-Zionist and non-Zionist segments of the American Jewish community. Through its four years of concentrated effort, made possible by the American Zionist Fund, the Committee has been instrumental in negating the more insidious influences of a small but vocal body of anti-Zionists, and has succeeded in winning many who were hitherto unsympathetic or noncommittal to the positive and fruitful Jewish existence exemplified in the Zionist ideal.

BERNARD ENDELMAN

*Director*



## accounting department

This year, which has seen the beginning of the realization of our hopes, has made greater demands on the resources and facilities of the Zionist Organization than ever before. The maximum effort put forth to achieve political victories of a nature to match the magnificent feats at arms of the battling Haganah has compelled Z.O.A. leadership and membership alike to render the fullest measure of financial support. Many personal sacrifices were made by selfless and ardent Zionists who considered that financial assistance was the least they could do to help make reality of that which the men and women of Palestine were fighting to achieve.

Accordingly, the current fiscal year, which will close on September 30, 1948, presented some of the greatest problems which the Z.O.A. has been called upon to face. The constantly recurring political crises proved a heavy drain upon the organization's resources, yet there was no hesitating or letting up for a moment. Under the circumstances the most careful financial administration and the most minute attention to fiscal policies were required.

The unremitting pace at which the organization's activities was carried on was but one aspect of the year's financial responsibilities. Of similar concern was the sharp increase in the costs of materials, services, printing and all the other elements which make up the raw material

of the Z.O.A. program. Business men who have been confronted with the same state of affairs in their own stores or plants, know how easily and how quickly a carefully planned budget can be thrown out of balance by such unexpected increases.

Yet despite these two factors contributing to mounting expenses, the membership dues were not raised last year, and dues have continued at the same level as the past half dozen years or more. Whereas the cost of administration has almost doubled per member, there has been no appreciable offsetting income from dues. Great increase in the number of members aggravated the financial problems rather than solved them, and only the receipt of sizable funds from the American Zionist Fund enabled level operations.

A debt of appreciation is owed to the Finance Committee, which met frequently in earnest consideration of the financial problems of the organization, and to its chairman, Mr. Milton Pollack. It was due to their conscientious application that many difficult problems were solved with efficiency. I should also like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers of the Regions and Districts for their fine cooperation with this Department during the past year. Their assistance has made possible efficient operations. I am also grateful for the most helpful collaboration of Miss Julia Kirtz.

Members of the Finance Committee are: Mark Sugarman, Treasurer; William H. Sylk, Associate Treasurer; Milton Pollack, Chairman; Bernard E. Singer, Vice-Chairman. New York Members: Marcus Abramson, Samuel Berson, Benjamin G. Browdy, I. J. Caplan, Sol Cohen, Louis Dince, Harry P. Fierst, Abraham Goodman, Jacob Goodman, Samuel Inselbuch, Paul Kaminsky, Abraham Krumbein, Philip Lassar, Louis Schwefel. Out-of-town Members: Harold Kartiganer, Beacon, N. Y.; Hyman Caplan, Lebanon, Penna.; Ruben Klainer, Boston; Judge Harry S. Medinets, Perth Amboy; Ben Berger, Minneapolis; Jacob H. Gilbert, South Bend; Joseph Mohn, Philadelphia; Abraham Kay, Washington, D. C.; Shepard Broad, Miami Beach; Simon Davis, Greensburg, Pa.; Irving Norry, Rochester. Alternates: Leroy Landau, Wilkes-Barre; Morris J. Rabinovitz, Boston; Frank Ginsburg, Milburn, N. J.; Leo Gross, Minneapolis; Dr. Leon Levi, Indianapolis; Jacob B. Hoffman, Philadelphia; Jack Levy, Savannah; Oscar Altschuler, Youngstown.

A full and detailed financial report is being published separately, and will doubtless prove of interest to those who have followed the growth of the Z.O.A. in activity, power and prestige.

HENRY S. STERN,  
*Comptroller*

*Thirty-seven*



## personnel and technical administration

With the rapid growth of the Zionist Organization of America both in terms of membership and activities, the administration and management of technical operations, office procedures and personnel becomes a task of major importance. The primary objective in the direction of these activities during this year has been to attain a maximum degree of efficient operation at the minimum of cost. As a result of several innovations which have been introduced, it has been possible to effect major economies in technical aspects of Z.O.A. operations. One of the more important elements in the efficient functioning of the organization is the up-to-date maintenance of the many mailing lists. Besides the membership list of some quarter of a million, there are about a score of additional highly specialized lists which must be completely checked for accuracy. The Addressograph Section, which is responsible for the maintenance of these lists is under the competent direction of Mr. Aaron Taub.

The Mimeograph section is equipped and prepared to produce, at a moment's notice, thousands of copies of letters, reports, publicity ma-

terial and meeting notices. With the growth of the Z.O.A., the volume of mail emanating from these offices has been rising from month to month. To prevent waste and unnecessary expense, however, as well as duplicate and parallel mailings, a new system has been installed whereby the number of pieces placed in the mail has been reduced considerably without impairing efficient operations. This section is under the capable direction of Miss Rose Levinson.

The member who receives his membership card perhaps fails to realize the vast amount of bookkeeping entailed in the maintenance of membership records. Miss Gertrude Goldblatt, who is in charge of this Section, is responsible for the compilation of the statistical figures on membership, for complete records on renewals and payments and for prompt processing of District membership reports. Her staff of assistants is competent and alert.

It may be of more than passing interest to report briefly on the methods and procedure involved in Z.O.A. purchasing. The needs of the organization are many and diverse, and the system of centralized purchasing, now in effect, means that supplies and materials of all kinds are bought only after careful investigation and, where possible, competitive bidding. This applies particularly to the purchase of printing which is a major item in the organization's budget.

Personnel management likewise calls for careful administration, involving both the keeping of records, the engaging of new personnel as the need occurs and the adjustment of the usual problems which occur in any organization maintaining a large staff.

The Z.O.A. stock-rooms, under the direction of Mr. Eugene Calvert, are a model of efficiency and organization. The importance of such organization can be understood when it is known that there are tens of thousands of books, pamphlets and other pieces of literature in stock, all of which must be carefully catalogued and maintained in perpetual inventory. During the past year more than two million pieces of literature were mailed out from the stock-room to Zionist Districts and Regions throughout the country.

Still another phase of the operations of this Department calls for the handling of technical arrangements for special affairs. The thousand and one little details that go to the making of a successful national convention, or the convening of a gigantic mass rally, are the responsibility of the technical administrator and his assistants.

More than a dozen established regional offices in all parts of the country likewise utilize the services of this department in centralized purchasing and on a consultative basis. The goal remains the same: to obtain maximum efficiency at the greatest possible economy.

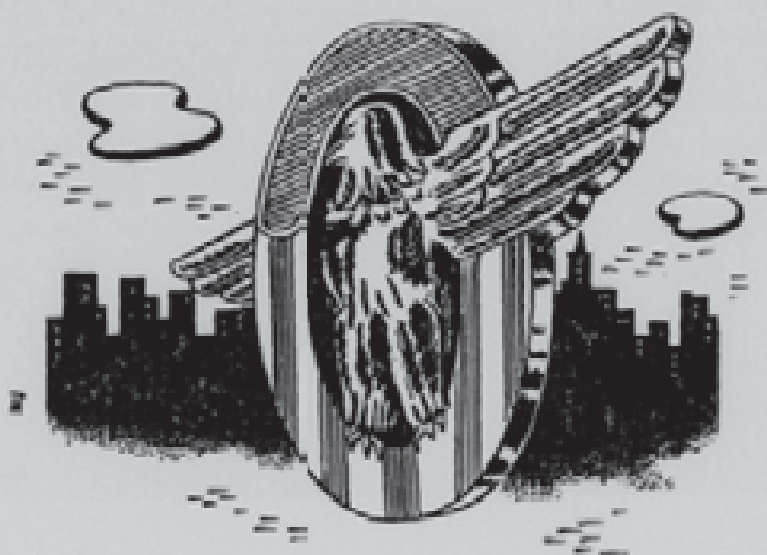
The Department of Technical Administration and Personnel carries on its operations without fanfare or publicity. Yet, its operations are the very life-blood of the organization on which membership, fund raising, education, public relations and general administration depend. The services of the staff are dedicated to this objective.

The Director of the Department expresses his appreciation to Helen G. Liebowitz whose energy and devotion to duty are, in large measure, responsible for the efficient technical administration in the organization.

JOSEPH D. VOGEL,  
*Director*







## veterans' bureau

Probably among the least obvious of the many important operations of the organization in these crucial times has been the Veterans' Bureau. Carrying on functions of liaison and contact with the organizations of the men who fought for our country, this bureau has attempted to integrate them into Zionist activities and work. It was necessary to maintain the most intimate relationship with the Jewish War Veterans and to work hand in hand with that organization seeking their help in meeting the numerous crises of the past year. Achievements of the Veterans' Bureau can readily be judged by the results of the shekel campaign, the timely statements and actions taken by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States and other veterans' groups, and the tremendous parade and demonstrations held by veterans in New York City and other Metropolitan Areas throughout the country.

In the crucial weeks preceding May 14th, full cooperation was achieved in the shekel campaign which resulted in the ZOA selling more shekolim than any other organization in American Jewish life. Under the leadership of William Kapelman, chairman, and Albert Schanzer, co-chairman, the veterans' activities of the ZOA reached a climax when 40,000 veterans paraded on Fifth Avenue, New York

City, demanding that the U. S. Government support the establishment of the Jewish State and indicate their full backing of the *Yishuv*, then fighting for its existence.

Throughout the country young Zionist groups of an element heretofore unaffiliated with our organization have sprung up as a direct result of the activities of the Veterans' Bureau. These groups are building the leaders for the future and are instructing a sound and steady backlog of replacements in the ever-expanding life of our organization.



# zionist information service

The Zionist Information Service was organized for the purpose of acquainting world and Jewish public opinion with the character, activities and achievements of American Zionism, notably the Zionist Organization of America. To attain this purpose ZINS has been servicing 64 newspapers, among these 35 dailies, in Canada, Latin-America, Europe, Australia, South Africa and Palestine. ZINS releases are issued in English, Yiddish, Spanish and Hebrew.

Anyone traveling outside of the United States or reading the foreign press cannot be but astounded at the terrific amount of ignorance and misconception concerning American Jewish life, particularly Zionist activities and achievements in this country. To counteract this situation ZINS sends the foreign newspapers on all the continents daily bulletins of Zionist news usually not covered by the wire services; weekly reviews of Zionist activities in America; articles of general Jewish and Zionist interest as well as translations of important addresses delivered at Zionist gatherings or about Zionist issues. Through all these releases a special effort is made to place in proper focus the Zionist activities, both in Washington and at Lake Success.

ZINS was organized in January, 1948. In the course of the six months that have elapsed, the Jewish press of the world has demonstrated its appreciation of ZINS by printing practically every release that has been issued. Thousands of inches of space in the newspapers of more than 30 countries have been taken up with information about the activities of the Zionist Organization of America and other Zionist groups in the United States. This stream of information, when continued, cannot but lead to a better and more accurate understanding and appreciation by Jews generally and Zionists in particular of American Zionism, especially the contribution it has made within the last few years to the creation of the State of Israel.

Though organized specially for the dissemination of Zionist infor-

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mation through newspapers, ZINS, under pressure of recent events, has become the center for information on a vast variety of Zionist topics to the Jewish public which continues to telephone the office demanding answers to all types of questions concerning Palestine and Zionist agencies in this country.

DR. SAMUEL MARCOSHES

*Editor*



# united palestine appeal

Born amidst strife, the infant State of Israel faces the twin responsibilities of protecting its citizens and boundaries and at the same time of receiving and resettling immigrants from Europe and Cyprus, at the estimated rate of between 10,000 and 15,000 a month.

The Jews of America are confronted with the one great duty of making possible the mass influx to Israel of the tens of thousands of long-waiting Jews and of providing the necessary funds which will enable them to be rehabilitated and productively resettled within the framework of the new Jewish State. In the United States the central instrumentality for this momentous task is the United Palestine Appeal, a constituent agency of the United Jewish Appeal's \$250,000,000 campaign.

The income of the U.P.A. and its constituent agencies in 1947 totalled \$56,578,362, while expenditures of the United Palestine Appeal agencies reached \$71,539,088 — resulting in a deficit of \$14,960,000. The importance of the role of American Jewry in supporting the activities of the Jewish Agency, the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth, can be seen at once in the fact that the Jews of this country contributed \$42,856,797, or 76% of the total income. The balance came from Jewish communities throughout the world as well as grants, participations, collections and service charges in Palestine.

Of the total cash income of the U.P.A., the Palestine Foundation Fund, Inc., New York, received \$21,103,423.79 and the Jewish National Fund Inc., New York, received \$20,603,123.79, the bulk of which was remitted to Palestine. Payments in New York in 1947 included the grant of \$750,000 to the Mizrahi Palestine Fund on account of the total grant for 1947 of \$900,000; a grant of \$30,000 to the American Friends of the Hebrew University; service payments to the Zionist Organization of America \$54,000; the Mizrahi Organization of America \$9,800; the Poale Zion-Zeire Zion \$9,800; Hashomer Hatzair \$3,000. Appropriations made by the Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund include the grant to the American Zionist Emergency Council, \$680,770; the Weizmann Institute of Science, \$252,500; the General Zionist Constructive Fund, \$450,-

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000. Allocations totalling \$585,442 were made by the two national funds in New York on behalf of the agencies in Palestine. The sum of \$199,153 represents administrative expenses of the U.P.A. while it spent \$181,146 for its comprehensive community service program. It should be noted that most of these appropriations, including the grants to the Mizrahi Palestine Fund, Hebrew University, Weizmann Institute of Science, General Zionist Constructive Fund, refer to expenditures to be made in Palestine in the common interest of rebuilding the Jewish Homeland.

The total sum of \$71,539,088 spent by U.P.A. agencies in 1947 compares with \$53,633,429 spent in 1946.

Following are the major activities and expenditures included in the budgets of the Jewish Agency and the national funds in Palestine:

### *Immigration*

The Jewish Agency for Palestine, through its Immigration Department, during 1947 was responsible for the organization and implementation of almost every step in the process of bringing some 30,000 Jewish immigrants into Palestine and of initiating their integration into the economic life of the country.

The sum of \$7,734,060 was spent for relief to refugees outside of Palestine, their training abroad and transportation to Palestine, including the contribution of the Jewish Agency to the cost of the Palestinian emissaries which are engaged, in close cooperation with the Joint Distribution Committee, in relief and training activities.

Care of immigrants on arrival, accommodation during their first few weeks, feeding, clothing, transportation to places of employment, acquisition of tools and other equipment and granting of small cash loans, accounted for \$3,125,632. For the housing of the immigrants, the sum of \$2,789,615 was spent. In the expenditures of the Youth Immigration Department, the Jewish Agency participated to the amount of \$1,150,208.

Total expenditures of the Immigration Department amounted to \$15,290,712.

### *Agricultural Department*

For the establishment of new settlements, the consolidation and expansion of those already in existence, special irrigation projects and all other activities related to the agricultural program, the Jewish Agency expended a total of \$10,343,129 in 1947.



The bulk of the agricultural budget, namely \$9,437,325 went for the absorption of newcomers both in cooperative and collective settlements. The average cost of the absorption of a family in existing cooperative settlements is approximately \$6,300 and in existing collective settlements, about \$4,000. For middle-class settlement \$509,595 was spent, while \$986,650 was expended for the maintenance of the Agricultural Experimental Station at Rehovoth, the Jewish Agency's Extension Office, the Technical Department, Irrigation Office, Planning Office, etc.

### *Urban Settlement*

To promote and develop the growth of Palestine's industrial economy and concomitantly its trade and commerce for the absorption of newcomers, the Jewish Agency in 1947 spent a total of \$5,857,612. Integrated within this sphere are: The participation of the Jewish Agency in various loan funds established for the promotion of industry, \$1,239,050; maintenance of labor exchanges, \$286,633; fishing and maritime activities, \$453,884; Crafts and Small Trade Department, \$234,629; public works and housing, \$2,631,346; promotion of Jewish labor in citrus villages, \$533,798; Economic Research Institute, Department of Statistics, Foreign Trade Institute, Transportation Office, Research Institute for Raw Materials, etc., \$558,150.

### *Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen*

The Jewish Agency, during 1947, placed special emphasis on accelerating the program of resettlement for the ex-servicemen who fought during World War II. The cost of resettling the ex-servicemen last year reached \$2,586,828.

### *National Organization and Security*

During the year 1947 an amount of \$7,221,648 was spent for the care of war invalids, soldiers' welfare, aid to soldiers' families, Arab-Jewish relations, political activities (including Jewish Agency offices abroad), internal security.

### *Education, Culture, Religious Affairs*

An important aspect of the program in Palestine in which the Jewish Agency takes an active interest, is the education of the children of new immigrants and their integration into the Hebrew school system. While the financial responsibility for the school system rests with the Vaad Leumi, the Jewish Agency makes an annual subvention to

cover the education costs for new immigrants. This expenditure, together with various grants to religious and cultural institutions, in 1947 accounted for \$1,621,608, the bulk of which, namely \$792,447 represented the subvention to the Vaad Leumi.

### *Loan Service*

For repayment of principal and payment of interest on the loans they have obtained to meet their deficits, the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency last year spent \$4,758,041.

### *Administration and Organization*

Administrative expenses of the Jewish Agency, the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish National Fund, including organization and publicity in connection with the fund-raising activities of the national funds, accounted for \$1,047,861 in 1947.

### *Jewish National Fund*

Expenditures of the Jewish National Fund in 1947 totalled \$25,778,545. (For details on J.N.F. activities see its report elsewhere in these pages.)

### *United Jewish Appeal \$250,000,000 Campaign*

In December of 1947 at Atlantic City, only a fortnight after the United Nations had voted the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, Jewish leaders from communities throughout the country convened to set the goal of a minimum of \$250,000,000 to be raised in 1948 for the United Jewish Appeal.

At the conference Eliezer Kaplan, then treasurer of the Jewish Agency and now Minister of the Treasury for the Israeli Government, sounded the keynote in terms of Palestine's requirements, and in the early months of 1948 Golda Myerson, on a whirlwind tour through key cities, sparked an emergency drive which raised \$50,000,000 in cash within a four week period. Mrs. Myerson returned to the U. S. again in May after the establishment of Israel, to spur the nation-wide campaign.

At the initiative of the United Palestine Appeal, a Z.O.A.-U.J.A. effort was undertaken under the chairmanship of Herman L. Weisman whose aim was to coordinate and channellize Zionist energies and contributions for the campaign. In New York City and other communities throughout the country, machinery was set up organizing

the Zionists for the U.J.A. effort and enlisting every Zionist leader to act as a campaign worker.

### *Educational Program*

The United Palestine Appeal has made available to the Jewish and non-Jewish public literature as well as photographs and films on Palestine upbuilding and development and has published surveys and reports on the various aspects of Palestine life. Periodical publications of the U.P.A. are the "U.P.A. Report", a monthly illustrated bulletin and the "Palestine reports . . .", a monthly newsletter. The U.P.A. published a number of booklets including "Journey to the Negev" by C. Z. Kloetzel, "Jewish Palestine and World Trade", by Dr. Werner Feilchenfeld, "The Palestine Phase of the \$250,000,000 Campaign" by Dr. Martin Rosenbluth and "Conference in a Crisis", reporting on the National Conference held in October.

Three documentary films entitled, "House in the Desert", "Assignment: Tel Aviv" and "Birthday of a Prophecy" were produced in 1947 for the U.P.A. and are available in 16mm sound prints to interested organizations throughout the country.

### *A Special Debt*

As the national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, I wish to express my profound appreciation to the President, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, and to the administration and members of the Zionist Organization of America, who are in the vanguard of the American Jewish Community in mobilizing maximum support for the programs of the U.P.A. agencies, and in contributing to the upbuilding and preservation of the State of Israel, through the United Jewish Appeal.

I would like, in conclusion, to express my deeply felt gratitude to the Z.O.A. personnel who have taken speaking assignments and to the Z.O.A. staff who have cooperated, and to my fellow officers in the United Palestine Appeal: Associate Chairmen: Charles Ress, Morris Rothenberg; National Co-Chairmen for Regions: Charles Brown for the West, Joel Gross for the East, Benjamin R. Harris for the Middle-West, Mortimer May for the South, Elihu D. Stone for New England; Co-Chairman Executive Committee: Herman L. Weisman; Chairman, Board of Directors: Mark Sugarman; National Co-Chairmen: Leon Gellman, Frank Goldman, Mrs. Samuel Halprin, James G. Heller, Edmund I. Kaufmann, Louis E. Levinthal, Louis Lipsky, Emanuel Neumann, Charles J. Rosenbloom, Abba Hillel Silver, Nathan Straus, Stephen S. Wise, Baruch Zuckerman; Chairman, National Council:

Harold J. Goldenberg; National Treasurer: Abraham L. Liebowitz; Associate Treasurers: Abraham Goodman, Abraham Krumbein, Jacob Sincoff; Executive Vice-Chairman: Henry Montor; Secretaries: Mendel N. Fisher, Robert Silverman, and to all the members of the devoted and efficient United Palestine Appeal staff.

ISRAEL GOLESTEIN,  
*National Chairman*



# american zionist emergency council

Political and public relations tasks of an unprecedented nature were thrust upon the American Zionist movement during the historic year which has passed since the last Z.O.A. convention. The American Zionist Emergency Council, as the political arm of the American Zionist movement comprising all the official Zionist bodies in this country, shouldered the burdens of mobilizing the support of this country in behalf of embattled and valiant Israel.

The widely fluctuating positions of the Government of the United States in relation to Palestine during the past year warranted the most steadfast discipline and stalwart determination of the American Zionist community. Time and time again were American Zionists called upon to mobilize instantaneous and maximum public reaction to American vacillations. In every instance, the response was quick and heartening.

Our first great test in the past year came with the grim odyssey of the "Exodus 1947". Mass demonstrations organized in key cities throughout the land articulated the sentiments of the American community. The brutal hand of the British, however, was not to be stayed and these unfortunates were returned under most grueling conditions to the land of horrible memories.

It soon became clear, however, that the Palestine question had become a world problem which would not suffer an *ex parte* determination. The British Government therefore referred the Palestine question to the United Nations and a new epoch in Zionist activity began. It was manifestly clear to all observers that the key to the United Nations Palestine settlement was the United States Government, and upon the American Zionist movement therefore devolved the overwhelming responsibility of finally transforming our Government's favorable expressions into concrete affirmative action.

With the completion of the UNSCOP report and its reference for final decision to the General Assembly of the United Nations, the

Zionist Emergency Council on one hand activized the full weight of the American Zionist movement behind the American Section of the Jewish Agency in its work at Lake Success, and on the other, undertook, through manifold channels, to keep Washington informed of the sentiments of the American people as to their expectations concerning the position of our Government. Although the initial reluctance of the American Government to support fully the UNSCOP recommendations is a matter of history, this unwillingness was overcome, and the world was treated to the gratifying scene of American-Soviet cooperation, which culminated on November 29 in the historic United Nations affirmation of a Jewish State.

The mood of victory at this international vindication of the Zionist ideal gradually began to dissipate. It became increasingly evident that our foes in Washington, operating beneath our soaring exultation, were scheming to undermine the UN decision. The State Department imposed an arms embargo, ostensibly to keep our Government free of involvement in the Palestine conflict, but obviously exercising unjust discrimination against the Jewish community there, in the face of the uninterrupted flow of war material from Britain to the Arabs. Soon whisperings of the threat of Russian penetration in the Middle East and the importance of Arab sources of oil began to make the rounds in Washington — all aimed at a reversal of American policy. Our entire political apparatus was rapidly mobilized to counteract these anti-Zionist influences. Dr. Neumann and Dr. Goldstein, then acting chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council during Dr. Silver's stay in Palestine, spent several days in Washington in intensive conferences. Dr. Silver was hurriedly summoned back from Palestine to take full charge of our forces against this threat. The entire movement was alerted. However, our opposition was too far advanced, and our forebodings were realized when, on March 19, Ambassador Austin announced the reversal of American Palestine policy.

The Washington Conference of Emergency Councils on February 15, 16, addressed by Dr. Silver, who had just returned from Palestine, and Dr. Neumann, and designed to bring home our sentiments to Washington officialdom, was the largest ever held. Mass telegram and letter campaigns, great rallies throughout the land, enlistment of support from ministers and churches, mayors, city councils, labor, civic, and veteran organizations — all were immediately embarked upon.



The visit of Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv was also utilized to inform mayors throughout the land of the situation in Palestine and to invite their support. The response was most gratifying.

Tremendous demonstrations were organized by the Jewish War Veterans in New York, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles and other cities. These extraordinary manifestations of solidarity by the hundreds of thousands of Jewish veterans, in which they were joined by veterans of other faiths, were of immeasurable aid in difficult days. A national Day of Prayer and Mobilization on April 8 was held in cooperation with all religious bodies. Thousands of synagogues throughout the land held special prayer services on that day, and approximately 1,000,000 postcards were dispatched to Washington from these services.

The great labor unions of the land participated in the campaign of American protest against America's reversal of its Palestine policy. Work stoppages were ordered, in which employers joined, and labor rallies were organized to give voice to labor's opposition to the Government's vacillating stand.

We were particularly heartened in this critical period by the support of the American Association for the United Nations. This influential organization, realizing the threat to the future of world peace were the United Nations' decision to be sabotaged, took up the Palestine issue as a test and spoke up vigorously in our behalf.

Through all the departments of the American Zionist Emergency Council — the Political, Information, Special Events, Publications, Research, Yiddish Bureau, and the energetic Washington Bureau — flowed the day-to-day directives to the 400 local Emergency Councils throughout the nation, who rapidly and wholeheartedly put them into effect.

The American Christian Palestine Committee continued to render their invaluable support to our cause. Through their many State and local chapters, the Committee has been instrumental in mobilizing Christian aid — both lay and clergy — in our behalf. The Speakers' Bureau of the Committee — Club Program Service — has serviced hundreds of meetings throughout the country with excellent speakers for the Zionist cause. Seminars for Palestine were organized in Chicago, Toledo, South Bend, Nashville, Louisville, Savannah, Charleston, Norfolk, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, New Haven, Springfield, Hartford, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Columbia, Tri-Cities, Youngstown,

and other communities. Among their publications have been "A Christian Looks at Palestine" by Dean LeSourd, "A Reporter in Palestine" by Kenneth Dixon, "The Untried Approach to the Palestine Problem" by Dr. Lowdermilk, and others.

On May 14, immediately upon the termination of the Mandate, the State of Israel was proclaimed. The first to recognize the new state was the Government of the United States. In our "Salute to Israel" demonstrations throughout the country, the largest ever held, our resolve was made clear, and Americans gave voice to our demand that the embargo be lifted, and the wherewithal provided to Israel for defense of her political and territorial integrity.

American Zionism demonstrated its maturity during the past year. It would, however, be fatal to relax. Israel is surrounded by foes, near and far. It is for us to stand with it until it can stand alone.

HARRY L. SHAPIRO,  
*Executive Director*



# jewish national fund

The first legislative act promulgated by the Republic of Israel's Provisional Government, effective as of 12:01 A.M., May 15, 1947, declared the British Land Laws of May 1940 null and void. The chains with which a faithless Mandatory regime sought to shackle Jewish growth and development in Palestine have thus been removed.

The proclamation of *Medinat Yisrael*, consummating as it did the great vision for which eighty generations of Jews have worked, prayed and struggled, has provided a triumphant conclusion to the battle which was waged by the Keren Kayemeth against an illegal and discriminatory British edict affecting the right of Jews to acquire land in Palestine.

The progress which the Jewish National Fund has been able to make in the field of Palestine Land Redemption is one of the outstanding constructive achievements in the annals of colonization. Land purchase and settlement were not halted even during the war which actually began a day after the United Nations made its historic decision of November 29, 1947.

The total of JNF land holdings which at the end of the Hebrew year 5707 (September 1947) stood at 928,000 dunams, was increased by new land purchases. Land tracts comprising 10,000 dunams and located in various parts of the country were purchased by the Keren Kayemeth and recorded with the British Land Registry Office between September 15, 1947 and February 1, 1948. In addition, the Keren Kayemeth negotiated and obtained options for the purchase of more extensive land tracts. These transactions, which were difficult to bring to a close during the disturbed conditions, may now be consummated without hindrance. New settlements were established on the very eve of Israel's Independence Day and the seven-pronged invasion by the Arab states. Brur Ha'Chayal, a settlement in the Negev not far from the Egyptian border, and a new settlement in Upper Galilee were established in the latter part of April.

The year of intense struggle and consummation found the Keren Kayemeth in Jerusalem and the Jewish National Fund in the United

States at the peak of their activities. The copper coin with which the Keren Kayemeth began its fund-raising activities nearly five decades ago has grown into a national investment of more than \$100,000,000 contributed to the Keren Kayemeth by Jews throughout the world for the redemption of *Eretz Yisrael's* soil. These gifts for land purchase, of which American Jewry made available the lion's share, are monuments to Jewish foresight and idealism. The true and full significance of the *Gesulah Ha'aretz* program comes into full focus in the light of the fact that the borders of the State of Israel, as delineated in the United Nations' decision, largely follow the boundaries of Keren Kayemeth land purchases.

The establishment of the Jewish State does not automatically create the actual facilities which are necessary for settling on the land the vast numbers of immigrants who may now enter the State of Israel. Taking into consideration the fact that land for the settlement of the newcomers will have to be acquired on an even larger scale, the Keren Kayemeth has prepared an appropriate land program for the new era. With the land prohibitions and restrictions removed, the JNF now has its greatest opportunity and faces new and larger responsibilities.

The JNF Leaders' Conference held in the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York on January 2-4, served as the platform for the presentation and adoption of the *Gesulah Ha'aretz* blueprint for the first decade of the new era. Formulated by Dr. Abraham Granovsky, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Keren Kayemeth, Jerusalem, and elucidated by a special Palestinian Delegation comprised of Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv, Abraham Harzfeld, labor leader and colonization expert, Elias M. Epstein, head of Keren Kayemeth's Overseas Department, Samuel Ussishkin, member of Keren Kayemeth's Board of Directors in Jerusalem, and Dr. Joseph Weiss, head of the Keren Kayemeth Finance Department, the program gained the enthusiastic support of the conference. The call for the implementation of the plan envisages the acquisition of 3,000,000 dunams during a ten-year period with a progressive investment of \$880,000,000. This program has had a stimulating effect upon the imagination of American Jewry as to the needs of *Eretz Yisrael*. The \$250,000,000 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal and the traditional activities of the Jewish National Fund are serving the current needs of the Keren Kayemeth. The response of American Jewry has enabled the administration of the Jewish National Fund of America to remit to the Keren Kayemeth

in Jerusalem during the first seven months of the current year (October 1, 1947 to April 30, 1948) the sum of \$27,934,957.29. This compares with the amount of \$7,542,631.67 remitted by us to the Keren Kayemeth during the corresponding period of the preceding year. From Rosh Hashonah (September 15, 1947) to April 30, 1948, JNF activities resulted in the sum of \$1,998,911.98, as compared with \$1,633,690.40 during the corresponding period of the preceding year. Included in this total of the traditional income is the sum of \$194,787.90 which represents payments made by estates of 33 testators who bequeathed varying amounts to the Keren Kayemeth. The expense incurred during the first seven months of the current year amounted to \$203,094.33.

The proceeds of the United Jewish Appeal, as allocated to the JNF through the UPA, for this period amounted to \$23,080,838.67, compared with \$7,953,583.46 during the same period of last year. The total income for the seven-month period under review both from the traditional collections and our share of the UPA amounted to \$25,079,750.65, as compared with \$9,587,273.86 for the corresponding period of last year.

Stimulated by the prospects and program for the new era, as outlined at the above-mentioned Conference, JNF Councils, with the active participation of the Z.O.A. Districts throughout the nation, made full use of the widely popular JNF methods and techniques such as Golden Book Inscriptions, Tree Planting, Blue-White Boxes, Sefer Ha'Teiled Inscriptions, Zion Flower Day, Zion Tag Day, Synagogue Collections, Bequests and Insurance Policies in favor of the JNF.

The launching of the *Sefer Ha'Medinah*, the Golden Book of the Jewish State, an outstanding feature at the JNF Leaders Conference, served to emphasize the vital link between *Gevulah Ha'aretz* activities and the consummation of the Zionist ideal. The implementation of Nachlah programs by communities, organizations, groups and individuals, continued to be an important feature in the traditional program. The specific projects of Labor and Orthodox groups through the JNF's Labor Department and the Religious Groups Contact Department, and the traditional activity of B'nai Zion for the extension of its Kfar B'nai Zion program effectively served the cause of *Gevulah Ha'aretz*.

The JNF Administration is glad to record its profound appreciation to the officers of the Zionist Organization of America, its Executive

Staff, its Regions and Districts; to Hadassah and its Chapters; to the Pioneer Women's Organization; to Mizrahi and Mizrahi Women's Organization; to B'nai Zion and its branches; to the Poale Zion and the Jewish National Workers' Alliance; to the JNF Councils and cooperating groups in all parts of the country for their splendid cooperation and active support without which the unprecedented response of American Jewry to the cause of *Gaulath Ha'aretz* could not have been obtained. To the Officers of the JNF, to the Board of Directors representing all parties and groups, the undersigned expresses his deep appreciation of service rendered in a spirit of true fellowship. To the members of the JNF Executive and Field Staffs the special tribute of the Administration is extended in recognition of devoted and indefatigable labor in behalf of our sacred cause.

MORRIS ROTHENBERG,

*President*





# k e r e n   h a y e s o d

During the twelve months period following the Z.O.A. convention in 1947, The Palestine Foundation Fund (Keren Hayesod) Inc., has intensified its cooperation in the raising of funds for the building of the Jewish State in Palestine. As heretofore, this effort has been carried out in this country through the United Palestine Appeal's participation with the Joint Distribution Committee in the United Jewish Appeal. In the interest of a single unified campaign, Keren Hayesod has, as in the past, abstained from direct fund raising.

Its officers and members supported the proposal adopted at Atlantic City last year that the U.J.A. goal for 1948 be the unprecedented sum of \$250,000,000 and have joined with all Zionists in giving top priority to the U.J.A. It is proper that recognition should be given in this report to the outstanding contribution made and being made by the Zionist Organization of America and its members in the 1948 campaign for funds.

The establishment of the Jewish State has called forth the rededication of Keren Hayesod and all Zionists and Zionist bodies to the great task at hand. There is full realization that now more than ever Keren Hayesod must be given the means to carry on its historic task of colonization and settlement, the training of immigrants, their transportation to the land of Israel, their care and support on arrival, their integration into the land's economy, the expansion of agriculture, the furnishing of badly needed housing, development of industry, promotion of security and of health work, social welfare, education and cultural activities.

Although Keren Hayesod recognizes that as an American corporation it cannot and should not have a voice in the political activities of the State of Israel, it recognizes also that it must continue practically all of the tasks it has performed heretofore on a larger scale and with greater intensity. It is gratifying to report that during the period under review Keren Hayesod has remitted for the work in Palestine immense sums of money. It has continued its support of Palestine Surveys and the American Zionist Emergency Council. In line with its policy of keeping the organization meaningful, vital, and

of value on the American scene as a living institution, despite its surrender for the time being of direct fund raising. Keren Hayesod has continued its special activities.

The Zionist Archives and Library has continued to expand its important service. A report of its work, prepared by its capable director, Miss Sophie Udén, follows this report.

The Economic Bureau has carried on valuable work under the efficient and capable direction of Dr. C. Charles Kottler, a Palestinian, whose knowledge has proved of great value. It is impossible because of limitations of space to describe in full detail the Bureau's activities. Only a partial outline is set forth here.

The Economic Bureau has given technical advice and assistance to prospective investors and manufacturers in many fields, among them, steel, dresses, office supplies, glass, woolens, knitwear, housing, hotels, sanitariums, export and import bank, pipe, wallboard, and others. The persons making such inquiries indicated their satisfaction with the results of their investigation and their intention of establishing plants in Palestine as soon as conditions permit.

Many inquiries by persons who wanted general information as to investment possibilities were processed. This group represents essentially those who are ready to take action in this direction as soon as it is possible. They will be contacted at the proper time.

The Bureau also assisted many Palestine manufacturers and business men in the purchase of materials and supplies, and in many instances was able to obtain unusually favorable prices and terms.

Extensive plans and preparations for the promotion of *Tozeret Ha-aretz* in the United States have been made by the Bureau. The Manufacturers' Association of Palestine has promised its active cooperation. A group of business men has organized a company to cooperate with Keren Hayesod in this field. This activity will be launched on a national scale as soon as conditions permit, with cooperating committees now being organized in Boston, Philadelphia, and other major cities. For the time being, emphasis is being placed on the distribution of handicrafts. As a result of sales made in this country, substantial orders for such articles have been placed in Palestine. This industry in Palestine is being helped to survive the difficult conditions now threatening its existence.

Steps have already been taken with respect to the introduction of Palestine pharmaceuticals and arrangements made to comply with Federal requirements. Large Palestinian pharmaceutical companies have indicated their readiness to send their products for sale to this country.

The Bureau is actively engaged in the procurement of food for Palestine. It has organized a company known as "Service For Palestine, Inc.", which is sending food gift packages from individual donors in this country to their relatives and friends in Palestine. The project is conducted on a non-profit basis. The packages contain better food and are sold at lower prices than those handled by private firms. The response of the public indicates that this project is satisfying a general need.

The Mizrahi Zionist Organization is also being aided by the Bureau in their extensive program for obtaining donations of food to be shipped to Palestine. The Bureau has undertaken the problem of storage, packing and shipment.

Arrangements have also been made for the purchase of food for Palestine on favorable credit terms. The service of the Economic Bureau in this field is expected to grow rapidly.

The Palestine Exhibit was reduced in size and displayed at Radio City through March, 1948. It continued to attract large numbers and to tell the story of Palestine's growth graphically. A portion of the Exhibit is now on display at Keren Hayesod's headquarters.

During the current year, Keren Hayesod took over from the Z.O.A. the Palestine Bureau. Dr. S. Bernstein and his efficient staff have won wide recognition as being expert in matters affecting travel to and from Palestine, passports, visas, etc. The Bureau has furnished much appreciated assistance to many persons, while operating under difficult conditions. A report of the work of the Palestine Bureau follows. The problem of furthering the tourist trade in Palestine has been studied. This project will be included in the program of the Palestine Bureau as soon as conditions permit.

Undoubtedly the establishment of the State of Israel will require a reorientation of Zionist activities. Whatever patterns of activities and form of organization may emerge, it is clear that Keren Hayesod must achieve increased strength and importance as an active functioning body. Its emphasis on economic activities and kindred matters

has prepared Keren Hayesod to meet the great responsibilities which it will need to assume. Keren Hayesod looks forward to a period of productive cooperation with the Z.O.A. in helping to meet the work of making Israel stable, strong, and enduring.

CHARLES RESS,  
*President*



# zionist archives and library

The establishment of the provisional government of Israel and the dramatic events which preceded found the Zionist Archives and Library of the Keren Hayesod ready to meet the many pressing demands for information from representatives of Israel, the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and other Zionist bodies, as well as from the United Nations, the press, writers and scholars, schools and libraries.

Prior to and after November 29, 1947, the legal aspects of the mandate and of partition were exhaustively studied. The Library furnished the United Nations Trusteeship Council with the municipal ordinances dealing with Jerusalem. The United Nations Special Commission on Palestine received from us the governmental ordinances on immigration to Palestine. The U. N. Economic & Social Council obtained from us a documented record of the Palestine Government's finances.

Among the important acquisitions of the Library this year was a complete set of documents recording the United Nations Special Committee's sessions on Palestine and including all memoranda presented to the Committee by various bodies.

The political and historical documents and records of Zionism were drawn upon extensively during the year. We supplied the Jewish Agency for Palestine with the treaties and conventions of Palestine made by the Mandatory Government since 1917. We also served the Jewish Agency throughout the year with facts and data in connection with the preparation of the various memoranda presented to the U.N. As the Palestine question was front-page news throughout the year, the Library served reporters and editorial writers with facts and figures for news coverage of the current story in Palestine and at Lake Success. The Associated Press, United Press, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Palcor, New York Times, Herald Tribune, New York Post, The Nation, New Republic, New Yorker, United States News, the Yiddish Press, Columbia Broadcasting System and many others visited the Library to cull from historical and biographical volumes on Palestine and Zionism.

During the week following May 14, 1948, requests came from more than 100 newspapers, organizations and individuals for data on the history of Israel, the origins of the Jewish flag, the Jewish national anthem, and the geographic and historic features of Palestine. The press also called on us for maps and pictures of ancient and modern Israel. The Library proved itself in this field by assembling and classifying at record speed some 3,000 photographs on Palestine. The U.N. decision on partition and Jewish-Arab warfare created a daily demand for maps of Palestine. The map makers of all the metropolitan newspapers, the Jewish Agency and many other groups used the Library's map collection for current cartography on Palestine. As the economic problems requiring solution in the new State were being studied by specialists in the field, the Library collection on economics was in constant use. The plan of economic union propounded by the U.N. opened for re-examination the entire question of Jewish-Arab relations, particularly in the economic field.

Impressive historical events were also being recorded on discs, and the Library added a phonograph to its accessions and inaugurated a record collection comprising historic speeches and cultural and musical recordings.

The second (1947) cumulative volume of "Palestine and Zionism", our bibliography of books, pamphlets and periodicals, was larger by some twenty pages than Volume I, the 1946 cumulative issue, attesting to the greater bulk of material in the field. The first issue of Volume III, covering January and February, 1948, was expanded to include four new sections, book reviews, poems, obituaries, and short stories.

The users of the Library increased from 3,000 in 1946 to 4,000 during 1947. Likewise, the number of books circulated rose from 1,000 to 1,200. Requests for published material and for bibliographies on Palestine and Zionism came from all sections of the country, notably from the history and government faculties of such universities as the University of California, Chicago University, Yale and Harvard. In connection with Jewish Book Month, an exhibit of the Hebrew books of Am Oved, the publishing arm of Histadrut, was held in the Library during the entire month of November. At that time a large amount of books, pamphlets, and pictorial material was loaned out, notably to the Brooklyn Public Library, the Jacob Schiff and other Jewish centers and schools.



As this decisive year in Jewish history draws to a close, we take pride in the manifold services the Library has been privileged to give in the spreading of knowledge regarding Israel. The Library's usefulness at this time is a testament to those who had the vision to see the need for a central storehouse of Zionist information in America.

SOPHIE A. UDIN,  
*Director and Librarian*



# palestine bureau

During the present period the former British administration of Palestine put at our disposal 1,400 Palestine visitors' visas, in addition to the 400 previously granted in February, 1947. About 60 additional certificates were granted to persons in the United States upon application by their children in Palestine. Altogether about 1,700 permits have been handled by this Bureau.

The visitors' visas were distributed largely among applicants desirous of visiting relatives residing in Palestine and to meet sole surviving kin from Europe who recently came into the country. We found it of vital importance to allocate a considerable number of these visas to younger elements, i.e.—students, Hebrew teachers, nurses, office workers and persons in similar callings, to enable them to spend a few months in Palestine and become imbued with the religious and cultural spirit of the *Yishuv*. We know from experience that these young people — after returning to the United States — become active in their respective communities as ardent spokesmen for the renaissance of the Jewish Homeland and many of them take leading parts in the various Palestine fund-raising campaigns. We were particularly pleased to be instrumental in facilitating recently the departure for Palestine of the almost fifty persons representing the United Jewish Appeal. Thanks to the friendly cooperation of the British Passport Control Office in New York, who showed a friendly understanding of the importance and necessity of this mission, despite very short notice given us, we were able to secure the visas for the travelers without need for referring the applications to Jerusalem for decision.

Our social service section, ably managed by the Assistant Director, Miss Tehilla Feinerman, had an opportunity of bringing to final conclusion many cases involving relatives of American Jews, still located in various European camps, as well as in the search for relatives and transfer of funds to new arrivals in Palestine and Cyprus (on an average of \$4,000 per month) by American relatives. At this point we are glad to stress the splendid cooperation we have had in these activities from the HIAS and the J.E.C. About 1,250 cases in this category were satisfactorily handled this year.

Similarly, we had to assist Palestinians and Zionists of other nationalities now visiting in this country, in need of various passport and travel documents, renewals of visas, etc., in connection with the U.S. authorities. About 200 such cases have been serviced by us.

On November 15th, 1947, the Palestine Bureau, after many years of operation within the Z.O.A., was transferred to the Palestine Foundation Fund, Keren Hayesod, Inc., which gave the Bureau an opportunity to expand its activities through additional facilities and various arrangements. We wish to express our thanks to Miss Sarah Behrman, Executive Director of the Keren Hayesod, for her helpfulness and devoted cooperation in strengthening the Palestine Bureau and enabling us to carry out our manifold tasks.

Now, with the establishment of the State of Israel, the scope and activities of the Palestine Bureau will have to adapt themselves to a number of new tasks in bringing wide circles of American Jewry in closer personal relationship with the land of Israel.

It is with a sense of humility and satisfaction that we reflect upon the activities of this bureau which was established by the Zionist Organization of America early in 1922. In a considerable measure the Bureau has become a rallying point not only for American Jews desirous of joining the *Yishuv*, but also for large masses of Jewry abroad. Since the early '30's, the Palestine Bureau in New York received appeals from American Jews in behalf of their relatives abroad and thus we immediately became involved with the Palestine Bureaus in Germany, Austria and other European Jewish centers, as with the Jewish communities in Hungary, Roumania and other lands. In this field of activity particularly since the outbreak of World War II we have had extensive cooperation from our friends in Turkey, Iran and other far away places where the Jewish Agency for Palestine has constantly maintained active and effective Palestine Bureaus.

Since inception of this Bureau over 50,000 Jews of all categories have been enabled through the intermediary of our office to arrive in Palestine, and this is the modest contribution with which organized American Zionism greets the birth of the State of Israel.

DR. S. BERNSTEIN,  
*Director*

# world confederation of general zionists

The World Confederation of General Zionists was constituted in its present form during the 22nd Zionist Congress at Basle, in December, 1946. Dr. Israel Goldstein was elected chairman of the Confederation with Prof. Selig Brodetsky (England), Mr. Bernard Gering (South Africa), Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin (U.S.A.), Dr. Cornel Jancu (Rumania), Joseph Serlin (Israel), Samuel Rabinovich (Argentina) and Samuel J. Zacks (Canada) vice-chairmen. A world executive and council were also elected. Three offices were set up last year in New York, Tel-Aviv and Paris, and considering that this effort has waited over 30 years to be started, the first year's activity has been most encouraging.

For the first time an organizational framework was established with an ideological platform and a constructive program. For the first time an address existed to which General Zionists in all parts of the world could turn for advice and consultation. Visits of American General Zionist leaders to Israel, Europe, Cyprus and Latin America have greatly contributed to the consolidation of the world General Zionist movement. Of particular importance in this respect was Dr. Emanuel Neumann's visit to Israel when he brought about the unity of A and B groups of General Zionists there.

In July, 1947, Dr. Israel Goldstein visited Israel, Cyprus and Europe. As Chairman of the World Confederation this was Dr. Goldstein's first opportunity to meet the rank and file of General Zionists throughout Israel — in the *kibbutzim*, colonies and cities — as well as the large General Zionist organization in Europe and Cyprus. His appeal for a "strong and great organization which will be able to hold the equilibrium between right and left segments of the Zionist movement" received genuine attention in Israel and Europe. It resulted also in the broadening of our organizational basis. Due to Dr. Goldstein's initiative Maccabi, national sport organization, and Zebulun, pioneer maritime youth movement, joined the World Confederation. Dr. Goldstein also participated in the General Zionist

National Conference in Israel and in the European Conference of General Zionists in Paris.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver's visit to Europe, in January, 1948, was a great event in General Zionist life there. Conferences were held with the participation of General Zionist delegations from many countries. Dr. Silver's visit to Europe encouraged the Jewish masses there in their fight for a Jewish State and their free immigration to Israel.

During the past year a number of other General Zionist leaders visited our groups in Israel, Europe, Canada and Latin America. Mrs. Rose Halprin, president of Hadassah, Mrs. Judith Epstein, former president of Hadassah, Mr. Samuel J. Zacks, president of the Zionist Federation in Canada, Mr. Daniel Frisch, vice-president of the Z.O. A., Mr. Theodoro Resnikoff, president of the United Zionist Appeal in Mexico, Dr. Joseph Sagall and Miss Hannah Stein from London were among those who visited most of the General Zionist *kibutzim*, colonies and enterprises in Israel. Mrs. Marian Greenberg visited all our groups in Italy. Prof. Selig Brodetsky paid numerous visits to our European groups. Mrs. Moses P. Schoolman was active in the reception and absorption of General Zionist youth in Israel. Dr. Nahum Goldman participated in General Zionist conferences in Israel and Europe. Mr. Frisch made an extended visit to Latin America where he was instrumental in the establishment of the Latin American Confederation of General Zionists.

The world General Zionist youth movement, *Hanoar Hazoni*, has grown in quality and quantity, spreading throughout Europe, as well as to the U.S.A., Canada, Latin America, North and South Africa and other countries. The General Zionist labor movement in Israel, *Haoved Hazoni*, has absorbed thousands of these *chalutzim* in new *kibutzim* and cooperative settlements.

Private agriculture and other free enterprises affiliated with the World Confederation have also contributed greatly to the absorption of new immigrants. Workshops have been established for professional training. Three children's homes have absorbed about 1000 orphans who arrived in Israel from 16 General Zionist children's institutions in Europe and Cyprus.

The General Zionist Constructive Fund, which was created during the last Zionist Congress and was later recognized by the World Zionist Actions Committee, has during the past year and a half received

over two million dollars. The major portion of the fund came from the United Jewish Appeal. The Fund enabled the subsidizing of General Zionist colonization, training of immigrants, youth aliyah and middle-class enterprises in Israel. During the past year eight new General Zionist *kibutzim* were established. A colony of private farmers, Kfar E'nai Zion, was created in March, 1947, and the cornerstone was laid by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. Large housing projects were erected by *Shikun Ezrachi*, the General Zionist Housing Company in Israel.

To honor the valuable services rendered by American General Zionist leaders, one colony near Nathanya, Neve Abba, was named in honor of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver; a large immigrants' hostel in Tel-Aviv was dedicated to Dr. Israel Goldstein; a settlement near Ramat Gan was named in honor of Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

In the American section of the World Confederation harmonious cooperation of the Z.O.A. and Hadassah contributed to the speedy development of the work in all its aspects. The Z.O.A. was particularly alert to the revitalized program of General Zionism and its constructive enterprises. The national Z.O.A. Equipment Project for Israel, started six months ago, has already resulted in five shipments of agricultural and industrial machinery and implements, worth over \$100,000. In cooperation with the American Palestine Enterprises, Inc., an American agency of the General Zionist Constructive Fund, a number of Z.O.A. regions have adopted large-scale investment projects for housing and development enterprises in Israel.

The World Confederation has in the past year developed a number of educational activities. The American office of the Confederation has published the following pamphlets: General Zionist Program by Dr. Israel Goldstein; General Zionism, Survey of Activities and Objectives; General Zionism, the Movement for Unity, by Joseph P. Sternstein; General Zionism in Eretz Israel, by Itzhak J. Karpman; World-Wide Report — The First Year of the World Confederation of General Zionists by Itzhak J. Karpman.

The General Zionist press in the English speaking countries as well as in Europe and Latin America has been supplied with articles and information. Monthly news bulletins are being published by the three offices of the World Confederation in several languages.

During the past year a number of important conferences have taken place in Israel, Europe, the U.S.A., Latin America, Great Britain and Canada.



With the establishment of the State of Israel, the World Confederation looks forward to new tasks and activities. As the largest Zionist party in the World Zionist movement in the Diaspora the General Zionists will have to assume new responsibilities for the development of the State of Israel, the speedy absorption of hundreds of thousands of immigrants and the strengthening of Zionist activities throughout the world. The organizational basis which has been created for constructive enterprises will enable the General Zionists to redouble their efforts in a great endeavor for the realization of the Zionist ideal.

ITZHAK J. KARPMAN,  
*Executive Director*



# israel equipment project

In October, 1947, the Zionist Organization of America created, with the assistance of the World Confederation of General Zionists, a new and exciting project for the procurement of machinery, equipment, new clothing, processed food and the living necessities for the people of the State of Israel. The National Z.O.A. Israel Equipment Project has been successfully launched under the chairmanship of Mr. Benjamin J. Dost.

The members of the national Z.O.A. committee for this project represent a country-wide cross-section of the outstanding technical, business and professional talents who are members of the Z.O.A.

During the first eight months of vigorous activities, Z.O.A. districts and regions throughout the country have set up committees which are actively at work. As a result of these devoted endeavors, five shipments to Israel have already been made and more are ready for shipment. These shipments consisted of agricultural and industrial machinery as well as tools, implements, medical supplies, etc. A number of districts have embarked on specific projects embracing a particular trade or profession. For instance, one of the Z.O.A. Philadelphia districts decided to equip and ship to Israel a complete mobile dental unit. The Chicago Z.O.A. area is working on a printing press project. From Florida, two large shipments were made of various agricultural equipment as well as beds, medical equipment and tools. The Seaboard Zionist Region has also supplied machinery as well as a considerable quantity of clothing and canned foods. The Michigan Zionist Region has procured valuable building machines and other equipment. The California Region is engaged in a large-scale project requiring special office facilities in Los Angeles. Committees have been formed and are working in various other districts and regions.

We have been informed from cables received from Israel that all shipments made until now have arrived safely. The machinery and equipment were distributed immediately for purposes of immediate concern to the people of Israel, for the building of workshops in settlements and towns, and for the training of large numbers of refugees arriving from Europe and Cyprus.

With the proclamation of the State of Israel, our equipment project has been expanded considerably. Lists of required equipment received from Israel were distributed throughout the country. American Zionists now understand the necessity to equip the Jewish State in a direct and immediate way. For this reason, the appeal of the Z.O.A. Equipment Project has received a warm response throughout the country. Zionists everywhere have expressed their readiness to ship machinery and equipment and living necessities for all essential purposes.

The urgency of these needs of Israel's people has impelled the National Z.O.A. Israel Equipment Project to work out plans for the widespread expansion of this vital project. We are aiming at the shipment of large quantities of equipment which will help build Israel and provide work and professional training for thousands of new arrivals. We know that we can count on the unstinting and selfless labors and energies of American Zionists.

BENJAMIN J. DOFT,  
*Chairman*

YEHUDA HELLMAN,  
*Director*



# h a d a s s a h

At this writing, four months before the end of our fiscal year — Hadassah presents a picture etched, partly in the brilliant colors of financial, political and membership achievement unequalled in our organization's annals — partly in the steady light of medical advance and progress on all project fronts — but also in the blackest shadows of tragic death and destruction.

For Hadassah — which has for thirty-six years been an integral part of the *Yishuv*, inextricably braided into the social welfare, medical, child rescue and land patterns of Palestine — has experienced just before and after the declaration of the Jewish State, all the heroic challenge and all the personal and organizational losses and gains made inevitable by the daily experience of our dedicated staff in Israel.

By the time Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948 — Hadassah had already had four and a half months of experience as a medical defense outpost — as an emergency factor in child feeding, mother and child care, Youth Aliyah maintenance and education and land development under war conditions. As early as December 30, 1947, the Hadassah Medical Center began to operate under fire. The Mt. Scopus sector became progressively hazardous from that time on. And though Hadassah used every avenue of protest to, and pressure on Washington, the British Embassy here, the Security Council, the U. N. Palestine Commission and the American and International Red Cross, it was unable to stave off the horrible disaster of April 13. On that day a ghastly massacre of 76 Hadassah and Hebrew University staff and patients took place on the Scopus road, during which Dr. Haim Yassky, our director was also murdered.

Afterward, outraged by the brutality of this event which is a black charge against the British military men in Jerusalem, as well as against the Arabs who perpetrated the murder, 87 top-ranking American medical men, research scientists and public health and hospital heads signed a protest to President Truman, under the aegis of the Medical Reference Board of Hadassah and the Hebrew University.

Latest reports indicate that a section of the great Medical Center we opened in 1939 has been bombed. Our personnel was fortunately de-

centralized before that into three main hospital units in Jerusalem proper, and into special teams operating in Safad, Kfar Etzion, the Old City and elsewhere. In the Old City, devoted and fearless Hadassah doctors and nurses stayed to the bitter end, and were admitted to have a tremendous moral and medical factor in the fabulous and heroic stand of Old City Jews against the Arab invaders. Despite all this — perhaps because of it, the morale of Hadassah membership which has increased by nearly 50,000 this year, making a combined constituency of some 275,000 senior and junior members, has evidenced heartening solidarity.

At the moment, Hadassah functions as a partner with the *Yisroel* in the immigrant medical services program outlined by Dr. Yassky and the Vaad Leumi nearly two years ago. Hadassah is also operating, in Jerusalem, as the chief medical defense arm, 90% of its patients being, at latest reports, Israeli army casualties. Simultaneously, schooled by many previous crises never to capitulate on the quality and standards of its services, Hadassah continues to carry forward its child feeding, school hygiene, vocational education and other programs under war conditions. It also contributes the greatest share of any Zionist organization from the United States of funds needed to educate and maintain the more than 7000 new Youth Aliyah children who have come to the land and for the others who await entry. Our Jewish National Fund collections will this year, as always, probably also be the highest of any Zionist organization in the United States.

As a direct reflection of the crisis, and of the joyous imminence of statehood for our people, Hadassah, during its mid-winter conference decided to increase voluntarily by 50%, the already tremendous financial goal of \$4,760,000 accepted by our 1947 Atlantic City convention last November. This was made imperative by daily, cabled SOS calls for emergency medical aid and other projects in which Hadassah was already engaged. Anticipating that the need would accelerate, knowing that no amount could ever be great enough, Hadassah mobilized on this front, too, to achieve a maximum of fund-raising potentials.

A summer campaign is now under way, again in response to an SOS for gifts of medical goods-in-kind and for funds for medical child welfare and Youth Aliyah work. Summer monies will be used, too, to fly a plane of medical supplies, drugs, food, equipment and clothing to Israel as soon as transportation can be arranged. The blood donor service, opened on May 10, in New York, earlier in Philadel-

phia and later in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco is providing steady shipments of dry blood plasma for Hadassah's hospital units and for the medical defense corps of Israel.

No review of Hadassah's work can be accurate without an understanding of the educational process which has been part and parcel of our history. Through our network of political, American affairs and membership chairmen in more than 960 chapters and groups in 47 states, we have helped equip the individual member to be an intelligent citizen of this country, an informed Zionist worker, and better Jew.

And so, though with statehood one phase of Zionist activity ends for Hadassah, made up of American citizens, it is precisely *as* American citizens that continuing service is indicated for us. It is *as* American citizens in consonance with long-established and honored American tradition, that we go on with our work of healing and teaching.

Having helped, *as* members of the world's greatest democracy should, to transfer our skill and know-how to the emergent Jewish state — we shall go on exporting from this country those tenets of public well-being, and social progress which have been our "coinage" for more than three and a half decades. Because of this Hadassah will grow, and the coming year will, we are certain, be a banner one.

MRS. SAMUEL W. HALPRIN,  
*National President*



# american zionist youth commission

The tremendous epic being enacted in Israel cannot be viewed without a realization of the vital role which devolves upon our youth; and the contribution which our youth can offer, both at close and at long range, depends upon our imparting to it a love for our heritage and responsibility for our future. The Youth Commission, itself so keenly aware of this truth, is still painfully required to stress it to many adult leaders in our movement.

While we can with good heart report that we have advanced our Zionist Youth work this year, and can show accomplishments in various fields, much more could have been done had more money been available. Necessary projects such as regional field-work, more weekend Institutes, a greater number of publications, intensified organizational campaigns for membership, and educational programs of the Youth Groups, had to be limited and curtailed to fit restricted means. Within the short space here permitted we cannot include pertinent financial and statistical data (these will be made available independently at the Convention) nor elaborate upon the various phases of activity carried on by the Youth Commission. We shall limit ourselves to a general summary of the activity and accomplishment stemming from the connotations "Zionist Youth Work" and "Youth Commission."

Young Judaea, Masada, and the Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of America (IZFA) have each surpassed all previous figures in membership, the number of functioning groups, and in the preparation of planned program and educational activities.

The Youth Commission early recognized the strategic importance of reaching the vast number of students in the many universities and colleges, which constitutes American Jewry's most fertile soil for leaders. Here lies a great wealth in manpower and creative energy which General Zionism must strive to attract to itself. Through its part in the creation of IZFA the Youth Commission was instrumental in tap-

ping this valuable source. The great strides forward taken by IZFA since its inception and its accelerated growth and influence, penetrating to every corner of the country this past year, calls for the greatest support on the part of General Zionism.

Masada, after adopting a "co-ed" status, is still faced with a problem which must be resolved by Z.O.A. The continued development of "Young Peoples' Zionist Districts" and the relationship between these two must be examined with a view to serving the best interests of the Zionist Youth Movement in this country. Masada has been helpful and active this year. Its program and educational material has reached a productivity greater than ever before. A clear-cut decision therefore as to the future of Masada is necessary.

Young Judaea, in spite of its having to contend with an insufficient number of youth leaders — a problem common to all the groups — has had a fruitful year. For the first time it will conduct its own summer camp, on a national basis, during July at the Brandeis Camp Institute of the South.

Brandeis Camp has stirred the country. We have the technique for winning modern youth to our cause through proper utilization of which we can provide the leadership training that will furnish every community with talented, enthusiastic, informed youth leaders in greater number than ever. With the opening this year of our third camp at Hendersonville, N. C. — thru the splendid co-operation of the Southeast and Seaboard — we have doubled our facilities, and over 500 students will graduate from Brandeis Camp Institute this year. In addition, a ten-weeks Institute at Santa Susana, California, will train an additional fifty specially gifted and trained young people in the cultural and creative arts.

The history of the creation of these three camps thus far — Texas and the Midwest are straining with impatience to get under way, as well — has made it very clear that Z.O.A. benefits from the widespread financial support, actual and potential, in behalf of Brandeis Camps. It is my observation in the regions cited, that parallel with support of Brandeis Camp there is a heightening in appeal and popularity of Z.O.A. More than ever at this decisive stage in our history we must as Zionists, as Jews — as parents of Jewish children — provide for our youth, for there lies our strength and our future. Dr. Shlomo Bardin has driven himself unsparingly in the direction, and in the dramatic presentation, of the project — with a devotion that

refused to recognize even illness. He has our deepest appreciation. In 1940 the first Youth Commissions were formed. Today, less than eight years later, the country is covered by a vast network of local commissions and youth groups, who are eager to serve our movement by directing to us new blood, new vision, new vitality. If we are to succeed in the holy mission of regenerating our people, our youth must be joined to us. This can be done only through the services of voluntary and professional leadership on a national scale, for whose services adequate provision must be sponsored. With participation by Z.O.A. in terms of manpower and adequate budget, our youth program will attain the importance and success which it deserves in the eyes of American Jewry and the people of Israel.

HERMAN L. WEISMAN,  
*Chairman*



# chalutziut commission

It is less than two years since the Z.O.A. undertook official sponsorship of Chalutziut among the youth groups, and we are pleased to record the advance made during this second year of activity. We can now report not only continued expansion in the number of young people in our ranks who are thinking of participating personally in the rebuilding of *Eretz Yisrael* but can show concrete results in this direction which are encouraging and which give promise of a widespread realization among General Zionists and their youth that Americans in ever larger numbers wish to dedicate their lives and fortunes to the Jewish Homeland.

Our efforts in this direction have been greatly strengthened by the decision of Hadassah to join the Z.O.A. in this project and by the financial stimulus given to the movement through the doubling of income for this purpose by having Hadassah match the Z.O.A. allocation for the year. We now have a genuine Joint Commission of Chalutziut, and I am pleased to commend the work and progressive attitude of my co-chairman of the Commission, Mrs. Samuel Inselbuch. Very active on this body are the representatives of Masada, Junior Hadassah, Young Judaea, The Intercollegiate Zionist Federation (IZFA) and of course Plugat Aliyah and HaOleh the working groups of our Chalutz youth. Danny Brisker of Kfar Glickson has been the dynamo and spark-plug of our movement and we have recently brought from Israel another inspiring youth *Shaliach*, Gideon Shomron. Fortunately we have been able to use the energetic services of Miss Naomi Borowsky as Executive Secretary, and she has carried the daily load of the Commission efficiently and gracefully.

During the year the Commission on Chalutziut has sponsored numerous Youth rallies to bring to our young people the need for personal participation in the reconstruction of Israel. Many educational projects have been stimulated among organizations and districts willing to give ear to this call. We organized an "Institute" which held lectures and discussions for eight weeks, under the educational leadership of a distinguished group of Zionist writers, lecturers and educators. A promising educational project under our sponsorship is the

Tent Camp which, together with Plugat Aliyah, we will conduct at the Training Farm near Poughkeepsie all summer. Over 100 boys and girls, 15 to 18 years of age, will be working and living in an atmosphere of guidance and inspiration, building and creating something that will be modelled on life in Israel. The program should help intensify Zionist thinking among the youth and should insure us of reliable Zionist youth leaders for years to come.

Plugat Aliyah has grown up during this year. Dozens of its members are already in Palestine and dozens more are now in training in Poughkeepsie, looking forward to joining their comrades in Israel. The Commission has not only contributed financially to the Plugat Aliyah budget but has made it possible for the main house at the *Hachsharah* Farm to be equipped with adequate heating facilities for the use of trainees and for the educational seminars and activities which are conducted at the Farm all Winter. Over 500 young people have been housed at the Farm during this year, for periods ranging from weekend seminars to two-week and two-month periods of work-and-study. More than fifty members of Plugat Aliyah have gone through actual *Hachsharah* there this year.

*HaOleh* has really come to life this year. Starting with ten members a little over a year ago, they now have over a hundred, and there is so much interest in the ranks of college students that they feel the need of a farm of their own. If they can acquire such a farm, their movement will grow more rapidly than ever, and they can look forward to supplying Israel with additional *chalutzim* in the professional and scientific fields as well as in agriculture and commerce.

The joint effort of Hadassah and Z.O.A. in this field of *Chalutzit* has been successful and we look forward to great advances and more promising results during the coming year.

LOUIS J. SCHWEFEL,  
*Chairman*

# histadruth ivrith of america

The proclamation of the State of Israel, hailed by American Jewry in unison with World Jewry, will have a most favorable influence upon the development of Hebraic activities in this country. Histadruth Ivrit is now endeavoring to reorient its program and mode of procedure in preparation for the great tasks that are ahead during the coming years.

Since the last Zionist Convention, every phase of Hebrew activities made considerable headway. The three Hebrew periodicals, *Hadoar*, *Musaf Lakorei Hatzair* and *Hadoar Lanoar*, and the Hebrew Publishing House, *Ogen*, put in jeopardy by the tremendous increase in cost of publication, also record great strides.

*Hadoar*, under the editorship of Menachem Ribalow, ranks as the outstanding Hebrew periodical outside of Palestine. During the past year, it enlisted a number of able correspondents from Israel and from the large Jewish communities abroad, London, Paris, Rome, etc. The readers manifested their intense interest by organizing the *Hadoar* Associates, to assist in the development and expansion of the periodical.

*Musaf Lakorei Hatzair*, the vocalized bi-weekly periodical completed its 4th year of publication under the editorship of Chaim Leaf. *Hadoar Lanoar*, the Hebrew bi-weekly for children, under the editorship of Simha Rubinstein, entered upon its 15th year. They are published as supplements to the *Hadoar*, as well as independent periodicals.

*Ogen*, the book publishing department of the Histadruth Ivrit records this year several noteworthy contributions to Hebrew scholarship and belle-letters: "*Adam Al Adomote*" (Poems) by Ephraim E. Lisitsky; "*Yaldei Israel*" (Children's poetry) by Zalman Shencour, and "*Kesbet B'anan*" (short stories) by Harry Sackler. A book by the late Prof Kraus entitled "*Toldoth Bathei Hakmeseth B'yemey Habenayim*" (History of the Synagogue in the Middle Ages) is soon to appear.

A distinct contribution to American Jewish literature is the translation of all the poetic work of Bialik under the editorship of Dr. Israel Efros. Volume one will appear in time for the forthcoming convention of the Z.O.A.

Histadruth Ivrit assumed responsibility, financial and organization, in this country for the popular edition of the classic *Dictionary of Eliezer Ben Yehuda*. Seven volumes have already appeared. The Histadruth is also continuing its support to Shevilei Hachinuch, the pedagogical Hebrew quarterly in this country, and to several Hebrew publications which appear in France and Italy.

In the course of the last two years Histadruth Ivrit initiated and supported a series of Courses in Hebrew for adults in various parts of greater New York. The Correspondence Course, under the editorship of Simha Rubinstein, is based on "Hebrew Self Taught" written by Prof. Zvi Scharfstein with Histadruth cooperation and published by the Z.O.A.

*Camp Massad*, the Hebrew speaking summer camp for children, continued to expand and grow in popularity. Last summer it accommodated over 250 children. This year, the erection of a second Hebrew camp, Massad Beth, was realized. Over 400 children have been enrolled so far in both camps.

*Sollei*, a summer camp for Jewish youth over 18 was organized last year. 23 young men and women spent a summer in study and work in a real Chalutz spirit. Sollei was accommodated by the Hechalutz in its farm near Poughkeepsie, N. Y. This summer Sollei will come into its own, in a section designated by Massad adjacent to the newly established Massad Beth.

*Hanoar Haivri* (Hebrew Youth Organization) continued to maintain Hebrew speaking youth groups throughout the country. The establishment of youth clubs from among the campers of Massad with the cooperation of Massad leadership, is now a special feature of *Hanoar Haivri*.

Histadruth Ivrit continued its support of the Hebrew Arts Committee, until it became evident that due to the presence in America of the Hebrew theatre "Hab-mah", from the State of Israel, no special production could be shown this year by Pargod. The future program of the Hebrew Arts Committee is now under discussion.



Overseas Hebrew activities required the attention of the Histadruth Ivrit to a greater degree. Our periodicals, publications, reading materials in ever larger quantities were sent to the D.P. Camps in Europe and the *kibbutzim* in Israel. The ties with the *Brit Ivrit Olamith*, the world federation for Hebrew culture, were strengthened, and a substantial subvention, based on our membership dues, was allocated to *Brit Ivrit Olamith*.

Histadruth Ivrit assumed responsibility this year for the Bialik Hebrew Academy, in answer to a general demand for direct concern in educational activities. The Bialik Hebrew Academy is destined to become a model Hebrew day school for many other communities to emulate, in a desire to strengthen the Hebraic foundations of Jewish education in this country. The Histadruth has also continued its support to the Federation of Hebrew Teachers in America.

*Duchan*, (Hebrew Forum) in New York and elsewhere, was enriched this year by the presentation of many outstanding lecturers from Israel and European communities. Prof. Ernst Simon of the Hebrew University, Dr. Alexander Rosenfeld of the *Brit Ivrit Olamith*, Ari Ibn Zahav, noted author, Dr. Simon Rawidowicz, visiting professor of Leeds University and editor of *Metsuda*, Prof. A. S. Yahuda, author of *Ever Vearav*, the editors of the Hebrew newspapers in Israel, Rubashov, Bentov, Carlebach and others graced the platform of *Duchan*.

*Hebrew Month*, serving as it does as a medium of bringing Hebrew to the attention of the American Jewish public has been marked this year by a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the great Hebrew poet, Zalman Shneour. A public celebration was held in honor of Shneour, with the participation of M. Weinstein, Menachem Ribalow and Dr. Nissia Touroff.

The past year witnessed the expansion of the Friends of Hebrew Culture, under the chairmanship of Rabbi Samuel Wohl of Cincinnati. In many communities special committees were organized to advance interest in Hebrew language and literature by means of luncheons, meetings and forums. Outstanding among these communities are: Cincinnati, Dr. M. Shulzinger, chairman; Chicago, Dr. B. H. Birnbaum, chairman; Philadelphia, Dr. Max D. Klein, chairman; St. Louis, Prof. Gustave Klausner, chairman; Columbus, Dr. B. W. Abramson, chairman; Cleveland, Rabbi Julius Nodel, chairman; Indianapolis, Dr. Max, chairman; Detroit, Maurice Landau, chairman.

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The Women's League, *Tarbut*, under the leadership of Mrs. David L. Isaacs continued its impressive program of work. The many lectures and gatherings culminated with a successful concert at Times Hall.

The Executive Director of the Histadruth Ivrit, Mr. Mordecai Halevi, assisted by other members of the staff, visited many communities for the purpose of stimulating an interest in Hebrew. Montreal, Toronto, Philadelphia, Camden, Baltimore, Washington, D. C., Buffalo, Rochester, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Detroit, Columbus, Dayton, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Pittsburgh, Atlantic City, Boston and a great many smaller communities are among those visited.

The New York Annual Dinner was honored by having as guest and main speaker the President of the Zionist Organization of America, Dr. Emanuel Neumann. Mr. Harry P. Fierst was chairman of the dinner committee and Mr. Joseph Weiss served as treasurer.

The convention of the Histadruth Ivrit, held bi-annually, is scheduled for the summer of 1949. The following are the present officers and executive committee: Samuel J. Borowsky, Alexander M. Dushkin, Boris Margolin, Presidium; Dr. Israel Efros, Dr. Solomon Goldman, Rabbi Samuel K. Mirsky, Honorary Presidents; Dr. Moshe Davis, Dr. Simon Federbush, Samuel Fishman, Menachem Ribalow, Abraham Spicchandler, Vice Presidents; Harry P. Fierst, Treasurer; Joseph Weiss, Chairman Finance Committee; Shimeon Pollack, Secretary; Mordecai Halevi, Executive Director.

SAMUEL J. BOROWSKI,  
BORIS MARGOLIN,  
ALEXANDER M. DUSHKIN,  
*Presidium*

# hebrew arts foundation

The Hebrew Arts Foundation was evolved from the Hebrew Arts Committee for the continuation of the task of building a Hebrew arts in America. Aided by a subvention from the Z.O.A.'s American Zionist Fund, we have continued to work through the media of dance, symphony and chorus. We have built an effective program service, offering a distinctive cultural contribution to the community.

## *Program Service*

Vocal and orchestral soloists are available in a varied program of Palestinian, classical and modern art and folk songs. Special pageants have also been arranged in which there participate a cast of two narrators, and chorus of fifteen in a dance group. Mr. Seymour Silbermintz, conductor of the Chorale, directs the presentations, the themes of which are built around the return to Palestine and the rebuilding of the land.

The service units have appeared before 28 groups, with a total audience of some 10,000 persons.

Special note should be made of the April 17th concert of the Kinor Sinfonietta, executed in cooperation with the Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of America. Representatives of this college group filled an auditorium of 1,000 seats and above and beyond the expenses for the evening, raised \$500.00 in profit for the Jewish National Fund.

## *Major Production*

The crystallization of these efforts was presented on June 6, when the Hebrew Arts Foundation launched its major production of the year, "*Ani Maenin*" — "We Hold These Truths". The production, in the form of a dramatic monologue, presented the outstanding works of the various departments of the Foundation (Theatre, Chorus, Kinor). Such outstanding writers as Alan Marcus, Arnold Perl and Irve Tunick contributed their services. Burgess Meredith was narrator.

## *Chorale*

The Hebrew Arts Chorale, under the direction of M. Silbermintz, has presented a series of musical programs at local and national organizational functions. The repertoire of the ensemble is drawn from

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liturgical, folk and art music with an emphasis upon modern Palestinian music (50 voices).

### *Orchestra*

The Kinor Sinfonietta, under the direction of Siegfried Landau, is the only orchestral group in the United States devoted exclusively to the presentation of Jewish Music. Kinor introduced a rich repertoire of Jewish orchestral music including compositions on Biblical, Liturgical, Palestinian and Jewish folk themes. The broadcasts from the Brooklyn Museum over WNYC were enthusiastically received.

### *Dance*

Talented young performers appear in dance duos and dance trios giving their interpretation of Hora, Debka, Lament, "Avodah", etc. The repertoire also includes a lecture-demonstration on "The Development of Jewish Dance".

### *Hebrew Film*

From funds raised through other sources we are working in the media of the film and the theatre. In response to demands throughout the country for a way of bringing home to America the vitality of the living Hebrew word as well as the contemporary scene in Israel, we have provided a Hebrew language sound-track for the film — "House in the Desert". This will be the first of a series of films so treated and constituting a Hebrew Film-of-the-Month-Club.

### *Theatre*

As part of its repertoire performed in past years, Pargod Theatre has kept in rehearsal and can perform either locally or on tour any one of the following major productions: "Hayehudi Hanitzhi" by Pinsky; "Yom Hashishi Hakatzar" by Bialik; "Solomon the King and Shalmi the Cobbler", by Groneman; "Shylock '47", based on a translation of Simon Halkin; "Bar Kochba", by Sau. Tchernichovsky.

The officers of the Foundation are: Chairman, Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow; Co-Chairman, Victor M. Ratner; Vice-Chairmen, Dr. Meshe Davis, Ethel W. Schleifer; Publicity, Lucy Manoff; Chairman, Executive Committee, Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum; Martin Adolf, Dr. Miriam Freund, Sylvia Cutler Ettenberg, Irving Galt, Rabbi Samuel Geffen, Ben Gradus, Merrill Haber, Mrs. I. M. Levy, Richard Manoff. Board of Hebrew Film Review, Dr. Alexander M. Dushkin, Dr. Emanuel Gamoran, Shlomo Shulsinger; Sponsors, Leonard Bernstein, Melvyn Douglas, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Dr. Robert Cordis, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Dr. Horace M. Kallen, Paul Kaminsky, Hon. Louis E. Levin-

thal, Rabbi Irving Miller, Paul Muni, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Dr. Louis I. Newman, Edward A. Norman, Itzhak Norman, Dr. David De Sola Pool, Rabbi Emanuel Rachman, Menachem Ribalow, Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, Herman L. Weisman. Treasurer, Ethel W. Schleifer; Program Director, Rahel Mizrachi; Campaign Administrator, Joseph Samuels.

RABBI EDWARD T. SANDROW,  
*Chairman*



# b n a i z i o n

The 39th annual convention of Bnai Zion was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on June 19, 20 and 21, 1948, with approximately 300 delegates and alternates attending. It was significant that this was the first national convention of any Zionist organization in this country since that epoch-making day of May 14 when the independent State of Israel was called into being.

Our insurance in force is mounting gradually and we are certain that in 1949 we will pass the \$2,000,000 mark. Not only has our Dunre's International rating for 1948 continued to be A + Excellent but we have reached a new high in the comparison of Bnai Zion's resources with its total liabilities. This shows that we have assets of \$125.81 for each \$100.00 of liabilities. It is interesting to note that the average for 73 of the largest life insurance companies in America is only \$107.26.

Our membership activities have also continued at an accelerated pace and in addition to a favorable net increase in membership, three new Camps have been organized during the past year: the Irving Rivelis Camp in Brooklyn, the Dorothy S. Levine Camp in the Bronx and the Haganah Camp in Los Angeles. The organization activities of Bnai Zion have been strengthened by the creation of regional councils in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan. The delegates are elected from the Camps meeting in those communities. This is in addition to the Women's Council which has been functioning during the past number of years.

Bnai Zion continues to play an outstanding role in the work for Eretz Israel. It has maintained its leadership in the work for *Geulah Hametz* by continuing to make the largest per capita contribution to the cause of the Jewish National Fund. The annual Order Day of Bnai Zion, which was held on April 11, 1948, was to honor Dr. Emanuel Neumann, the president of the Zionist Organization of America, but due to the fact that both he and our past Nassi, Abraham A. Redelheim, were in Palestine at the time, attending an emergency meeting of the Actions Committee, the presentation of the scroll, testifying the inscription of his name in the *Sefer HaMedinah*, by the numerous Camps

and many Zionist districts, was made at the banquet on Sunday evening at our convention.

During the past year, the Women's Council sponsored the first project in the Kfar Bnai Zion and succeeded in raising sufficient funds for the erection of a kindergarten and nursery in this colony. We have also been successful in securing contributions of farm implements for the Kfar which has already arrived there. We are looking forward to the gradual development of the cultural center in Kfar Bnai Zion through the continued and intensified efforts of our members in the coming years.

For the sixth consecutive year, Bnai Zion has awarded a gold and sterling silver medal to the graduating students of Brooklyn College who were most proficient in Hebrew. In addition, Bnai Zion has made contributions to a number of Zionist and charitable institutions.

We are pleased to find a great many members of the Zionist Organization of America becoming more and more interested in the activities of Bnai Zion and the fraternal service it has to offer, and we look forward to a closer tie between us and the Zionist Organization of America.



HARRY A. PINE,  
*Nassi*