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United Palestine Appeal, 1939 June-November.

MEMORANDUM

June 5, 1939

Dictated June 2, 1939

TO: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Mr. Louis Lipsky, Dr. Israel Goldstein,  
Judge Morris Rothenberg, Dr. Solomon Goldman

FROM: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

At the request of Mr. James G. McDonald, I had a conference with him in my hotel this morning. Mr. McDonald outlined the plan for the organization of an intermediate corporation which is to implement the Biallee proposals. He stated that it would be immediately necessary to obtain \$500,000 in the United States, and an additional \$500,000 is to be obtained in England. He expressed the hope that the \$500,000 in this country would be made available from the funds of the United Jewish Appeal.

I told him that, without going into the merits of the matter and without involving my own personal opinion in approval or disapproval of the project, the arrangement under which the United Jewish Appeal is operating would make it impossible for it to vote any funds to any bodies outside of the three which are partners of the United Jewish Appeal, namely, the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Coordinating Committee Fund, Inc., and that, furthermore, the Allocations Committee would have no competence even to consider such a request.

I expressed to him the thought which was also expressed at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the United Palestine Appeal held yesterday, that the funds ought to be raised from individuals and not from national bodies; that it is not desirable to give national Jewish approval of such a project by contributing national funds to it even though it might be found desirable because of existing pressures to go through with the project.

If, however, he felt that it would be too difficult to raise this amount from individuals at this time and that this committee would have to apply to national organizations, I suggested to him that the line of procedure would be for a request to be made directly to the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Coordinating Committee Fund, Inc.

The United Palestine Appeal, being only a money-raising agency, would have to refer the matter to the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth in Palestine. I indicated to him that if our headquarters approved there would be no opposition from us in the United States. I also suggested to him that inasmuch as Mr. Baerwald was on his way to London it would be advisable for him to present the matter to Dr. Weizmann, Ben Gurion and others.

In the afternoon, at the request of Mr. Ittleson, I had a conference with him at his office, which was also attended by Mr. Lewis Struness and Rabbi Jonah Wise. In substance Mr. Ittleson repeated what Mr. McDonald had stated in the morning, and in substance, too, I told Mr. Ittleson what I had earlier in the

June 5, 1939

day stated to Mr. McDonald. Mr. Ittleson expressed the thought that it would be possible for the Intermediate Corporation Committee to apply to the Joint Distribution Committee for the full amount, and that later on the Joint Distribution Committee would have the right, in applying for funds to the Allocations Committee, to include this item among its projects. I expressed the opinion that that, of course, is within the rights of the Joint Distribution Committee and that at the time such requests are presented by the Joint Distribution Committee to the Allocations Committee the United Palestine Appeal would, of course, also present its requirements.

If, however, Mr. Ittleson desired to make a direct application to the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal, a formal letter should be sent to the United Palestine Appeal requesting an allocation, I stated, and I would submit that request immediately to our headquarters in London and Jerusalem. Mr. Ittleson did not at first see the wisdom of establishing the precedent of getting approval from bodies outside of the United States for allocations made in the United States. I explained to him, as I had done to Mr. McDonald, that the United Palestine Appeal does not spend the monies which it raises, but is only a collecting and transmitting agency for the parent bodies in Palestine.

He asked me whether I would transmit such a request to Palestine with my personal endorsement and approval, and I stated to him that I could not give the project my personal endorsement or approval, but that if our authorized leaders in Palestine approved of it I would raise no objection to it here, nor would I advise them not to approve of it.

It seems to me of utmost importance that if we are to vote money to this half million dollar fund it ought to be definitely understood that it was a grant out of the funds of the United Palestine Appeal and that because of this substantial grant which makes it possible for this committee to function, Palestinian and Zionist interests should be adequately represented both in the corporation and later on in the plans, policies and the administrative machinery which may evolve. A blanket, anonymous allocation from the United Jewish Appeal would leave the impression with everyone that it was the same group that has been handling all the negotiations up to now that is exclusively responsible for obtaining the money and Palestinian interest would again have to come in by the backdoor, interceding for favors.

It was from this angle that I was so anxious to have Mr. Baerwald approach Dr. Weismann and Ben Gurion in London and get their approval for this grant which will give our leaders a handle in whatever negotiations may develop later on. If you have any comments to make I shall greatly appreciate hearing from you.



"Give Today --- Tomorrow May Be Too Late"

— DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN

# UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (KEREN HAYESOD)  
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (KEREN KAYEMETH)  
For the Settlement in Palestine of Jews of Germany, Poland, Rumania and Other Lands

111 FIFTH AVE. CABLE ADDRESS—PALFUND NEW YORK CITY

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June 9, 1939

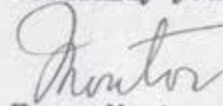
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Attached hereto is a report as of June 9th  
of the financial status of the United  
Palestine Appeal.

In accordance with the request made at the  
last meeting, the figures are on the basis  
of accrued income rather than on the basis  
of the fiscal year.

Cordially yours,

  
Henry Montor  
Executive Director

HM:BG  
Enc.

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# CASH INCOME UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

AS OF JUNE 9, 1939

Bank Balance as of January 1, 1939.....	\$99,547.42	(1938 - \$80,698.61)
		(1937 - 17,540.53)
		(1936 - 1,308.28)

## CASH RECEIVED - From 1/1/39 to 6/9/39:

United Jewish Appeal - - 1939 -	\$875,000.00
Jewish National Fund - - 1939 -	144,393.48
United Palestine Appeal - 1938 -	516,345.72
United Palestine Appeal - 1937 -	28,024.08
United Palestine Appeal - 1936 -	<u>2,219.37</u>

1,565,982.65

\$1,665,530.07

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Keren Hayesod - - - - -	\$763,612.44
(Including \$105,032.87 toward Mifal	
Bitzaron in accordance with 1937 and	
1938 U.P.A. agreements)	
Keren Kayemeth - - - - -	763,612.44
(Including \$105,032.87 toward Mifal	
Bitzaron in accordance with 1937 and	
1938 U.P.A. agreements)	
Mizrachi Palestine Fund - - - - -	50,000.00
President's Advisory Committee - - - - -	2,000.00
Hashomer Hatzair - - - - -	1,200.00
Earmarked for Youth Aliyah - - - - -	<u>1,700.00</u>

## SERVICE CHARGES:

Zionist Organization of America- - - - -	27,817.95
Mizrachi - - - - -	5,000.00
Poale Zion - - - - -	<u>5,000.00</u>

\$1,619,942.83

28,014.26

## EXPENSES:

(Covering all activities in 1939 applying  
to 1939 as well as previous campaigns)

1,647,957.09

Bank Balance as of June 9, 1939.....	\$17,572.98	(1939-\$6,804.02)
		(1938- 7,401.68)
		(1937- 3,367.28)



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# REFUGEES AND OVERSEAS NEEDS

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ON BEHALF OF THE JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, THE UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL,  
AND THE NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FUND, INC.  
NEW YORK CITY & METROPOLITAN AREA  
200 MADISON AVENUE • MU 3-5901

June 12, 1939

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Enclosed herewith is check for \$55 in payment of expenses incurred in connection with your trip to New York to address the Amusement Division on Thursday, June 1st.

The New York Campaign has raised about six million dollars to date, of which \$2,750,000 has been received in cash. We will have to maintain a skeleton staff to collect this large amount of outstanding pledges and we are now making a re-assignment of personnel. Mr. Willen has asked for nearly the entire UPA staff either for the Federation campaign or for UJA until the end of the year. The only exceptions are Marcus and Pecker of Brooklyn who will be sent back to the UPA, which in fact means their dismissal. I cannot conscientiously insist that they be retained as I have tried to discharge them myself several times, only to have them reinstated as a result of local pressure.

I do not know whether you have been informed that Mr. Lipsky is in the Bronx Hospital with a kidney ailment. You will no doubt wish to write him.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Blitz  
Co-Director

SB:MF  
Enc.



June 12, 1939

Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, National President  
Hadassah  
1860 Broadway  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Judith:

Please pardon the long delay in answering your kind letter of May 12th. I have been away from the city most of the time. I have also been ill part of the time.

Frankly, I do not know what to reply to your communication. When I accepted the chairmanship of the United Palestine Appeal, I assumed that it was to be a united appeal for Palestinian purposes. I was, however, quickly disillusioned. I discovered that it was only one among many appeals which are going on in the Jewish communities in America and that the United Palestine Appeal would have to compete with other pro-Palestine campaigns in order to carry on its work. I would not have minded that disillusionment so much but for the fact that I have been constantly harassed by communications from numerous cities throughout the country which have expressed indignation and resentment at the multiplicity of Palestine campaigns in their midst. As chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, I was regarded as somehow responsible for the situation and was made to bear the brunt of these complaints and criticisms. For a time, I tried to appease these communities and bring about some reconciliation at least in the timing of these numerous campaigns. I did not get very far. Then I became indignant about the situation and sharply criticized it at various meetings of the United Palestine Appeal. I was always given to understand that the situation would be improved. But it wasn't.

In 1939, the United Palestine Appeal entered into a joint campaign with the Joint Distribution Committee and the National Co-ordinating Committee. This fact has sharply aggravated the situation, for the Joint Distribution Committee has now become the channel through which many of these criticisms from communities are forwarded to me. I tried to work out an arrangement with Hadassah so as to obviate much of this criticism. That, too, unfortunately has not worked out. I understand fully the position which you take. Each organization campaigning for Palestine must look out for its own interests and must make the best possible showing. But this does not change the situation, namely, that serious competition and over-lapping is taking place which is greatly annoying to the communities and is very embarrassing to the United Palestine Appeal.



Mrs. Epstein

-2-

June 12, 1939

I have decided not to worry myself any further about the situation. It is not of my making and beyond my control. I believe that in the long run, it will do Palestine serious harm. I am sorry that you are made unhappy by the criticism of Mr. Montor and Mr. Coons. But I assure you that they are passing on to you only a small part of the criticism to which they are subjected as a result of the campaigns of the Hadassah, the Jewish National Fund, the Gewerkschaften, the Mizrahi, the Haganah, the Zionist Organization of America emergency appeals, and numerous other public, semi-public and private undertakings.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



# Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League TO CHAMPION HUMAN RIGHTS, Inc.

20 WEST 47TH STREET, NEW YORK • MEDALLION-3-2720

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June thirteenth  
1939

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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105 Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you most cordially for your good letter of June eleventh. I am indeed sorry to hear that you have been ill and trust that you are now completely recovered.

It is of course a matter of deep regret to us that you cannot see your way clear to join us once more. Despite the many handicaps which we have had to overcome, the League has done and is doing a very important and, we believe, effective piece of work. There is no question whatever that throughout the country at large the Anti-Nazi League is recognized as an outstanding organization in the fight against Nazism and we are as firmly convinced as ever that your assistance at this stage of the battle would be of invaluable importance to us. If you could see your way clear to change your decision, we should be more than delighted and I personally would feel that bringing you back as a leader in our cause is the most important work I had accomplished for the League.

I am sorry to hear of Miss Mayette's illness and shall, as you suggest, write her again.

I also note your remarks regarding the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund and thank you for your aid in this connection. I shall also, as you suggest, write to Mr. Samuel Goldhamer with reference to their allocation.

Once again, my warmest thanks to you for all you have done for us and, if I may say so, for me personally.

With most cordial good wishes,

Faithfully yours,

G. Egerton Harriman,  
Executive Secretary

GEH:DP

Nazi Germany is the Enemy of Civilization

Refuse to Trade with the Enemy



# THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

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June 15, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd.,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

It is appropriate that you should have a report as to the refugees on board the SS ST. LOUIS. Hence the following:

1. Through the financial guarantees given by the Joint Distribution Committee to Belgium, France, Holland and England, and through the direct efforts of Mr. Paul Baerwald, JDC Chairman, now in London, and Mr. Morris C. Troper, European Director, stationed in Paris, and continuous consultation with the JDC officers here, we are assured that all of these refugees will receive a haven, either in France, England, Holland or Belgium. So far, no other organization has participated in the guarantees given by us. We appreciate the help and cooperation of these governments and of their representatives, and of the Intergovernmental Committee and others. The JDC will continue to concern itself with the welfare and maintenance of these refugees.
2. We wish you to know that the SS ST. LOUIS was not brought to Cuba either by the JDC or the National Coordinating Committee, or by any other Jewish agencies. Quite the contrary, we are advised that the Hamburg American Line, two days in advance of sailing from Germany, was notified by the Cuban Government that it would not receive these refugees. Such notification, according to reliable information in our possession, came also from the High Commissioner for Refugees of the League of Nations. When, however, the boat neared Cuba, the Coordinating Committee came into action because 743 of the refugees had affidavits for admission to the U.S., and therefore the problem was one with which the Coordinating Committee was naturally concerned, especially since hundreds of relatives of those on board had besought the aid of the Coordinating Committee. The efforts which the members and officers of the Coordinating Committee made deserve the greatest praise. When it appeared that entry of these refugees to Cuba might depend upon large funds, which the Coordinating Committee lacked, that organization at once turned to the JDC which forthwith deposited with the Chase National Bank the entire maximum amount required to effect entry. Cable information of this deposit immediately went to the President of Cuba, who responded in a cable to me of which the following is a copy:



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 ISAAC H. LEVY, New York  
 SAM A. LEWISOHN, New York  
 ALBERT H. LIEBERMAN, Philadelphia  
 CARL M. LOEB, New York  
 JOSEPH P. LOEB, Los Angeles  
 SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN, New York  
 HERBERT MALLINSON, Dallas  
 SAMUEL MARKELL, Boston  
 JAMES MARSHALL, New York  
 CHARLES W. MORRIS, Louisville  
 EDWARD A. NORMAN, New York  
 MEYER L. PRENTIS, Detroit  
 JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER, New York  
 BENJAMIN J. RABIN, New York  
 AARON S. RAUH, St. Louis  
 A. J. RONGY, New York  
 JAMES N. ROSENBERG, New York  
 LESSING J. ROSENWALD, Philadelphia  
 WILLIAM ROSENWALD, Greenwich, Conn.  
 BEN SADOWSKI, Toronto  
 SIMON SAKOWITZ, Houston  
 A. L. SALTZSTEIN, Milwaukee  
 E. J. SCHANFARBER, Columbus  
 WILLIAM H. SCHWARZSCHILD, Richmond  
 MURRAY SEASONGOOD, Cincinnati  
 EUSTACE SELIGMAN, New York  
 BERNARD SEMEL, New York  
 ALFRED SHERMAN, Seattle  
 WILLIAM J. SHRODER, Cincinnati  
 DUDLEY D. SICHER, New York  
 MENDEL D. SILBERBERG, Los Angeles  
 M. C. SLOSS, San Francisco  
 MODIE J. SPIEGEL, Chicago  
 JESSE H. STEINHART, San Francisco  
 EDGAR B. STERN, New Orleans  
 HENRY M. STERN, Rochester  
 HORACE STERN, Philadelphia  
 HUGH GRANT STRAUS, Brooklyn  
 MRS. ROGER W. STRAUS, New York  
 LEWIS L. STRAUSS, New York  
 AARON TEITELBAUM, New York  
 F. FRANK VORENBERG, Boston  
 EDWARD M. M. WARBURG, New York  
 MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, New York  
 EUGENE WARNER, Buffalo  
 HENRY WINEMAN, Detroit  
 MOSES WINKELSTEIN, Syracuse  
 JONAH B. WISE, New York  
 MORRIS WOLF, Philadelphia

"IN REPLY TO YOUR CABLE REGARDING REFUGEES ON BOARD SS ST. LOUIS YOU KNOW DEAR MR. ROSENBERG THAT CUBA HAS CONTRIBUTED IN RELATION TO ITS RESOURCES AND POPULATION TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN ANY OTHER NATION IN ORDER TO GIVE HOSPITALITY TO PERSECUTED PEOPLE BUT COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEDE TO THIS IMMIGRANT ENTRY INTO NATIONAL TERRITORY SUBJECT ST. LOUIS IS COMPLETELY CLOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT REGRETFULLY REITERATE THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF THEIR ENTRY INTO CUBA WISH TO ASSURE YOU OF MY SINCERE FRIENDSHIP

LAREDO BRU."

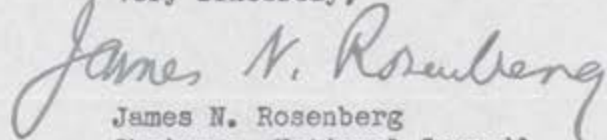
You will see by perusal of this cable that the matter was one of Cuban internal governmental policy and not of financial guarantees. In this connection adequate mention should be made of the fact that a substantial number of refugees in Cuba are receiving the hospitality of that country.

3. The fact that the JDC has furnished the financial guarantees which rescued these refugees does not relieve their relatives or friends of the burden of taking care of those who are close or dear to them, and we hope you will make this clear to any such relatives or friends. The Coordinating Committee will address a separate memorandum to its correspondents on this subject.

In dealing with these difficult problems, we have had magnificent cooperation, day and night, of a committee composed of Alfred Jaretzki, Jr., David M. Bressler, I. Edwin Goldwasser, Joseph C. Hyman, and indeed of all of the officers of the JDC.

The JDC is glad to have been able to accomplish these results which would not have been possible but for the splendid support which the country gives us.

Very sincerely,



James N. Rosenberg  
Chairman, National Council

JNR:AS

**JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE**  
**INCOMING RADIOGRAM**

JUNE 15, 1939

S.S. ST. LOUIS ENROUTE

MORRIS C. TROPER  
EUROPEAN CHAIRMAN  
AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE  
PARIS (FRANCE)

THE 907 PASSENGERS OF STLOUIS DANGLING FOR LAST THIRTEEN DAYS  
BETWEEN HOPE AND DESPAIR RECEIVED TODAY YOUR LIBERATING MESSAGE  
OF THE 13TH JUNE THAT FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL PASSENGERS HAVE  
AT LAST BEEN REACHED stop OUR GRATITUDE IS AS IMMENSE AS THE OCEAN  
ON WHICH WE ARE NOW FLOATING SINCE MAY 13 FIRST FULL OF HOPE FOR  
A GOOD FUTURE AND AFTERWARDS IN THE DEEPEST DESPAIR stop ACCEPT  
MR CHAIRMAN FOR YOU AND FOR THE AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION  
COMMITTEE AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF BELGIUM  
HOLLAND FRANCE AND ENGLAND THE DEEPEST AND ETERNAL THANKS OF MEN  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNITED BY THE SAME FATE ON BOARD THE STLOUIS

COMMITTEE OF PASSENGERS  
JOSEPH CHAIRMAN



EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
**ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE**  
OF B'NAI B'RITH  
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1602  
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,  
CHAIRMAN  
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,  
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

June 20th,  
1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Under separate cover, we are forwarding to you considerable material on the Coughlin situation. During the next few weeks, the arrangements will be made by which our broadcast will be promoted. Mr. Livingston shared my satisfaction and appreciation over your willingness to cooperate with us in the very important matter of demonstrating the fallacies and the malice of Father Coughlin to the American people.

Incidentally, I think you ought to know this. A conference with a Christian owner of a radio station which now has Coughlin on 24 broadcasts a week, reveals some interesting material. Important in this is an almost dogmatic statement to the effect that the Detrouiter is preparing to swing over from his anti-Semitism and to robe himself as a White Knight in favor of genuinely American cooperation of all religious groups. The thought behind this is the development of far greater political importance than the Father now possesses, there being some suggestion that in the event of the President not seeking a third term, he will endorse Farley, the latter being on very close terms with the Detrouiter. This may sound a little bit unreal, in view of some of the attacks made on the Postmaster General, but my informant maintains that the occasional attacks were merely a facade to conceal the real state of affairs.

This may or may not have a bearing on our future operations but I thought you ought to be advised of it.

I am also enclosing herewith, Dr. Silver, a copy of the letter just sent by me to Mr. Goldhammer and I am confident that you will make whatever representations you can consistently make on behalf of the League before the budget committee.

With kindest regards and trusting you have a very salutary vacation, I am,

Very cordially

*Richard E. Gutstadt*

Richard E. Gutstadt  
Director

REG:ebf  
Encl:

*will be forwarded to you*

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APPENDIX E

June 26, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Nat'l Chairman  
United Palestine Appeal  
Ansel Road and 105 Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I desire to place before you officially the request of the Council for a subvention from the United Palestine Appeal for the current year.

The Council is supported primarily by its member agencies. It is a national service agency established by and serving the interests of its 161 members located in 130 cities in the United States and Canada. Funds for the support of the Council are obtained directly from federations and welfare funds. New York City, however, presents a special problem, as you will note from the copy of the enclosed letter addressed to Mr. Henry Ittleton, President of the New York United Jewish Appeal.

In the majority of cities the local welfare fund rather than the federation carries the larger share of the support for the Council. In New York, however, our present member agency, the New York Federation, does not operate a general welfare fund for national and overseas causes so that the normal basis of support for the Council cannot be obtained. For 1939, the New York Federation's membership contribution to the Council was but \$12,000, which though it represented an increase of \$1,500 over the previous year was far from adequate. The Brooklyn Federation also pledged \$1,000 to the Council from its funds.

If these amounts were to be considered as New York's total contribution to the Council they would be altogether disproportionate to those of other cities. In view of the fact that New York will contribute approximately 40% of the funds raised by national and overseas programs its share of responsibility for the Council's budget should be about \$50,000 a year.

We had assumed originally that the New York United Jewish Appeal which is being conducted with the assistance of the Business Men's Council of the New York and Brooklyn Federations might properly accept a share of New York City's responsibility for financing the Council. However, the Executive Committee of the New York UJA, after considering our request carefully, came to the conclusion that they could not properly make a contribution to any organization outside of the three beneficiaries of the UJA. The Executive Committee of the New York UJA, however, considered our request valid and adopted a resolution that it would support favorably any request that we might make directly to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and to the United Palestine Appeal for a contribution to come either from the amount raised by the New York UJA, or from the general funds of the agencies included in the national UJA.



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Cleveland, Ohio

June 26, 1939

We hope that your organization will consider our request favorably and authorize an appropriation to the Council from the funds made available to you by the New York UJA. As we have indicated, we have no problem in cities with an established welfare fund from whom we receive direct membership contributions.

If your organization does not consider it valid to make an appropriation to the Council in behalf of the New York United Jewish Appeal, it is our opinion that direct support of the Council by your organization for this year is legitimate on other grounds. The Council, as a service agency, is asked by its member agencies to assume considerable responsibility for aiding in the establishment and servicing of welfare funds. Our budget covers expenditures for field service, assistance in budgeting and a large number of other types of services aimed mainly at making welfare funds effective and aiding them in assuming their proper share of responsibility for important national and overseas causes. You, of course, recognize that the success of your programs are to a considerable extent dependent upon the character and effectiveness of local Jewish organizations for service and fund raising. It is because the securing of your support depends so largely upon organized welfare funds that the maintenance of the Council's services may be considered an essential factor in the present system of securing adequate support and intelligent interest of all local communities throughout the country for your important program.

We shall be pleased to submit to you any further details on our program and on our budget that you may wish to have in considering this request.

Very sincerely,

SIDNEY HOLLANDER  
President

SH:EA  
Encl.



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STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Aug. 29th. 39

My dear Dr. Goldman:

I'm writing at the moment when everything is still in the balance. Hitler's reply is in but nobody knows what it contains. I had some talk with the military authorities about volunteers. Their difficulty is arms. I have suggested that in the case of American volunteers they could be equipped in U.S.A. To this the reply was that the Treasury finds it terribly difficult to pay for things in America with the exchange against England. To that I replied that we might make some special arrangements in U.S.A.

Halifax is frightened that if a specially Jewish recruiting campaign is launched the American isolationist anti-Semites might make capital out of it. I replied that there is sure to be a movement in favour of recruiting whatever the anti-Semites might say. We cannot always arrange our lives in accordance with what anti-Semites will say or do.

I thought I would let you know all that. Arms is the great thing and they mean by it not only rifles but aircraft, anti-aircraft, tanks, anti-tank guns, etc. If proper arrangements can be made regarding exchange it would be a great thing.

I am still hoping for peace. But the German rulers are mad!

I wish you all the luck in the world. My love to you and all friends. Kindly give my affectionate regards to Dr. Silver. Perhaps we shall meet very soon.

Yours Ever,

(Signed) Ch. Weizmann

# UNITED JEWISH APPEAL (Inc.) FOR REFUGEES AND OVERSEAS NEEDS

ON BEHALF OF  
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.  
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL and  
NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FUND, INC.

342 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

DRAFT

September 6, 1939

Name  
Address

Dear Friend:

We are sending you a memorandum which is enclosed herewith. We are sending this memorandum at the urgent request of a number of community leaders who wish to know the present status of fund-raising and the present requirements, as far as we can determine them, of the beneficiaries of the United Jewish Appeal for 1939. This memorandum is for your own use and is confidential. No part of it is to be quoted in print. You are, however, free to use it in any discussion you wish to undertake with your community leaders and community contributors.

The United Jewish Appeal will keep you informed as to the situation as frequently as possible. If there are any questions you care to ask, please do not hesitate to write and we shall try to answer them.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the New Year, we remain

Sincerely yours,

Abba Hillel Silver      Jonah B. Wise  
National Chairmen

P.S. The beneficiary organizations of the United Jewish Appeal are aware of the fact that the United States is a neutral country in this war and that we are American citizens and that no act of ours in connection with any of our humanitarian efforts should in any deviate from the strictest interpretation of our neutrality obligations as citizens of the United States.

*National Chairmen*

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
RABBI JONAH B. WISE

*Honorary Chairmen*

CYRUS ADLER  
LOUIS BAMBERGER  
ALBERT EINSTEIN  
MAX EPSTEIN  
HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN  
LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN  
HON. JULIAN W. MACK  
HENRY MONSKY  
WILLIAM J. SHRODER  
HON. MAX C. SLOSS  
HON. NATHAN STRAUS  
SAMUEL UNTERMYER  
MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG  
RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE

*Co-Chairmen*

PAUL BAERWALD  
RABBI SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
RABBI ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN  
LOUIS LIPSKY  
JAMES N. ROSENBERG  
WILLIAM ROSENWALD  
HON. MORRIS ROTHENBERG  
EDWARD M. M. WARBURG

*Co-Treasurers*

I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER  
ARTHUR M. LAMPORT

*Executive Vice-Chairmen*

ISIDOR COONS  
HENRY MONTOR

*Allocations Committee*

RABBI SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
HENRY ITTLESON  
LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN  
ALBERT D. LASKER  
RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

*Executive Committee*

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DAVID M. BRESSLER  
JOSEPH C. HYMAN  
HON. JACOB J. KAPLAN  
SIDNEY LANSBURGH  
HON. LOUIS E. LEVINthal  
SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN  
LOUIS P. ROCKER  
CHARLES J. ROSENBLUM  
ELIHU D. STONE  
and officers

**\$20,000,000 is the National Goal for 1939**

The United Jewish Appeal was created to deal with the normal and emergency tasks <sup>of Jewish war needs</sup> of peace time. It had not been envisaged that it would have to deal with war necessities or to meet the problems that war would bring to its constituent agencies. Though conscious of the responsibilities added to its program because of the European conflict, the United Jewish Appeal is not planning at this time to enlarge its call upon American Jewry <sup>we raise the</sup> for \$20,000,000 during 1939. But in view of questions that have come to us, we feel it urgent to call the attention of community leaders to these facts: (a) That the United Jewish Appeal requires funds for its agencies with greater dispatch than ever before, and (b) That the country may be assured that the agencies within the United Jewish Appeal by reason of personnel, machinery and experience are properly equipped to adapt themselves to the new situation created by war. The need for immediate funds for the constituent agencies of the United Jewish Appeal is so great that ~~community~~ <sup>after</sup> communities that have already held their drives are being urged to remit immediately as large resources as can be mobilized; this being done by requesting contributors to anticipate the payment of their pledges in view of the new requirements. Communities which have not yet held their 1939 campaigns are being urged to organize their fund-raising efforts as promptly as possible in order that the minimum of \$20,000,000 may be fully realized. It is evident to every observer of the European scene that \$20,000,000 is truly a minimum and if the United Jewish Appeal officers are not at this time issuing a plea for much larger sums it is because we are awaiting a more accurate definition of the very grave tasks that will need our utmost sympathy and generosity.

1. The National Refugee Service, Inc., has so far exceeded in its rate of expenditure its original allotment. There is no prospect of anything but a large demand upon its resources up to the end of the year 1939. The numbers of immigrants now waiting in countries outside Germany for admission to the United States



are so large that it is quite unlikely that there will be any diminution from the quota permitted by Federal law. There will be no easing up on the obligation to meet the problems of migration to the United States even though Germany does not force some of its Jewish population to leave if they have American visas. The problems of rerouting, resettlement, maintenance and employment are by no means changed. Therefore, we cannot expect to alter the rate of expenditure of the National Refugee Service, Inc. As far as the United Jewish Appeal is concerned, we must provide it with funds on the basis of the \$20,000,000 appeal.

2. The Joint Distribution Committee has been forced to take over much larger obligations than it had in mind when the \$20,000,000 budget was agreed upon. It is confronted now with a grave situation in all parts of Europe for which it has accepted considerable financial obligations in the past several years. Since no money has been sent by the Joint Distribution Committee directly to Germany there is no alteration of its position in that respect. The refugee countries at war with Germany, such as England, France and Poland, are facing problems that require immediate attention from all their nationals, and secondly, the collection of funds in those countries for the relief of refugees is stopped. It must also be apparent that Jewish nationals will choose to serve their country and must withdraw from special committee service and special project administration, leaving the bulk of this work to neutrals such as the American group. We have not yet been able to consider the extent of our responsibility to Poland in the matter of added funds for relief, shelter and food for women, children and old people. As we write this the very center of the Jewish population of Poland is being penetrated by Nazi armies. The experience of Polish Jewry at the hands of German armies in 1914 must be vividly in the memory of all those who lived through those days. The Germans were not then Nazis. No one can pretend to picture the depth of misery to which these people will fall and no one knows what will be our moral responsibility which we only can meet with some form of financial aid. This does not state the whole problem of the Joint Distribution Committee

for, as you know, it is responsible for widespread assistance in all parts of the world. War does by no means reduce these responsibilities, but increases them.

3. The United Palestine Appeal is faced with the necessity of backing up the work in Palestine for the benefit of those who have settled there and of those who are going there now in larger numbers than had been anticipated before the outbreak of war. This number is increased so substantially that previous figures are of no value. Because of the necessity of evacuation of refugees from many European countries <sup>which</sup> ~~it~~ may involve new conditions and opportunities in Palestine the problem becomes one which involves a very serious financial responsibility. This becomes more true when it is remembered that England, France and Poland which hitherto shared substantially in the Palestine upbuilding program cannot be relied upon for further help in view of the domestic defense requirements. With thousands of Jews in Palestine standing as defenders by the side of Great Britain, we must see to it that the peaceful task of reconstruction which they have laid aside may be continued in increased measure by others. Palestine Jewry will need large resources for the maintenance of the structure that has already been created and for the enlargement of the opportunities that may be afforded.

This statement is made as prief as possible. The details can be had if you desire them.

# AMERICAN ZIONIST BUREAU

625 WOODWARD BUILDING • WASHINGTON, D. C.  
TELEPHONE NAtional 8508-8509

Office of the Director  
RABBI ISADORE BRESLAU

September 9th, 1939

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

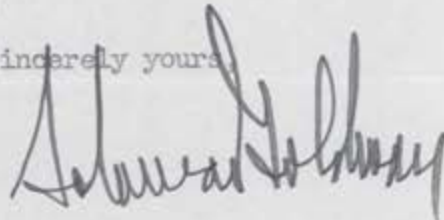
Dear Dr. Silver:

Dr. Wise, Mr. Lipsky and I have been informed by Dr. Weizmann and the Executive to form a committee empowered to deal with the problems affecting Zionism and Palestine arising out of the war. The Committee as you know, is to include representation of the other parties and is to constitute an Emergency or Provisional committee.

We desire you, Robert Szold, Cyrus Adler and Henry Monsky to serve with us as members of this committee. Please let us know at once that you will serve with us.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Isadore Bresslau', written in a cursive style.



September 12, 1939

Dr. Solomon Goldman  
American Zionist Bureau  
625 Woodward Building  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. Goldman:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 9 inviting me to join the emergency committee for Palestine which you are forming. I shall be very pleased to serve.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT ON INTERVIEWS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.  
SEPTEMBER 11, 1939

In accordance with the decision arrived at at a preliminary meeting of the Committee of Ten, held on Sunday, September 10th, at which there were present Dr. Wise, Mr. Lipsky, Dr. Goldman, Mr. Wertheim and Mrs. Szold, it was agreed that the Praesidium go to Washington to establish contact with the British Embassy and to meet with the State Department. Dr. Wise, Mr. Lipsky and Dr. Goldman came to Washington on Monday morning, September 11th, and visited the British Ambassador and the Secretary of State. Memoranda on the visits are herewith appended.

In connection with the visit to Secretary Hull, we were informed that the State Department would communicate certain advices in connection with the status of Palestine as a mandated territory, and also an opinion on the law relating to recruiting.

In connection with the visit paid to the British Ambassador, His Excellency is to advise us as to how the facilities of the Embassy are to be made of service to our Committee, and also an opinion on the question of the status of American citizens in case of enlistment in the British army.

It may be added that as representatives of the American Jewish Congress, with Dr. Wise at the head, a visit was paid to the Polish Embassy in order to convey to him the sympathy of the Jews of America, and the desire of the Jews of America to be helpful to the Polish Republic in these days of difficulty. His Excellency, Count Potocki, expressed gratitude to the delegation for its words of sympathy and its expression of a desire to cooperate.

The delegation offered to establish contacts for the Polish Embassy, to enable it to present the Polish case and the needs of Poland to the American people. The delegation agreed to establish contact for the Polish Embassy with Mr. Harry Warner of Warner Brothers., Barney Balaban of Paramount Pictures Corp., and Mr. William Paley of Radio.

MEMORANDUM

INTERVIEW HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1939, WITH HIS EXCELLENCY LORD LOTHIAN,  
AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D.C., BY DR. GOLDMAN, MR. LIPSKY AND DR. WISE.

We started the conversation by saying that we wished to assure him of our identification with the views expressed at the Geneva Zionist Congress with relation to the state of war declared by the United Kingdom, and with the letter written by Dr. Chaim Weizmann to the Prime Minister. His Excellency was deeply appreciative of our visit and expressed readiness to be helpful, and hoped that we would continue to be in touch with him.

1) RECRUITING: We stated that there were many young American Jews prepared to enlist in the armies of the democracies. The number will undoubtedly increase as the war goes on. We discussed the difficulties arising out of the American Neutrality Laws, and stated our unwillingness to take any step which would not be in accord with the spirit of the Neutrality Law. We informed His Excellency of Secretary Hull's position in the matter.

His Excellency explained that he personally, of course, could have no part in any facilitation of enlistment on American soil. He informed us, however, that he was in possession of knowledge that many thousands were leaving the United States in order to enlist in the armies of the democracies, particularly in the aviation service.

2) POLITICAL STATUS OF ENLISTED MEN: The question was raised whether citizens of the United States, enlisting in the armies of the democracies and particularly in the British army, would be asked to forfeit their American citizenship. His Excellency pointed out that that difficulty had been overcome in the World War through an arrangement which provided that the citizens of the United States express their allegiance to the King only for the period of the war, without renouncing their allegiance to their own government. His Excellency was not sure on this point, and promised to advise us of the position of his Government.

3) FACILITIES: We informed His Excellency that during the period of the Great War, the British Embassy at Washington had extended many courtesies to the Provisional Committee for General Zionist Affairs. We inquired whether the Embassy would be prepared to extend the same facilities to the Zionist Organization of America. His Excellency promised to take this matter under advisement and to inform us.

4) STATUS OF PALESTINE: We raised the question as to whether Palestine, a mandated territory, could be regarded as being technically at war, and not as neutral. His Excellency was under the impression that, taking all the circumstances into account, Palestine would be considered as involved in the war.

5) DR. WEIZMANN'S VISIT: When informed of Dr. Weizmann's contemplated visit to the U.S., His Excellency expressed great pleasure and spoke of Dr. Weizmann as one of the greatest statesmen of the world "with whom, I must frankly say, I have often disagreed."



MEMORANDUM

INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HULL AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, D.C., ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1939, at 11:30 A.M.

During the course of our conversation, the Secretary introduced us to one of his legal advisers, with whom we had a discussion after we left him.

1) RECRUITING: We reported to the Secretary that our information was that many young men are preparing to enlist in the armies of the democracies. We desired his advice as to what could be done to facilitate the fulfillment of their wishes without violation of the Neutrality Laws of the United States. The Secretary said that any form of recruiting on territory of the United States, for service in a foreign army, would be regarded as a felony. In answer to the question whether the opening of a Bureau of Information for the guidance of the young men, as to how they could enlist on non-American territory, would be regarded as a violation, he was inclined to the opinion that it would come "pretty close." He spoke with sympathy and understanding of the position Jews in the U.S. found themselves at this time.

2) SUPPLIES TO PALESTINE: We discussed the possibility of sending supplies to Palestine from the U.S. The Secretary was of the opinion that Palestine would be regarded as a country at war. A state of war had been announced by the United Kingdom, which did not involve independent dominions, but, in his opinion, it did include Crown Colonies and Mandated territories, especially in a Mandated territory where there was a British High Commissioner and British soldiers were engaged in policing the country.

3) DR. WEIZMANN'S VISIT: We informed the Secretary of the contemplated visit of Dr. Chaim Weizmann. The secretary expressed great interest.

At the conclusion of the conversation, the Secretary summoned Mr. who, he said, would give us further legal information with regard to the questions we had raised.

After bidding the Secretary goodbye, we retired to a separate room and discussed the matter with Mr. who practically reiterated the views of the Secretary as to recruiting and gave us more explicit information on the point whether the Mandated territory of Palestine could be regarded as legally involved in the war.

Before leaving the Secretary, we informed him that we would have occasion to call on him more frequently for advice with regard to the many problems we would have to consider, in which the State Department would be interested. The Secretary expressed his readiness to receive us whenever we felt the need of meeting with him.

MEMORANDUM

September 12, 1939.

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

FROM: Mr. Samuel Caplan

Attached hereto are copies of two cables  
received this morning.



SEPTEMBER 12, 1959.

JERUSALEM

GOLDMAN LIPSKY SILVER WISE  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION 111 FIFTH AVENUE NEWYORK

WEIZMANN DOUBTLESS TRANSMITTED YOU OUR APPRECIATION POSITION  
URGENT REQUIREMENTS STOP EXTRAORDINARY FINANCIAL EFFORTS  
IMPERATIVE PLEASE CABLE YOUR ESTIMATE IMMEDIATELY REALISABLE  
FUNDS FROM ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE UJA OR LOAN ON ACCOUNT FUTURE  
RECEIPTS STOP ACCEPT YOUR SUGGESTION FUNDS BE RETAINED OUR ACCOUNT  
NEWYORK TO BE REMITTED ACCORDING OUR TELEGRAPHIC REQUESTS WOULD  
APPRECIATE YOUR CABLING US WEEKLY BALANCES REGULARLY STOP IMPORTANT  
SHOULD BE REALISED WE MUST COPE 6500 MAAPILIM LANDED OFFICIALLY LAST  
QUARTER 1200 RELEASED HANDED JEWISH AGENCY ONLY TODAY WHOM OF 650  
CZECHS ALSO HOPE UTILISE FULLY OVER 5000 CERTIFICATES WHOSE HOLDERS  
YET UNARRIVED INCLUDING 1500 STILL IN GREATER GERMANY FOR WHOSE DEPARTURE  
ADMISSION SPECIAL FACILITIES BEING SECURED THEIR ABSORPTION PRESENT  
CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ENTAIL ADDITIONAL EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE TRUST  
YOU WILL DO UTMOST STOP REGARDING FOOD VERY GRATEFUL YOUR OFFER POSITION  
FOLLOWING AMPLE FOODSTOCKS AVAILABLE FOR MONTHS NEGOTIATING GOVERNMENT  
REGARDING ADDITIONAL PURCHASES NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES STOP PRESENT ACUTE  
DIFFICULTIES CAUSED FIRST BY PANIC CONSEQUENT HOARDING WITHHOLDING OF  
SUPPLIES RISE PRICES SECONDLY BY RESTRICTION CREDITS INSISTANCE CASH  
PAYMENTS MAKING POSITION POORER PEOPLE UNTENABLE STOP IN ABSENCE QUOTATIONS  
UNABLE JUDGE WHETHER PURCHASES AMERICA WORTHWHILE OUR PRIMARY NEED IS  
ESTABLISHMENT STORES FOR SALE AT COST PRICE TO NEEDY FOR THIS REQUIRE  
SPECIAL FUNDS WHAT WE NEED IS MONEY NOT GOODS EAGERLY AWAITING YOUR REPLY

KAPLAN EXECUTIVE



September 12, 1953.

JERUSALEM

GOLDMAN ZIONIST ORGANISATION  
111 FIFTH AVENUE NEWYORK

AGENCY AND VAAD LEUMI JOINTLY EFFECTING VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION  
FOR NATIONAL SERVICE MEN WOMEN EIGHTEEN TO FIFTY TRIPLE OBJECT  
STRENGTHEN MESHEK YISHUV DEFENSE YISHUV SERVICE BRITISH ARMY IN  
PALESTINE WHEN CALLED UPON STOP REGISTRATION PROCEEDING SUCCESSFULLY  
WITH EARNESTNESS ENTHUSIASM

BENGURION

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1939, 8 P.M.

AT THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL, 111 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

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PRESENT: Louis Lipsky, in the chair; Mrs. Judith Epstein, Harry P. Fierst, David Freiburger, Leon Gellman, Leib Glantz, Solomon Goldman, Israel Goldstein, James G. Heller, Edward L. Israel, Max Kirshblum, I.M. Kowalsky, Abraham Krumbein, Arthur M. Lamport, Ludwig Lewisohn, Abraham Liebovitz, Irving Miller, Henry Montor, Charles Ress, Louis Rinsky, Louis P. Rocker, Abba Hillel Silver, Jacob Sincoff, Morris Weinberg, David Wertheim, Stephen S. Wise.

Mendel Fisher, Mrs. Alex Lamport, Morris Margulies, Alex Rothenberg, Meyer Steinglass.

EXCUSES FOR ABSENCE

Excuses for absence were received from Rabbi Barnett Brickner, Sol Cohen, Dr. Maurice J. Karpf, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Israel Sachs, Louis Segal and Dr. Ferdinand Sonneborn.

REPORT ON CAMPAIGN

Two reports on the campaign, one stating the income and disbursements of the United Palestine Appeal for 1939 as of September 18, 1939 (Appendix A) and one giving the income and disbursements of the United Jewish Appeal as of September 18, 1939 (Appendix B) were presented to the Committee by Mr. Montor together with a statement on the program of the campaign for the balance of the year.

Mr. Montor pointed out that the amount received in cash by the United Palestine Appeal from January 1, 1939 to September 18, 1939 (\$3,074,022.47) is the largest cash amount received in any similar period in the history of fund-raising for the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth in the United States.

In explanation of the report on the United Jewish Appeal Mr. Montor stated that the \$14,084,487.02 total of pledges does not include the allocation from Boston, from which between \$400,000 and \$500,000 is expected, nor does it include the total pledge of Chicago, from which a balance of \$600,000 to \$700,000 is expected. Chicago is awaiting the action of the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal before taking any action on this balance.

The three major campaigns for the Fall are those in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Cincinnati. Philadelphia is thinking in terms of \$560,000 for the UJA out of a total quota of \$1,000,000. Baltimore has spoken in terms of \$300,000, whereas Cincinnati has talked of a minimum of \$200,000, and has considered a larger amount if the income warrants.



There are a number of other communities which are to hold campaigns in the Fall for sizable amounts --- Rochester, Denver, Providence and Wilmington, among others, all of which are giving larger amounts per capita than ever before. It is believed that these fall campaigns will bring in between two and three million dollars. The United Jewish Appeal now has allocations of some \$15,000,000, so that the income of the United Jewish Appeal should be in the neighborhood of \$17,000,000 or \$18,000,000, which, of course, is the largest sum that has ever been raised for similar Jewish purposes in the United States.

The outbreak of war has had its consequences for the UJA. Instead of the realization that the need has become greater, there is, instead, a feeling that no campaigns are necessary because there are no places to spend the money. There have been inquiries from various communities, from those planning Fall campaigns particularly. Special efforts must be made, particularly in the smaller communities, to make the contributors understand that they must give at least in the proportions established in the Spring. Questions have been asked particularly about the use of funds in Germany, Poland, etc. The JDC has tried to answer these questions but is faced with the non-existence of authoritative information.

Another consequence of the war has been a retardation of collections. For example, Pittsburgh, which raised a total of \$450,000, has found that during September many of the large contributors have withheld payment. These conditions will require special activity on the part of UJA headquarters.

The JDC has stated privately that it is not yet in a position to send money to Germany or Poland, the emphasis being on the requirements outside of Germany and Poland and particularly on the refugees who have left Poland. The JDC had a series of conferences with the Quakers to whom the proposition has been made that they handle JDC money in Germany and Poland; and with the Red Cross to see whether they can distribute funds. The situation has been complicated since Germany has refused to permit the International Red Cross to operate in Germany.

The principal concern of the United Palestine Appeal at this time should be the thought for 1940 --- that is, the terms on which a united campaign may be created; the relationship with the JDC with particular reference to the improved position of Palestine now as compared with January 1939. The funds already raised and which will probably be raised during the balance of the year are larger than was thought could be raised. This is due, Mr. Montor felt, to two things: the situation abroad; but the primary reason was the united front presented to American Jewry. Many communities which have raised unprecedented sums would have hesitated about doing so if they had to hear the competitive claims of various organizations. Insofar as Palestine propaganda was concerned, Mr. Montor believed it had reached into new quarters. Moreover, the cash return was greater than might have been possible otherwise.

#### New York United Jewish Appeal Campaign

Mr. Blitz, reporting on the New York UJA campaign, of which he is now director stated that it had officially closed on July 1, 1939 when Federation withdrew its staff. At that time the New York United Jewish Appeal had raised approximately \$6,500,000, of which about \$3,500,000 was in cash. Then Mr. Lamport became the Co-Chairman in fact together with Mr. Warburg.



By various means within the agreement with Federation, the UJA has since been able to raise \$230,000 additional since July 1st. About \$1,000,000 additional in cash has been collected on pledges since July 1st. There is still outstanding \$2,000,000. However there is only \$1,000,000 to collect, as \$1,000,000 is in group pledges which money cannot be collected until the end of the year, as these groups feel that if they make a payment now they will be pressed for funds by every other campaign.

Mr. Lamport was also able, he said, to bring about realization of the two reservations which the United Palestine Appeal originally voted on the New York agreement -- that is, conduct of the "Night of Stars" and a High Holiday appeal, both of which have been permitted. Owing to lack of preparation, however, not as much money will be raised in the holiday appeal as had been hoped. It probably will bring in about \$25,000.

Mr. Lamport, discussing the total that might be obtained by the United Jewish Appeal nationally by the end of the year, believed that with deduction of expenses in New York and nationally there might be a total expectancy of some \$17,000,000.

Motion was made and carried to accept the reports on the UJA as presented with a word of appreciation for the outstanding work which has been accomplished during the year.

#### REPORT ON WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS - Expectations from America

Dr. Silver, in reporting on the World Zionist Congress, and the financial expectations from America, stated that while the income for 1939 is a very good income and enabled the Jewish Agency pretty well to meet its budget, and while the income for 1940 conservatively estimated will be a sizable income (the Jewish Agency fiscal year runs from September to September, and the UPA contribution to the Jewish Agency for that fiscal year would be anywhere from \$4,500,000 to \$5,000,000), nevertheless the Jewish Agency will be confronted with the following situation: it adopted in Geneva a minimum budget of £720,000 for the Keren Hayesod (and a larger tentative budget of £1,000,000). If the Keren Kayemeth budget should be for a similar amount, the total would be from \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000 at least, based on the minimum budgets. If war continues, America probably will be the one real source of income for Palestine. If the UPA succeeds, most optimistically considered, in sending to Palestine during the next twelve months the full amount of \$5,000,000, the Jewish Agency (Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth) will still be confronted with a very serious deficit, and the UPA will have to give great thought as to how it can raise the extraordinary sums of money required by the Jewish Agency in order that it may be enabled to carry on the work which it planned without even taking war into consideration.

Dr. Goldstein advised that of the £720,000 budget for the Keren Hayesod, two thirds was expected from America at Geneva. The larger inclusive budget of £1,000,000 provided for allocations to certain necessary activities for which provision could not be made in the minimum estimates. In addition, a project was submitted regarding a loan which was to be undertaken by the Keren Hayesod throughout the world, most of

which again was expected to come from the United States. The amount mentioned was £1,000,000. At least fifty percent was expected from this country. Dr. Weizmann indicated that he would come here on behalf of this loan as well as on behalf of other matters discussed with Dr. Silver and Dr. Goldman.

Dr. Goldstein said that while the commission sessions at the Congress which he attended were devoted primarily to the requirements of the Keren Hayesod, the Keren Kayemeth usually has a budget that equals that of the Keren Hayesod, which in this instance would be £1,000,000.

#### PURPOSES OF THE £1,000,000 KEREN HAYESOD LOAN

At Geneva, Eliezer Kaplan, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, told the Finance Commission (according to the Palcor News Agency) of the details of the Keren Hayesod (£1,000,000 loan on a 20-year, 4% basis. The proceeds would be used as follows: £225,000 for housing, school buildings and roads; £125,000 for maritime activities, including Tel Aviv port and aviation; £125,000 for the stimulation of trade and industry; the balance for the consolidation of colonization.

#### DETAILS OF JEWISH AGENCY "MINIMUM" BUDGET

A "minimum" budget was presented at Geneva involving £720,000. The major items of this Jewish Agency budget are:

- £100,000 for colonization
- £100,000 for settlement of refugees
- £ 80,000 for security and political activities
- £ 35,000 for trade and industry

An alternative budget was also presented, involving the expenditure of £1,000,000 for the year, the budget to be determined by the Keren Hayesod income. With increased receipts, priority would be given to new colonization activities, more immigration and enlarged security.

Mr. Montor asked that permission be extended for the extension on the record of the remarks of Dr. Silver and Dr. Goldman so that when the actual budgets are available they may be entered in the minutes.

#### CABLES FROM DR. WEIZMANN AND ELIEZER KAPLAN

As an amplification on the situation existing in Palestine today cables were read from Dr. Weizmann and Eliezer Kaplan. (Appendix C and D).

With reference to the loans which Eliezer Kaplan mentions in his cable, Dr. Silver said that there were two loans involved -- one a short term loan for which Kaplan has not made any immediate request; the other the large loan which Dr. Weizmann would help launch. Dr. Weizmann had agreed to come to the United States the end of this month or early in October for Zionist propaganda work and also to help float the \$2,500,000 share of America in the loan. Preliminary work had been done on that loan and initial preparations for his coming had been started when war broke out. There was a question as to whether he would still come; then word was received that Dr. Weizmann was ready to come in October. However, at a meeting this afternoon of the Emergency Committee on Zionist affairs



it was the consensus of opinion that we proceed with the preparations for Dr. Weizmann's coming but that we suggest that his coming be delayed until after the neutrality legislation in Congress be disposed of, for fear that his coming might be misinterpreted. Dr. Goldman is cabling Dr. Weizmann to that effect.

Dr. Silver pointed out that the contemplated loan of £1,000,000 was not predicated on the expectancy of a war. It was to complete the colonization work and to consolidate our position in Palestine.

#### PLANS FOR 1940

Dr. Silver pointed out the United Palestine Appeal must proceed before long with discussions with the JDC regarding the 1940 campaign. He asked whether the Administrative Committee authorized its officers to enter into such discussions; whether the committee is satisfied that it wants a joint campaign for 1940.

Mr. Lipsky stated that in view of this year's budget being much larger than ever before, we must consider whether we can raise that amount of money. Would we not be compelled to have an emergency campaign in order to do so, he asked, and could that be done if we went into a joint campaign.

Mr. Lamport felt that the conversations with the JDC should be deferred until after the meeting of the Allocations Committee. He felt that by that time the position of Palestine would be clarified. The Allocations Committee meeting could indicate the attitude of its members to the Palestine needs and opportunities. This would serve as a guide to next year's plans.

Dr. Silver felt that it was hardly likely that they would decide at the first meeting of the Allocations Committee what disposition would be made of the entire balance over and above the initial \$9,500,000. The first million or two would probably be discussed.

Motion was made and carried that the Chairman be authorized to appoint a committee on negotiations which will be prepared to discuss the 1940 campaign with the JDC when the matter arises.

Rabbi Heller stated that there is a strong, even if erroneous, sentiment in many communities that there is no use in raising funds for Palestine, Germany or Poland. This feeling was prevalent in his own community of Cincinnati where many pertinent questions are being asked about Palestine since the issuance of the White Paper. There was general obscurity with regard to the effect of the war on Palestine. He felt that a statement should be issued by the UPA in cooperation with the leaders in Palestine with regard to the present situation - what the probabilities are, etc.

Dr. Silver felt that it was more important that the UPA send representatives to the three or four large communities which are going to hold campaigns, and sit down with their leaders and in confidence give them the whole picture.



It was the consensus of opinion that these things be done.

#### PLANS FOR 1940

Mr. Lipsky pointed out that with regard to the plans for 1940 there must be a statement of agreement between the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth as to their intentions of continuing the UPA for 1940.

There seemed to be no opinion adverse to the continuance of the United Palestine Appeal. The Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth were to be asked to register their views and undertake to renew their agreement for 1940.

#### MEETING OF ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

Dr. Silver advised that he and Dr. Goldman would request the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal to call a meeting within the next ten days in order that discussions may begin with regard to the income over and above the initial \$9,500,000.

Mr. Lipsky remarked that at previous meetings there had been discussed the advisability of summoning experts from Jerusalem to assist the Allocations Committee in presentation of the facts. Since a meeting of the Allocations Committee seemed scheduled for October 3rd, it was felt there would be no time for such experts to arrive. Moreover, the first meeting of the Allocations Committee would be exploratory in character.

Motion was made and carried that the UPA members on the Allocations Committee be authorized to summon to their aid such technical experts and other experts from Palestine as they deem necessary.

#### POALE ZION CAMPAIGN

Mr. Montor asked whether it was not relevant for this Committee to question the wisdom of the Poale Zion in now embarking on a campaign for \$1,000,000 at a time when the responsibilities that devolve on the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth are heavier than at any other time, and when American Jewry through the United Palestine Appeal, is being asked to bear a larger share of their budgets than before. Moreover the Poale Zion drive was using exactly the same slogans as the United Palestine Appeal might be expected to use.

Mr. Wertheim referred to previous minutes which would indicate that such a campaign has been held every year; they were willing to advise with the officers of the United Palestine Appeal so that their campaign would not conflict with the UPA's. After a brief discussion, it seemed that no influence could be brought to bear to change the campaign plans.

#### EFFECT OF UNITED STATES NEUTRALITY LAWS ON UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

Mr. Montor reported that the United Palestine Appeal has been in communication with the State Department as a result of the announcement on September 5th of rules and regulations under the neutrality laws affecting fund-raising in the United States for belligerent countries. The State Department has ruled that Palestine, even though not referred to by the President, is nevertheless regarded as a belligerent country;

and the rules with regard to registration under the neutrality laws for fund-raising refer to Palestine. The United Jewish Appeal does not have to register under these laws because it is merely a fund-raising body operating in the United States. Its constituent agencies, the UPA and JDC, which send funds abroad, must register. The United Palestine Appeal, the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth must register. The United Palestine Appeal has already filed its registration. The laws require that monthly reports be filed - however not reports on the full amounts forwarded to Palestine; merely those amounts which might be used for medical aid, clothing, food and shelter and for purposes arising from the war.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

A request was presented by Dr. Wise on behalf of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees for an additional grant of \$2,500. During the past year the United Palestine Appeal contributed \$4,500. In early August a call came for \$2,500. There was no one in New York with whom Dr. Wise could consult; he, therefore, advanced \$1,000.

Dr. Wise felt that the President's Advisory Committee and possibly the President's Conference of October 16th and 17th, if held, may inure to the very great advantage of Palestine.

Motion was made and carried that \$2,500 be allocated to the President's Advisory Committee, of which \$1,000 is to be refunded to Dr. Wise in payment of the advance made by him to the President's Committee.

Dr. Silver stated that he was willing to vote for this appropriation as he had for previous ones but he felt that unless the President's Committee or the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee evidenced some interest in Palestine we should cease giving Palestine funds.

Dr. Wise advised that he had attended a meeting last week of the President's Committee attended also by Myron Taylor. He was not prepared to say that all the members of the Committee, least of all Jewish members, share his enthusiasm for Palestine as a place of refuge. The State Department, however, understands the problem. Mr. Robert Pell understands the problem. Dr. Wise discussed at length, in the Advisory Committee the unique importance of Palestine in relation to the refugee problem. He felt that if the President's Conference were held, very great good for Palestine would come out of it.

Dr. Wise reported that he said at the meeting that within five years we could easily settle one hundred thousand families in Palestine; that is, if war ends and normal conditions be restored. He felt that we ought to be completely informed about what is taking place in England; and if Dr. Weizmann comes he will have an opportunity to explain the matter fully to the President.

Dr. Goldman felt that in preparation for the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Committee called by President Roosevelt. The United



Palestine Appeal should prepare a report on the absorptive capacity of Palestine and on what Palestine has done.

The Committee approved

Mr. Lamport felt that the time was ripe for the United Palestine Appeal to secure the services of an expert statistician to work with our members of the Allocations Committee, to work with our representatives on the President's Advisory Committee, and to work generally in the preparation of statistical material as it is required.

The Committee approved

STATUS OF COORDINATING FOUNDATION AND RELATION THERETO OF U.P.A.

Dr. Silver called attention to the fact that last Spring the United Palestine Appeal was asked to set aside funds toward the underwriting of the refugee Coordinating Foundation. The United Palestine Appeal as such was unwilling to contribute towards this fund. It was then suggested that for the sake of avoiding unnecessary conflict with the J.D.C. the matter be referred to Jerusalem. Our office communicated with Eliezer Kaplan on the matter, and lengthy conferences were held in London, Jerusalem and in Geneva on the subject; and while the Executive was not enthusiastic about the idea, they felt that for the sake of peace and in order to have a stronger position in the Allocations Committee, it might be well to make a gesture -- that the United Palestine Appeal would meet the J.D.C. up to \$100,000. Much has happened since that time, and Dr. Silver questioned whether the Coordinating Foundation could now function. Whether the J.D.C. is now ready to shoulder the full responsibility for the project, and whether the UPA wishes to bear its share must be reconsidered. Dr. Silver felt that the whole matter is probably dropped.

Mr. Lipsky also felt that since the matter depended upon the acceptance of the proposal by the German government, the whole thing is probably off.

Dr. Silver was asked after exploring the status further to consult with the Administrative Committee again before any decision is reached with respect to the participation of the UPA, in the Coordinating Foundation.

Dr. Goldstein asked whether Dr. Silver had had an opportunity to sound out Mr. Ussishkin on this matter. Dr. Silver assumed that Eliezer Kaplan had done so as the latter spoke in the name of the Agency.



#### BANK LOAN

Mr. Lamport moved that in view of the need for additional funds to be sent to Palestine quickly, the officers be authorized to make short-term loans from the banks not to exceed \$500,000.

The resolution which was moved and carried, reads as follows:

That the National Chairman, the Treasurer and Associate Treasurer, of the United Palestine Appeal be authorized in their discretion to make loans not to exceed \$500,000.

#### RELATION OF UPA TO EMERGENCY COMMITTEE ON ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Mr. Lipsky reported that the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs was organized this afternoon in accordance with instructions received from Dr. Weizmann who acted in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Executive after the Geneva Congress. This authorization directed Dr. Goldman, Dr. Wise and Mr. Lipsky to organize in the United States an emergency committee to give consideration to all Zionist problems arising out of the war, and to act for the Executive in America, with the understanding that there were to be appointed on that committee representatives of the parties. The committee designated by Dr. Weizmann co-opted Dr. Silver as Chairman of the UPA, and Robert Szold as economic and legal adviser. It also agreed to invite Mr. Henry Monsky and Dr. Cyrus Adler to become members of the Committee. Two representatives each of Hadassah, Mizrahi and Poale Zion were also co-opted.

Mr. Lipsky explained that under the authority given to it, the Emergency Committee has the duty of coordinating and regulating all the problems arising in the United States <sup>with</sup> bearing on the problems of the war. One of the first problems to be dealt <sup>with</sup> arose out of the cable from Eliezer Kaplan referring to the holding and dispatch of UPA funds. The Emergency Committee decided that all funds collected by the U.P.A. be held here subject to call by the Executive.

Mr. Lipsky assumed that, in accordance with the directions received from Dr. Weizmann, the Emergency Committee stands in place of the Executive of the Jewish Agency in the United States, and that the United Palestine Appeal would take cognizance of the situation and act in accordance with the instructions received from Mr. Kaplan; and, therefore, that the money is to be held here subject to call by the Executive.

Dr. Goldstein stated that as he understands the matter, the Emergency Committee is to undertake some of the activities which normally would belong to the Executive in Palestine. But insofar as the Keren Kayemeth is concerned, it never has been under the jurisdiction of the Jewish Agency Executive. Therefore it seems advisable that the Emergency Committee should not undertake functions greater than those undertaken by the Agency itself. Under the circumstances and especially in view

the agreement constituting the UPA, he saw no reason why funds should not continue to be distributed between the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth.

Mr. Lipsky felt that under the present emergency war conditions these technical points should not be considered and that all matters pertaining to Palestine should be handled by the Emergency Committee - whether Keren Hayesod or Keren Kayemeth. However, after further discussion

It was agreed that the Emergency Committee be asked to inquire of Palestine by cable whether the UPA is to hold all money collected, subject to call, or only the money of the Keren Hayesod. In the meantime all money is to be held by the U.P.A.

#### APPLICATION FOR SUBVENTION BY COUNCIL OF FEDERATIONS & WELFARE FUNDS

A letter was presented addressed to Dr. Silver (Appendix E) from Sidney Hollander, President of the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds. It asked for a subvention from the UPA to the Council. The request was first addressed to the New York UJA. The latter felt that it was not within its province to make such an allocation; the request was turned over to the UPA and the JDC.

Rabbi Heller felt that the request for such subventions should go to the Welfare Funds of the country.

Dr. Silver explained that in New York City there is no Welfare Fund, and therefore the New York campaign was the only organization to which an approach could be made. He felt that a contribution should be made, but that the amount requested was out of proportion. He felt that the Council has been very helpful.

Rabbi Heller felt that if a contribution were made we should indicate that it applies only to New York City; and he believed this should be done in agreement with the JDC. He did not believe that the grant was a proper responsibility of the UPA nationally.

Mr. Lamport said that the Council does no work whatever for the New York campaign, but that they do very valuable work through the country.

Motion was made and carried that the New York City UPA make a contribution of \$2,500 to the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds.

#### STATUS OF BEN ZION PECKER

Motion was made and carried authorizing the Chairman to appoint in place of a previous committee a sub-committee with power to act on the matter of the status of Ben Zion Pecker, a former employee of the United Jewish Appeal and prior to that, for many years employed in Palestine fund raising organizations.

Respectfully submitted  
Florence Eitelberg



1939

MINUTES OF MEETING OF Z.O.A. EXECUTIVE, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1 P.M., AT THE  
ASTOR HOTEL, BROADWAY AND 44TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

PRESENT: Dr. Solomon Goldman (in the Chair), Messrs. David Berenstein, Robert M. Bernstein, Charles A. Cowen, Judge Henry Ellenbogen, Abraham Goldberg, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Murray Gurfein, Dr. James G. Heller, Dr. Edward L. Israel, Dr. R. H. Levinthal, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Meyer Levy, Ludwig Lewisoohn, Louis Lipsky, Morris Margulies, Rabbi Irving Miller, Charles Ress, Louis P. Rucker, Carl Sherman, Simon Shetzer, William I. Siegel, Robert Szold, Morris Weinberg, Dr. Stephen S. Wise; Alfred J. Kahn (representing Avukah), Eleazer Lipsky (representing Masada); Samuel Caplan, David Freiburger, Meyer W. Weisgal.

Excuses for Absence: Dr. Barnett R. Brickner, Dr. Harry Friedenwald, Abraham Goldstein, Dr. Harris J. Levine, Judge Julian W. Mack, Elihu D. Stone.

A. H. FRIEDLAND:

Dr. Goldman opened the meeting with the following tribute to the late Dr. A. H. Friedland:

"I want to call this meeting to order and in opening the meeting I want us to recall that A. H. Friedland is no longer in our midst. He never missed a meeting from the time he became a member of the Executive. It was only from the last meeting which followed the Convention that he absented himself, and never recovered, never was out on the streets again.

"A. H. Friedland was, to those who knew him, the noblest embodiment of the Hebraic spirit and the Hebraic mood in the United States. One can truly say of him that he never stepped out of these 'Daled Amoth', the four cubics of the Hebraic spirit. I do not want this statement to be misunderstood. I personally know few men who were equally masters of half a dozen European literatures, as was A. H. Friedland, but to whatever subject he came, to whatever literature, he came as a Hebrew of the Hebrews, as one who had walked out of the pages of the Tanach, moved through the folios of the Talmud, and finally emerged in the home of his spirit -- modern Hebrew literature. And in that literature, he was the master par excellence.

"One can say of him, without the slightest exaggeration, that he was a poet, a sage, and a saint. There was so much of Bialik, of that type of personality in A. H. Friedland. If he had not become so absorbed in the problems of American Jewry, primarily as the educator, his genius might have enriched Hebrew literature in the same manner as it was by some of the greatest talents of the day. But the passion for his people, for the literature of his people, their tradition and their whole historic past, and the burning zeal to make American Jewry participate and share, took him out of his literary activities and made of him the dynamic and creative educator that he was.

"He was the traditional lover of the book. You know the practice among us -- that when the Book falls to the ground, we raise it and we kiss it. Friedland did not wait for a book to fall to the ground to kiss it. Those who never saw Friedland turn the pages of a new book which came to his library -- and he had accumulated some 17,000 books -- had never seen a true book lover. When the semi de luxe edition of Bialik's works first appeared in four volumes, I received a telegram from him: 'Mazel tov lanu' -- Congratulations! that we have lived to see this day.



"We are going to miss him, in Jewish education, in Hebrew literature, and in Zionist work. We can only resolve that his name remain a blessing and an inspiration."

Dr. Wise moved

THAT copy of this tribute be sent to Mrs. Friedland, as a mark of our sorrow at the passing of a beloved comrade.

The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

#### REPORT ON ZIONIST CONGRESS:

Dr. Goldman reported briefly on the Zionist Congress. He said:

"I have to give you in a sentence or two a bit of background for the Congress. Prior to my going to Geneva, I went to Palestine and found the situation in Palestine so critical and so confused that I felt the Congress should either be called off or postponed. The Palestinians agreed with me -- that is, those of the leaders in the Organization who were in Palestine -- that a postponement was wise, but that my suggestion had come too late. The Yishuv was confronting many difficulties. No one was quite clear as to what should be done in connection with the White Paper, and it was felt that an open discussion at the Congress was not the wisest way to meet the situation; but many of the delegates were already on the high seas, arrangements had been made, and we went through with the Congress.

"This Congress was not confronted with any ideological controversies. All who were there were Zionists, and the Zionist world was confronted by one question: how to defeat the new policy of the British Government. It was not a question similar to the one of two years ago, a question of partition which became an ideological question, and at times a religious question. Here it was simply the effort to discover the best method, the best way of defeating the White Paper. And there were two main views -- one known as the Weizmann approach, and the other as the Ben Gurion. Dr. Weizmann advocated the stiffest kind of political battle with the British, a constructive program in the Yishuv, but under no circumstances to resort to the use of force. Ben Gurion wanted to go as far as the use of violence, vis-a-vis the British Government. Subsidiary to these two views was the question of unauthorized immigration. It had been agreed that there should be no discussion of Aliyah Beth before the plenum, but that agreement was violated, and those who uttered a word against Aliyah Beth were not the most popular people at the Congress. There was always a storm of protest whenever the suggestion was made. I should say that the delegates to the Congress would have voted 99% for Aliyah Beth, had it been submitted to them. These two views, forgetting Aliyah Beth, were debated primarily in the Political Commission, in the lobbies, in the cafes, but rarely on the floor of the Congress. Dr. Weizmann's view predominated.

"So far for the political work of the Congress. This Congress concerned itself with organizational matters, perhaps more than any previous Congress. Many felt that the Congress machinery was archaic. Many of its forms and methods came of a period when Zionism was a limited movement and the organization a small organization. The man had outgrown the child and there was need for new forms and new techniques, and the Congress grappled with these problems and the delegates discussed them with great earnestness. Some changes were introduced. Much more might have been done if Congress had not had to adjourn some four or five days before adjournment was contemplated. There was some talk in connection with organization, to reorganize the Executive,



but in view of the fact that the Agency meeting was called off, the Executive could not be reorganized and remain constitutional, for the Executive has to be confirmed by the Agency, and with the war coming we did not know how soon we would have an Agency meeting.

"One or two more points: The party conflict in Zionist affairs was keenly felt at the Congress. It was bitter, and some of the parties threatened to walk out. One of them finally did step out and came back again. If there had been no war stimulating, and if we had not been confronted with the White Paper, these conflicts might have assumed unwelcome proportions. They were checked and restrained because of the general situation. But whatever the conflicts were, they ended in peace.

"The American delegation this time was a united delegation. By this I mean that Hadassah and the Z.O.A. both became a part of Group A and acted jointly. I think that on the whole the American delegation was unanimous on most questions. There may have been some personal differences; these always exist, but there were never any serious ideological differences with respect to a Zionist program. Both politically and organizationally we acted together. The presence of the American delegation was welcome and was felt. A good many of our delegates performed some very important tasks and services to the Congress. I do not believe that we were any longer looked upon as primitive Zionists who had just stepped out of our A. B. C. There was a general feeling that the American Jewish community, the American Zionist world had matured and was a force in the movement.

"The details you have read in the newspapers. I have given you this very, very brief and most inadequate statement of what happened at Geneva. I might add that all of us left -- even though we were running away, as it were, from Geneva -- with the determination to go on building the Homeland, and with the deep conviction and unyielding optimism that Palestine is the land of the Jew and will remain Eretz Yisroel."

#### ADDITIONS TO Z.O.A. EXECUTIVE:

The Chairman called attention to the fact that the Convention voted the addition of five members to the Executive. The passing of A. H. Friedland made it necessary to add a sixth member, and Dr. Goldman felt that the vacancy caused by Mr. Friedland's death should be filled by Ezra Z. Shapiro, a Cleveland and a close disciple of A. H. Friedland who was with him to the last moment. As for the country at large, The Pacific Coast had recommended Judge I. M. Golden of San Francisco and Aaron Riche of Los Angeles. The name of Morcedai Konowitz, former President of the Long Island Zionist Region, had been submitted by that Region. Acting on the authority given him by the Convention to name two of the five additions to the Executive, Dr. Goldman submitted the names of A. K. Epstein of Chicago and Israel B. Brodie of New York.

Rabbi Israel felt that the South (East of Mississippi) should be represented on the Executive. Rabbi Levinthal suggested a representative for the Northwest, instead of two for the Pacific Coast. Mr. Goldberg expressed his agreement with Rabbi Israel and Rabbi Levinthal, and suggested that the five names submitted by the President (exclusive of Ezra Shapiro) be considered as nominees and the elections take place at the next meeting. He also moved

THAT Mr. Ezra Z. Shapiro of Cleveland be hereby elected as a member of the Z.O.A. Executive, to fill the vacancy created by the death of A. H. Friedland.



The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Dr. Wise proposed the following motion:

THAT the list as suggested  
by Dr. Goldman be accepted.

Seconded and unanimously carried.

#### Z.O.A. OBJECTIVES:

The Chairman felt that the Executive at this meeting, in view of the situation confronting us, should give some time to a consideration of Z.O.A. objectives during this year. He asked the members whether they thought the Organization can proceed along the lines of last year, without making any change in its program, concentrating its efforts along one or two or three particular objectives; or whether they thought, because of the situation we already find ourselves in and the situation we may be in in one or two months, there should be a reconsideration of the program and the objectives of the Organization. He called for discussion on the subject.

Dr. Wise pointed out that there can be no consideration of the objectives of the Z.O.A. without dwelling on the matter of the American Executive for the Jewish Agency, the obligations that it must assume and the part that it will play in the totality of the Zionist picture.

In this connection the Chairman reported that the Executive of the Agency met, following the adjournment of Congress, and named a Committee of Three consisting of Dr. Wise, Mr. Lipsky and himself (Dr. Goldman) as the representatives of the Executive for North and South America, to act during the period of the war on such General Zionist questions as will grow out of the emergency. Subsequent to the action of the Agency Executive, we were advised of the action by Dr. Weizmann and we were asked to organize a Committee and coopt such additional members as the three named will find necessary. This Committee of Three met and is in the process of forming such a Committee. We are asking the parties to be represented. We feel that we should go outside of immediate Zionist circles and invite two men who represent not non-Zionists, strictly speaking, but rather, who represent more an interest in Palestine than in Zionist ideology or in the Zionist Organization. The two men outside of the Zionist circle, recommended by the Committee of Three to the other parties, are Mr. Henry Monsky and Dr. Cyrus Adler. It is quite obvious that this Committee will concern itself with the emergency problems, and those emergency problems will naturally be political as well as economic. The Zionist Organization as such will, for the year, be relieved of political questions. This was to some extent true last year. The political work was done by the inter-party committee. The American Zionist Bureau now becomes not a Bureau of the Parties, but a Bureau of the American Executive of the Agency, and the expenses of the Bureau will not be a part of our budget or of the budget of the other parties; it will be a part of the budget of the Agency. In considering the objectives of the Z.O.A. for the coming year we will have to remember that there will be an Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs that will concern itself with all matters affecting Palestine as a result of the war.

Rabbi Israel stated that we are very deeply concerned with what now assumes even greater importance than ever, namely, the matter of fund-raising. We are also concerned with Zionist District matters, such as membership, education and the like; but we have become increasingly concerned with the political aspects of the situation,



and in line with that we set up this Bureau which will come under the jurisdiction of the Executive. The U.S. Government has ruled that Palestine is a belligerent country. It has also ruled that fund-raising activities will be permitted and will continue as they have with certain regulations that have to be made along Governmental lines. The question that will be put to us is: Just what is the political status of the Zionist movement at the present time, with regard to the American scene, since the American Government (the State Department) has taken the attitude that Palestine constitutes a belligerent nation? How far can we advance and carry on propaganda? In our membership work we will be asked what is the relationship of Zionism as a political movement to the reestablishment of a Jewish Homeland under present conditions.

Dr. Wise stated that we were instructed by cable to organize a Committee to act for the Executive in America on all questions arising out of the war, with which the Executive in Palestine and in London cannot deal; we have the entire authority of the Executive of the Jewish Agency. Acting under the given instructions of Dr. Weizmann and the Executive, Mr. Lipsky, Dr. Goldman and himself (Dr. Wise) went to the Secretary of State and had a rather good talk with him. Since then we have learned that Palestine is a belligerent country. Dr. Wise further expressed the thought that we have two lines of activity in America -- in the first place, the Z.O.A. must remember that it is an American organization operating in Palestine. Palestine is a favored country. We will find ourselves favored, and yet we must remember that for the present we are a neutral country and we must be very careful to observe not only the law with regard to neutrality, but we must not even give our fellow-Jews in America the right to say that we are suggesting that Great Britain has personal allies and supporters in the United States. It is one thing to have a personal view and another to take a position as an officer of an Organization. The tone has been set for us by Dr. Weizmann's fine letter to the Prime Minister of Great Britain. We can, however, move forward along these lines: We have the right to give our fullest support to the program of development in Palestine, and what is of highest importance, to help Americans, particularly Jews, to say that today the gates of Palestine can admit more refugees than all the other countries in the world put together, outside of the United States.

Dr. Wise felt that if the Conference is held on October 16 and 17, Palestine will not be ignored or forgotten. He said he had informed Mr. Myron Taylor that, under normal conditions, we can take care in the next five years of 100,000 Jewish families in Palestine. Dr. Wise said further that both Secretary Hull and Ambassador Lothian are anxious to see Dr. Weizmann. The British Ambassador will present Dr. Weizmann to the White House. As to what to say to people, Dr. Wise pointed out that within the last fortnight more Jews have entered Palestine than in the last three months. We have a perfect right to say to people that everything else is tentative, and unlike British Guiana, Rhodesia, Angola, etc., Palestine offers the only haven not because we Zionists say so, but because of the facts of the case. As for the White Paper, the only people who remember the White Paper today are the anti-Zionists. Great Britain has forgotten it. Great Britain has cancelled the fiat of Mr. MacDonald. Jews are going into Palestine. So that the case for the Zionists, Dr. Wise thought, is won. The matter of the reinstatement of the Balfour Declaration will have to be thought through very carefully. No important political step will be taken by the Executive acting for the Jewish Agency, without the fullest consultation with the Z.O.A. Executive, wherever such consultation is not inhibited by reasons of conditions.

Dr. Lewisohn stated we can emphasize that the Zionist idea is a fundamental idea concerning the destiny of the Jewish People.



Rabbi Heller recalled the preparations that were made in 1917 before the United States went into war. He felt that there are certain things which the Executive ought to consider doing in advance. In addition to organizing the Zionist parties in the United States under the Emergency Executive, some attempt ought to be made to do what was done in those years to bring into the Zionist councils in this country men who are Zionists at heart and who would be willing to consider in private what can be done when the proper time comes.

Mr. Goldberg believed that two programs must be prepared: one in case of war in Palestine, in which event a Jewish Legion should be organized; and the other if there is no war, in which case we can carry through a reconstruction program in the manner indicated by Dr. Wise. We must instruct all our branches that, for the time being, they must be neutral in all their public utterances. The Emergency Committee that we are to build up under the aegis of the Agency Executive should be one that will carry weight. Furthermore, the Z.O.A. Executive should not be omitted in this work. Mr. Goldberg suggested that a group of thirty men be named to act as a consultant body; a list should be prepared and propaganda work begun. In 1914 we succeeded in drawing in many personalities who gave their support and weight to the Organization. But they did not come in by themselves. We should in every way try to draw in now men of that type. Within a year we will have a new Zionist group and Zionist blood will be enriched.

Rabbi Miller pointed out that the Z.O.A. has its battle-front today in the light of the war emergency, in that it must recapture American Jewry. He said he was amazed to find when he came back from the Congress that good Zionists were approaching him and asking him whether we are not going to soft-pedal Palestine and Zionism during the war period. Men and women in the street are at a loss to tie up Palestine today with the whole Jewish problem. Our task through propaganda and through political means is to again focus the attention of our People on the primacy of Palestine in Jewish life, from the point of view of Jewish rights in general and the Jewish status in the world at the present time. It is to the best interests of the Executive to harness the minds of the people to the problem of keeping the public mind continually informed on Palestine. A small committee must be set up to think through all the problems of organization and to execute such plans in this great objective of again enrolling the masses of American Jewry and of sustaining the morale of the Yishuv, which it will so badly need during the time of the war. Now is our opportunity not only to re-enroll the 46,000 members, but to enroll perhaps three or four times that number. American Jewry is going to be appealed to to give more money to fight anti-Semitism here in America. Ours ought to be the most dignified and the most constructive voice in American Jewry at this time.

Dr. Goldman stated that there is no intention in anyone's mind, certainly not in the mind of Dr. Wise, Mr. Lipsky, or himself, that the Z.O.A. Executive be eliminated from the picture at present. It is no secret among ourselves and the other parties that the strength of Zionist life in America is not the two or three parties, but the Zionist Organization of America; and this Executive, representing the Zionist Organization of America, has the men who will have to do the major thinking as well as carry the major burden of Zionist work for the next several years. This Executive will have the opportunity to discuss the questions that will have to be implemented by a smaller group, namely, the Emergency Committee.

With regard to the general political question, Dr. Goldman said that Jews are now going to Palestine. That does not mean to say that the British have lifted the restrictions. It does not mean to say that the White Paper is nullified. The patrol has been removed and the Jews are no longer asking questions whether it is Aliyah Beth or Aleph, and the Government is not stopping them. Dr. Goldman felt that this can be stressed when speaking to American Jewry: Palestine is now taking Jews more



than ever before. He said he thought that colonizing experiments, outside of Palestine, are dead; and that those who will be dealing with colonization problems will find themselves in two or three months as ridiculous as we thought them to be last year.

Dr. Goldman added that nothing has made him as unhappy, since his return, as the attitude of American Jews in the present crisis. He said he was ashamed of his People and heartsick. We act as a beaten people, without a shred of self-respect left in our whole system. Whenever we want to make a statement with regard to the general world situation, we are told to be cautious, to weigh our words, that America is neutral. Dr. Goldman said he is not only an American, but also a Jew, and that he meant to confront problems of his People as an American and as a Jew, and to confront them with the same self-respect as a Jew as he does as an American; and that, as an American, if a country had attacked him for five or six years, he would be in uniform and shouldering a gun. For him, he said, the war started six years ago, and he thought it shameful on our part to say that we are not going to make our position clear in the present crisis, and that we even hesitate to state as to whether we are on the side of the democracies, lest this be interpreted as being unneutral. Dr. Goldman felt that we cannot yield to the timidity that is now in the atmosphere, and he wished to warn Zionists that timidity, neutrality, caution, are now other words for anti-Zionism. That is the new vocabulary. It is the same hush, hush policy that has been the nemesis of Jewish life in America and has been intensified within the last five or six years. American Jews have become psychologically timid; they have lost their self-respect; they are not acting as human-beings will under these circumstances. We are part of an old People that has been attacked mercilessly for six years. Now this same enemy steps into Poland and murders leading Jews in Lemberg and in Cracow, not as Poles, but primarily as Jews. And if the Zionists in America are going to retreat in the background and take over the state of mind and the psychological attitude of the anti-Zionist, we will not be able to give to the Jews of the United States the program of which some of us spoke this afternoon. We must make clear where the sympathies of the Jews are and speak of that very freely. We have to, without delay -- not only in belligerent countries, but here in the United States, and not in the form of bargaining -- speak of the future of Palestine. Our political objective is clear: the implementation of the Balfour Declaration must be made a reality as a result of this war. A simple, clear memorandum has to be written out. We must in the important political centers of the world begin a process of indoctrination among men whose opinion will count at the peace table. It would be wise and imperative that we begin without much delay preparing informative pamphlets on Jewish achievements in Palestine and send them to members of Congress. They should receive such pamphlets every month or every six weeks. They should be made to understand what we understand with respect to Palestine. Dr. Goldman believed that this process of indoctrination will be followed by Dr. Weizmann and others of the World Zionist Executive, in other capitals. With regard to the Organization, there are two objectives: (1) a larger membership. We have to go on and make the Organization as large as we possibly can. (2) Just as we will aim our propaganda at the non-Jewish world, so will we have to aim our propaganda among Jews to make them realize more than ever the centrality of Palestine in the Jewish program of restoration and in the world program of restoration, without limiting it to Palestine.

Dr. Goldman further expressed the belief that in order to carry on the work of the Organization effectively, it is necessary to departmentalize the work; that the departments or committees or commissions have Chairmen; that these Chairmen meet together as frequently as possible, so that this group will be able to carry on the work with more vigor, because of the present situation, than ever before.



We do not know how soon Polish Jewry will recover, Dr. Goldman continued. When German Jewry was destroyed, the Jewish People -- that is, the Hebraic, the Zionist people -- had lost no reservoir, but through the destruction of Polish Jewry we are losing a reservoir. One reservoir remains now: Palestine. As to whether we will, in 100 or 200 years, become the reservoir for Jewish spiritual or national life, we do not know; but Palestine is today the only reservoir for positive Jewish life. This thought must be brought home to our People.

This, Dr. Goldman concluded, is our objective. We have a program; we can face our Jews; we do not have to become discouraged or pessimistic, and we can go on with our work.

Mr. Cowen suggested that as soon as possible a statement be issued to the Jews of America. He thought that the Jews of Palestine ought to know what we are doing.

With reference to Rabbi Miller's observation as to the confusion in the mind of the average Jew with regard to the position of Palestine, Judge Levinthal stated that the situation in Philadelphia is quite the contrary. The average Jew and Jewess has felt what Dr. Wise, as a result of his knowledge, has expressed today, -- that the one bright spot in the black picture is Palestine. Judge Levinthal observed also that thousands of young men and women who were attracted to Communism have in recent days become disillusioned and confused, and he felt that we (the Zionists) must enlighten them. Avukah and Masada must be encouraged to the limit now, he urged.

The Chairman asked those present if they deemed it wise to call on the Zionists of the country to arrange as soon as possible simultaneous meetings throughout the country, under the general heading of "Palestine and the Present Crisis", or "Our Duty to Palestine Today", so as to arouse the Zionists and to remove much of the pessimism and the doubts that are expressed.

Judge Levinthal suggested that Balfour Day would be the appropriate time.

Rabbi Israel suggested that the occasion be utilized for the launching of a vigorous membership campaign.

Rabbi Heller suggested that in addition to inaugurating a membership campaign, a national gathering be convened, broadening out the Administrative Committee; and that the national membership campaign be launched at this national gathering.

In reply to Judge Ellenbogen's inquiry as to what steps the President and Secretary have taken with regard to the plans for membership, Mr. Margulies stated that prior to Rosh Hashonah every District Chairman and Secretary was communicated with and explained that in view of the fact that America will be called upon to render unprecedented service, membership campaigns should be launched without delay. On September 19 the Districts were asked to inform the National Office on what day they will start their membership drives, who the members of their Membership Committees are, and what goal they have set themselves for this drive. Mr. Margulies believed that the suggestion to issue a proclamation and to start the membership campaign on a national basis, will prove most helpful, and that if a definite date were set for meetings throughout the country, fifty or sixty per cent. of the Districts would comply, which would prove a great impetus to the membership activity.

It was moved

THAT Balfour Day be made the focal point of the membership campaign for 1939 - 1940.

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RECEIVED AT 65 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, AT SEP 20 1939 STANDARD TIME

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DLT UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL 111 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK  
IN PRESENT CRUCIAL HOUR YISHUV STANDS FIRM UNITED STRIVING  
ON CARRY WORK RECEIVING NEW IMMIGRANTS INTENSIFYING COLONISATION  
PREPARING COURAGEOUSLY CONFRONT ALL DIFFICULTIES TASKS STOP  
TRUST JEWRY YOUR COUNTRY WILL IMMEDIATELY MOBILIZE ALL EFFORTS  
ENABLE YISHUV SURMOUNT DIFFICULTIES AND TIDE OVER DISTRESSING  
PERIOD UNTIL AGAIN AND MORE THAN HITHERTO SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND  
HOPE TO ISRAEL STOP NEW YEARS GREETINGS AWAITING TELEGRAPHIC  
INFORMATION

KERENYESOD HANTKE YAFFE



Sept. 21, 1939

MEMORANDUM

TO: DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

FROM: SAMUEL CAPLAN

1. Attached herewith is a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.
2. Please take note that the next meeting will be held on Monday, October 2.
3. Also attached is a copy of cable received by the Palestine Economic Corp. and forwarded to us.



MINUTES OF INTER-PARTY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1959,  
AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE OFFICES OF THE Z.O.A., 111 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

PRESENT: Dr. Solomon Goldman presiding; Leon Gellman, Louis Lipsky, Mrs. Bertha Schoolman, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Robert Szold, David Wartheim, Stephen S. Wise.

Samuel Caplan, secretary; Hayim Greenberg and Morris Margulies.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: In connection with the minutes of the meeting of September 10th, Dr. Wise stated that upon receipt of a cable from Dr. Nachum Goldmann asking for 8,000 pounds to charter a Yugoslavian boat for transporting stranded delegates in Geneva, he had been authorized to negotiate with the JDC to secure these funds. He reported that the JDC was prepared to render assistance which, however, was made unnecessary by the receipt of a subsequent cable from Dr. Nachum Goldmann advising that "Yugoslavia boat unnecessary as Italian boat sailing."

The minutes were also corrected in respect to eliminating the paragraph dealing with the \$500 advanced by Mrs. Alexander Lempert in Geneva for the reason that this amount was not an obligation of the "Committee of Ten" but had to be repaid by the Washington Bureau or the Zionist parties.

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE: On behalf of the People Zion, Mr. Wartheim declared his objection to including official non-Zionists in the committee and requested that all Zionist parties be given two representatives on the committee instead of one. Mrs. Schoolman, on behalf of Hadesnah, felt that if non-Zionists were to be included, first place should be given to non-Zionist members of the Jewish Agency Executive resident in New York. Mr. Gellman, on behalf of Mizrahi, also objected to the inclusion of non-Zionists and concurred in the view that the parties should be allowed two representatives each.

Dr. Goldman explained that it was the intention to invite Dr. Adler and Mr. Wonsky as individuals and not as representatives of non-Zionist groups. Mr. Lipsky, Dr. Wise and Dr. Silver stated that there was no objection to giving the parties two representatives, but it was to be understood that the committee was functioning as the representative in the United States of the World Zionist Executive and its decisions should be regarded as having within the scope of its authority the same binding effect as the decisions of the Executive of the Jewish Agency.

It was thereupon agreed:

- (1) To allow the Zionist parties two representatives each on the committee.
- (2) To invite Dr. Adler and Mr. Wonsky to serve on the committee; Mr. Wartheim and Mrs. Schoolman being recorded in the negative.
- (3) To postpone decision with regard to the three non-Zionist members of the Jewish Agency Executive pending the arrival of Dr. Weissmann.



It was decided that the official name of the committee be "The Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs"; further, that this committee take over the American Zionist Bureau at Washington, and that a sub-committee be named to prepare a budget for the next three months.

DR. WEIZMANN'S COMING: Dr. Silver raised the question of whether the time was now propitious for Dr. Weizmann to come to the U.S. in view of conditions which would not be favorable for the launching of the proposed loan, and more particularly, in view of the special session of Congress to revise the neutrality laws.

It was agreed to send the following cable to Dr. Weizmann:

"LIPSKY SILVER WISE PREPARING FOR YOUR COMING BUT ALL BELIEVE ADVISABLE DELAY YOUR VISIT UNTIL SPECIAL CONGRESS SESSION BUSINESS CONCLUDED

SOLONCH GOLIMAN"

DR. HACHUM GOLIMAN'S COMING: The chairman reported that he had received a cable from Dr. Hachum Goldmann, who is now in Paris, stating that he was awaiting our decision as to whether he should now come to the U.S. It was decided that consideration of this matter should be deferred to a later meeting.

CABLES FROM EXECUTIVE: The receipt of the following cablegrams was reported:

"

"Sept. 12

GOLIMAN LIPSKY SILVER WISE  
NEW YORK

WEIZMANN DOUBTLESS TRANSMITTED YOU OUR APPRECIATION POSITION URGENT REQUIREMENTS STOP EXTRAORDINARY FINANCIAL EFFORTS IMPERATIVE PLEASE CABLE YOUR ESTIMATE IMMEDIATELY REALISABLE FUNDS FROM ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE WJA OR LOAN ON ACCOUNT FUTURE RECEIPTS STOP ACCEPT YOUR SUGGESTION FUNDS BE RETAINED OUR ACCOUNT NEW YORK TO BE REMITTED ACCORDING OUR TELEGRAPHIC REQUESTS WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CABLEING US WEEKLY BALANCES REGULARLY STOP IMPORTANT SHOULD BE REALISED WE MUST COPE 3500 HAPILIM ~~land~~ LANDED OFFICIALLY LAST QUARTER 1200 RELEASED HANDED JEWISH AGENCY ONLY TODAY WHOM OF 650 CZECHS ALSO HOPE UTILISE FULLY OVER 5000 CERTIFICATES WHOSE HOLDERS YET UNAPPLIED INCLUDING 1500 STILL IN GREATER GERMANY FOR WHOSE DEPARTURE ADMISSION SPECIAL FACILITIES BEING SECURED THEIR ABSORPTION PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ENTAIL ADDITIONAL EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE TRUST YOU WILL DO UTMOST STOP REGARDING FOOD VERY GRATEFUL YOUR OFFER POSITION FOLLOWING AMPLE FOODSTOCKS AVAILABLE FOR MONTHS NEGOTIATING GOVERNMENT REGARDING ADDITIONAL PURCHASES NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES STOP PRESENT ACUTE DIFFICULTIES CAUSED FIRST BY PANIC CONSEQUENT HOARDING WITHHOLDING OF SUPPLIES RISE PRICES SECONDLY BY RESTRICTION CREDITS INSISTENCE CASH PAYMENTS MAKING POSITION POORER PEOPLE UNTERABLE STOP IN ABSENCE QUOTATIONS UNABLE JUDGE WHETHER PURCHASES AMERICA WORTHWHILE OUR PRIMARY NEED IS ESTABLISHMENT STORES FOR SALE AT COSTPRICE TO REMEDY FOR THIS REQUIRE SPECIAL FUNDS WHAT WE NEED IS MONEY NOT GOODS EAGERLY AWAITING YOUR REPLY

KAPLAN EXECUTIVE"

"Sept. 14, 1939

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION AND UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL  
NEW YORK

JEWISH AGENCY JERUSALEM REPORTS GENERAL SITUATION MOST GRAVELY AFFECTING ECONOMIC POSITION YISHUV VIZ DISTURBANCE FOOD GOODS MARKETS CAUSED RISE PRICES WHILE WITHDRAWAL MILLION POUNDS BANK DEPOSITS RESULTED VIOLENT CONTRACTION CREDITS STOP GENERAL DISLOCATION AND EXPORT UNCERTAINTY REDUCED ORANGE CULTIVATION TO MINIMUM STOP AS RESULT STOPPAGE BUILDING INDUSTRY WHICH AGGRAVATING URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT AND GRAVE FLIGHT ORANGE COLONIES SEVEN THOUSAND LABOURERS LOST EMPLOYMENT SEVERAL THOUSAND OTHER FAMILIES WITHOUT SUBSISTENCE TOTAL UNEMPLOYED NOW SIXTEEN THOUSAND BESIDES MANY MIDDLECLASSES STOP UNABSORBED NEWCOMERS CONSTITUTE SPECIAL AGGRAVATION SITUATION STOP AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS REMAIN LEAST AFFECTED BUT DEPENDENT CREDIT FACILITIES MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES LIKEWISE GOOD PROSPECTS BUT DEPENDENT CREDITS STOP POLITICAL EMERGENCIES INCLUDING ENROLMENT JEWISH AUXILIARIES DEMANDING SPECIAL FUNDS STOP ALL THESE EMERGENCY NEEDS PRESSING WHILST PALESTINE STILL ABLE ABSORB IMMIGRANTS THOUSANDS FROM GERMANY CZECHOSLOVAKIA EXPECTED AS THEIR LEAVING UNPREVENTED STOP KAYMAKH COULD UTILISE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES PURCHASES STOP INCOME NATIONAL FUNDS FROM MANY COUNTRIES CUT OFF WE APPEAL TO JEWELRY WHICH STILL IMPACT CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS MAINTAINING POSITION JEWISH AGENCY YISHUV ENSURING OUR FUTURE

WRHS

WEIZMANN

UPA FUNDS: In view of the cable from Eliezer Kaplan on behalf of the Executive, advising that funds be retained in New York, to be remitted according to telegraphic requests, it was decided to request the UPA to retain all funds intended for the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish National Fund, subject to directions of the Executive with regard to the disposition of the funds. The KN and the JNF are to be advised of this decision.

VISIT TO WASHINGTON: A memorandum describing the interview on September 11th by Dr. Goldmann, Dr. Wise and Mr. Lipsky with the British Ambassador and the Secretary of State was circulated among the members of the committee and was made part of the record.

CABLE EXCHANGE WITH DR. WEIZMANN: The following cables were reported:

"Sept. 11, 1939

WEIZMANN  
LONDON

ASSUMING AUTHORIZATION ACT IN USA FOR EXECUTIVE IN ALL MATTERS ARISING FROM WAR ALSO CORRESPONDENCE FOR EXECUTIVE WHEREVER YOUR COMMUNICATIONS IMPOSSIBLE FORMING COMMITTEE INCLUDING PARTIES PLUS SILVER SZOLD ALIEN MOSKOW STOP ESTABLISHED CONTACT TODAY HELL. LOTHIAN BOTH DELIGHTED YOUR COMING

WISE LIPSKY GOLDMAN"



Sept. 14, 1939

GOLIMAN  
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

YOUR ELEVENTH AGREE YOUR COMMITTEE ACTING AS SUGGESTED STOP PLEASE  
ESTABLISH CONTACTS IMMEDIATELY ESPECIALLY POLAND POSSIBLE WITH ASSISTANCE  
DIPLOMATIC PHILANTHROPIC CHANNELS STOP INFORMING JERUSALEM COMPOSITION  
YOUR COMMITTEE

WEIZMANN

SUPPLIES FOR PALESTINE: Upon the receipt of a report by Mr. Szold with regard to the possible purchase of wheat supplies for shipment to Palestine, the committee authorized Mr. Szold to cable the necessary information to the Executive in Palestine and to inquire what action is to be taken.

STATEMENT OF ZIONIST POSITION: It was proposed that a general statement to the public, announcing the formation of a committee and outlining its scope of activity, be made after the committee is fully organized.

NEXT MEETING: It was decided that the next meeting be held on Monday, October 2 at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL CAPLAN  
Secretary

September 21st, 1939.

REPORT OF INTERVIEWS WITH MEMBERS OF SURVEY COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN JEWISH  
COMMITTEE. (From Mental & Written Notes).

Presents: Messrs. Ginsberg, Chairman; Morris Waldman; Richard Rothchild;  
Arthur S. Meyer; Sidney Wallach; James Newman; David Bernstein; Dr. A.H. Silver;  
Adolph Rosenberg; (Cincinnati), James I. Filasarn.

Tuesday, Sept. 19th 2 P.M. - 4 P.M.

Dr. Silver: Representatives from Cincinnati, Toledo, Cleveland and Detroit met last Sunday night at Cleveland to discuss the question of continuing the Cole broadcasts. After serious discussion it was decided unanimously to continue with the program of thirteen broadcasts. A committee was appointed at this conference to meet with you and to request you to give us such financial and moral support as you can. Since your committee comes to our communities to collect funds for defense work, and since this is defense work, we felt that your future relations with these communities will depend in some measure upon the present situation. We are, of course, happy to be guided by national headquarters in matters of policy, but you should also be guided by our own needs. As the result of these broadcasts there has been a very favorable reaction, a rehabilitation of morale among our people. The poison injected into our souls has found an antidote. That the plan to expose Coughlin and his motives and shatter his morale; the continued effect of these broadcasts will maintain an effectiveness against him; that it would be an attack of attrition. Coughlin will not desist because of war. It is part of his technique to shift positions quickly. That war sharpens these antagonisms. Anti-Semitism came after the last war. The revision of the Neutrality Act will be identified with Jews by Father Coughlin. We feel we must have a voice on the alert to answer such attacks especially if Coughlin is to continue to broadcast on the radio the attacks he presents in his magazines. He has created certain patterns of international bankers; war mongers; identifying them with Jews. He does not even have to mention us by name any more, either in broadcast or words in Social Justice. We now have to have a voice, a determined voice. Dr. Cole has proved a satisfactory agency. He will expose him on Wednesday for what he says on Sunday and thereby render us a great service. He will be a guardian on the radio of our rights and if the issues should be liquidated, as some of us believe in our wishful thinking, then there will be no harm; we can then also liquidate the issue on our side. Cole is a clever and capable talker and an earnest and sincere man. But, if we should now silence the only voice against him on the radio at the present it would be, in my opinion, a calamity.

Mr. Ginsberg: We are sensitive to what the rest of the country is thinking on the subject. We do not believe we have a monopoly of wisdom here. We realize that local problems may be different, but we must resist the notion that we ought to support a program without thorough study of its implications. We get local requests from every part asking us to do certain things. We can only listen sympathetically. It would be suicidal to consider whether a particular approach on our part would hurt financially in any community. We believe this presents a debatable issue, and many contradictory forms of advice. Our position is greatly changed since the war, and we are seeking to review our own activities from day to day to find what is the best course of action at the present time.



In considering what a Cole program would be at the present time, we realize that it would have to be of a general character dealing with general events. He would no doubt take occasion to answer Coughlin. What can he say that is vital and current at the present time? There are many matters of sharp controversy at the moment. In essence, it is a Christian minister dealing with matters of general American policy. Some of these matters might be treated in a way which might make it criminally dangerous. The risk far outweighs the value. Whether to repeal the present Neutrality Bill or not to repeal it. For myself, I have a specific view. I would not have a program of this kind paid for by us and have it reported by Father Coughlin that we have a great deal to do with it.

Mr. Arthur Meyers: The time may come when we would have to answer for our financial support to Cole. We would have to avow it. What will we do under those circumstances? I am afraid.

Dr. Silver: Supposing the time does come and we have to avow it. What of it?

Mr. Rothchild: Statements would be made that a man has been bought by Jews. The Jews control public opinion.

Mr. Rosenberg: Why?

Mr. Wallach: Our parading under the cloak of a stranger is probably worse than if we did the job ourselves.

Mr. Meyers: Why not pause at the present time? Take time. Make a better choice. There are new patterns developing from day to day; new points of attack. Study the effects upon our people more carefully. I feel that we should have a brief pause in our activities for some little while to make an appraisal of these activities and see what should be our main criterion.

Dr. Silver: If we make a request for further broadcasts there would still be some lapse of several weeks before Dr. Cole would be able to resume his present program. We feel it would be unwise to allow too much lapse of time.

Mr. Meyers: This would only amount to a further debate on the station between Cole and Coughlin and it is a dangerous debate.

Mr. Ginsberg: You have a right to express opinions on war mongering provided you are careful in your opinion. Organized Jewish support behind Cole has elements of danger which we cannot avoid.

Mr. Wallach: This is nothing but periodic demand for expression created by mass feeling artificially stimulated. "Do you want an answer to Coughlin" has been requested by us by a questionnaire sent to many communities some months ago before starting any program. The answer was unfavorable. We prepared records making an attack on Coughlin and sent it to a large number of communities. Practically all of them turned down the broadcast, and said they did not want them at the time. We are apparently misled by mass action. We are not appraising the situation fully. We are proceeding from complex extraneous things; other ideas are mixed in and there is a welter of complaint and then regret. We ought to dissociate some of these

requests from other considerations. Some people want self expression through these broadcasts. Let's appraise that. We are unquestionably risking certain disappointment in this self expression. We are likely to get a large amount of Jewish disillusionment through this effort. And then what kind of talks do we want? Do we want an attack on Coughlin? Limitations of the code will undoubtedly prevent freedom of attack upon Coughlin. There will undoubtedly be some dampening. Radio stations are placing limitations on Cole's attacks upon Coughlin. Besides, it is a question whether we should do it week after week. Coughlin's attacks are adroit. He might speak of the world Court and his cliches. They undoubtedly affect us, but it is very difficult to answer those things. We haven't the facilities. He is making only a half direct attack. There is peril in that, and not easy to answer."

At this point we parted. The survey committee was to meet soon thereafter, study our request and give us an answer the following day.

Realizing that it will be necessary to arrange further plans with the committee in the event of favorable action, or to learn more intimately the reasons for an unfavorable one, I felt I ought to visit some of the members of the Committee the following day. When I came to the office I found them looking for Dr. Silver or myself to report their decision.

September 20th: 12 P.M. - 4 P.M.

Following parties present: Waldman; Rosenblum; Wallach; Bernstein; Newman.

Mr. Rosenblum: I have been assigned to report the views of the Committee on the subject. Coughlin is now fighting the administration on a much larger scale than the Jewish people. Because of this shift in his attack we were in a rather fortunate position. The administration can take much better care of him than we can. Undoubtedly Coughlin will make further charges that we are trying to bring America into war; that Jewish money is doing so, etc. However, Roosevelt is getting stronger as the result of the present situation. This will prevent Coughlin from giving greater currency to his charges of war mongering by Jews. Nazi propaganda is undoubtedly fighting us, and the charge will be made by Coughlin that Jewish money is being used to fight Coughlin and bring us into war.

You have discussed with me the question of Jewish morale. I think that is very important. However, we are now in a war condition. Coughlin will undoubtedly refer to the situation as a new Russian-Jewish pact, and it is a question of whether we can give that an effective answer by radio. Any answer would be less acceptable than before. So is Nazi propaganda in general likely to be less effective than before. The attack on Communism is also less effective. Coughlin is now hitting the administration and hitting it hard. He has shifted his battleground from us to the administration. There is now a great emergency--a war crisis, and he has little chance to exploit anti-semitism. The administration is going to deal



with Coughlin very effectively from now on. Recently he called his pickets off at the New York radio station. We have not quite as much to fear as Jews, and we need a change of orientation on that account. We have much less to fear from Coughlin. I would rather have Coughlin debate with the administration than have Cole debate with Coughlin. Any debate with Coughlin in the middle west is, in our opinion, dangerous, and has a tendency to maintain a personality who will build up a racial issue which ought to be left alone.

Cole himself will seize the racial issue because it pays him as well as it pays Coughlin. He can become a national figure by building a racial issue and maintaining it. We are building a personality and he might go off on his account. The charge that Cole is being paid for by Jews is bound to be made and we will have difficulty meeting it. This will emphasize the issue.

Any Cole contribution on the question of neutrality is important, what his position may be. And as you say, we might be building up a Frankenstein in Cole, whom we will not be able to control later on, and he will become a professional race debater. This is inopportune. Besides that, we are confronted with a war condition and a new broadcasting code. There are several requirements in this code which are important. It bars attacks on individuals or groups on the basis of racial or religious affiliation. It prevents issuance of a racial character in talks and a committee of the National Association of Broadcasters can well pass upon these issues. In a religious program from now on it must be religious. And if controversial, time must be given without charge equally to both sides to answer controversial issues. They appointed a regulatory committee which will undoubtedly vigorously enforce the code. It follows closely the motion picture code. The President himself, during a period of emergency can take over the radio system and newscasts. The code is, therefore, very timely under these war conditions.

The Committee in charge of the N.A.B. consists of Lenox Law, Ed Klatsner, Sam Rosenblum and several others. One of them is with the Milwaukee station. These men will undoubtedly watch the situation carefully from now. I believe that if anything were to go wrong after the code gets into effect about October 1st, a committee can be made to organize a protest at once to the N.A.B. Code Committee, and the Federal Communications Commission, so that public opinion may force the issue in favor of the public interest, convenience and necessity. Controversial discussions can be met by free time. No station can stand through many protests of this character. They are sensitive.

And now, Mr. Ellmann, have I presented anything new to you in this discussion not already stated?

Mr. Ellmann: Frankly, no. Except that you have discussed the effect of the broadcasters new code upon this entire matter. This being a matter outside of my own experience, I am bound to rely upon your judgment. If you tell me that the code will affect this issue, I can accept your statement, but you do not know when that code will affect that issue and to what extent.

Mr. Rosenblum: That's quite true. I am unable to determine either, at the present time to what extent the code will do that nor when.

Mr. Waldman: Mr. Ellmann, frankly, do you not believe that the leadership in Detroit and in these communities is allowing mass feeling to influence their judgment instead of guiding and directing that feeling?

Mr. Ellmann: I believe it is the function of leadership to follow rather than to frustrate mass judgment. Surely Mr. Roosevelt watches the Gallup poll every day, and I wouldn't be a bit surprised even if Mr. Hitler does on occasion, too.

Now, gentlemen, if I could take back to Detroit a moral substitute for this proposed program of this sort which is already developed after months of tremendous effort and expense, and which I felt would assuage the feelings of the community, I should be very glad to do so. But you have not yet provided me with such a substitute.

Mr. Bernstein: What about station WJR? Could not the community get busy preparing letters of protest, petitions, etc., in that matter? That would keep the community busy for some time and would be an outlet.

Mr. Ellmann: I'm afraid. You could keep the community busy for a few hours with that situation, but it will not be what I consider a sufficient substitute for a program which we find absolutely necessary. As I repeat, no one could dare gamble with the rights and feelings of an aroused community for a possibility that other intangible factors may interfere with Father Coughlin.

I have been sitting here during the last few hours wondering what it is that causes two groups of people, both of them of highly intelligent to come to opposite conclusions of matters of policy of this sort. I have also been wondering how we could reconcile these two viewpoints without doing violence to each other. I confess my feeling is that the difference lies in the fact that your organization, until a few weeks ago, did not even find it possible to send some one on the spot to learn why it is that we are so hot and bothered in the middle western communities about this whole issue. Had you done so we might have had far more agreement, perhaps.

Mr. Rosenblum: Remember, Waldman, some six months ago I urged that very thing upon you and others.

Mr. Ellmann: Do I understand then that you committee is opposed to our program?

Rosenblum: That's right.

Mr. Ellmann: What is your position on the question of technical assistance to carry on the thirteen broadcasts, would you be willing to continue as in the past?

Mr. Waldman: That would be immoral. The committee is opposed to the program, and we would not want to assist in a program we do not approve. Most of the members expressed that thought.

Mr. Ellmann: After all, you must remember, gentlemen, you may not approve of



our program, but we are going to propose to carry it through. If, by reason of your failure to help us we do not present the best kind of front, you will bear some measure of responsibility as a practical proposition.

Mr. Rosenblum: That is an important issue you are raising. Perhaps we ought to take the matter up with the committee once again and advise you specifically.



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# BULLETIN

## For Member Agencies

September 21, 1939

### THREE WEEKS OF WAR

The pace of events in Europe is so swift and major developments follow each other in such rapid succession that it is virtually impossible to summarize the situation at any given moment. World-shaking developments occur overnight and are soon forgotten in the wake of still greater political or military surprises. All that is certain in these uncertain weeks is that any survey of the situation put down on paper will, to some extent at least, be out of date by the time it is read.

It is important, however, to crystallize in one's mind the situation as it appears three weeks after the opening of hostilities in Europe, if only to establish a background against which the effects of the next international bombshell may be judged.

Here is a brief review of the effects of the war thus far on Jewish groups in various countries overseas and on Jewish welfare and communal activities in the United States. The material has been compiled from the statements of national and overseas organizations and the reports of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

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### LOCAL

The war is naturally having its effect on all social welfare efforts in local communities throughout the United States.

Red Cross. The Red Cross will hold its annual roll call beginning November 11. It will seek to increase its subscriptions by as much as 40 percent for war relief purposes. It does not contemplate any emergency campaign as yet.

Community Chests. At the meeting of community chest leaders in New York last week, it became clear that most local chest campaigns this Fall would emphasize the importance of maintaining our peace-time program and the significant part chests play in preserving free local traditions. There was a feeling that "the shock of war was stirring emotions which had become calloused to traditional appeals."

The conference urged local chest boards to begin considering the problem of coordinating possible emergency appeals, including the Red Cross, with the campaigns for local purposes.

Jewish Welfare Funds. About forty communities are conducting welfare fund drives or joint appeals this Fall. Bulking largest in their budgets are the appropriations for the overseas agencies, which have already made commitments on the basis of the funds promised them from these campaigns.

Philadelphia has set a \$1,000,000 goal. Dallas has postponed its campaign until the winter. Toronto has moved its campaign forward to an earlier date. Cities going ahead with Fall drives include Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dayton, Rochester, Toledo, Troy, Tulsa, Wheeling, Wilmington and Youngstown.

The major overseas agencies do not at present contemplate emergency campaigns for this Fall. They are depending on the welfare funds throughout the country to carry through their local 1939 programs per schedule. Communities holding Fall campaigns are expected to meet their quotas at least as effectively as have the previous 1939 drives. Cities which conducted Spring efforts will be



asked to speed up the collection process and fulfill their obligations as quickly as possible to help meet the new emergency needs.

In general the war has increased rather than lessened the burden resting upon national and overseas agencies. The watchword for local Jewish welfare funds is "Stand by!"

Welfare funds are advised to hold up the transmission of funds to institutions in Eastern Europe until their status is made known and the currency situation is clarified. As soon as banking arrangements with Eastern European countries are stabilized, the Council will advise its member agencies as to the best methods of transmitting these appropriations.

Refugees. Resettlement activities are continuing uninterrupted. Problems of affidavits, correspondence with agencies in Europe and similar matters should be cleared with the National Refugee Service, Inc.

Funds for Individuals Abroad. No way has yet been found to send money to individuals in Poland. For persons in Germany, the Haavaramark method of transmission is no longer in effect. The American Express Company is willing to send registered marks into Germany but will not guarantee delivery. It will, however, guarantee refund of money not delivered.

ABROAD

POLAND

There were about 3,325,000 Jews in Poland, as it existed on September 1, 1939. Already at least 1,000,000 of them have come under the domination of the Nazi army and government. Approximately 1,000,000 others live in territories taken over by the Soviet forces. The remainder may find themselves either in German-controlled land or in a new truncated Polish state which in turn may be under the thumb of either the Nazi or Soviet government. The decision will be made by the signatories of the Moscow pact.

The tremendous dislocation which this process involves is obvious. But that is not the whole story. As the German armies advanced into Polish territory, tens of thousands of Jewish families fled toward the East, to the borders of Lithuania, Russia and Rumania, leaving their homes and possessions to the invaders. Not many of them were permitted to enter the neighboring countries, however, and most of them have become an additional burden to the already impoverished communities of Eastern Poland.

Many of the Polish cities contain huge Jewish populations -- Warsaw, 350,000; Lodz, 200,000; Lwow, 100,000; Krakow, 56,000. Nazi bombardments, according to some reports, seemed to be concentrated, either by accident or design, on the Jewish quarters of these communities. News stories, passed by the Berlin censor, assert that smaller Jewish communities in the line of the German advance have been burned to the ground to avenge "sniping"; that Jews of all ages have been put to forced labor, building roads for the German army; that large "contributions" have been levied on Jewish populations; that outright confiscation of Jewish property is the normal procedure in German-held territory, and that wholesale arrest of rabbis, Jewish leaders, and "anti-Nazi elements" is the order of the day.

The war has produced the usual crop of atrocity stories. They may or may not be true. But one fact is clear. The plight of the one to two million Jews caught in the Nazi grip in Poland is tragic, desperate, and likely to be, at the very outset of the Nazi occupation, far worse than the condition of German Jewry six years after the advent of Hitler.

What will happen to the Jews in Soviet territory remains to be seen. If they are treated as have been the Jews in Russia proper, they are not likely to suffer on account of racial origin, although there may be drastic readjustments and, at the best, temporary dislocation of occupations and economic life and interference with organized religious education.



The economic situation of Polish Jewry has long been miserable. It seems clear that in the German area, it will grow rapidly worse, barring some drastic change in Nazi policies or world events. In the Russian sector, too, conditions are not likely to improve much at a time when nations are husbanding their resources for war.

In Germany itself, the pressure of war needs has somewhat relaxed the economic phases of the anti-Semitic program momentarily. Jewish young people have been put to forced manual labor at wages equal to those of other employees. Jewish emigre doctors have been invited to return. New anti-Jewish measures, however, continue to be taken at the same time.

#### REFUGEES

The war has naturally brought forth a host of new regulations controlling the movement of individuals from one country to another. Since the war is only three weeks old, there is still a good deal of improvisation about these rules and it will probably take some time before they are stabilized, if at all.

At present, Jews are still being permitted to leave Germany, largely through Italy, Norway and Sweden. Immigration into England and Canada from Germany is now closed. According to some reports, persons of military age have been prevented from emigrating. The policy would seem to be to detain persons who might be of assistance to the Reich in its war tasks. The United Palestine Appeal reports, however, that immigration to Palestine has not been restricted on this basis. Several days following the beginning of hostilities, 1,000 young Jews were permitted to leave Germany and sail for Palestine.

A certain number of Polish refugees were able to get into Lithuania, Latvia and Rumania before those countries closed their frontiers. There is no possibility as yet of determining their number. In Rumania, camps have been set up near the border to care for the refugees.

German, Austrian and Czech refugees in Allied countries have been subject to special war measures. Most of them are being registered. Some are being interned as nationals of the enemy country, but special treatment is being considered for them as emigres friendly to the nations which offered them hospitality. Many have volunteered for the armed services and civil defense forces in Britain and France.

In the United States, immigration of aliens from Warsaw and London has been temporarily stopped through September and possibly part of October because of limitations of shipping facilities and because the staffs of the consulates must devote all their time to welfare work and helping American citizens get home. Nevertheless each steamer arriving in New York since September 5 has brought some refugees.

American consuls in Germany are still issuing visas. Would-be emigres who have obtained visas have been wiring relatives in the United States that they will be permitted to leave Germany through neutral countries provided they can show that steamship tickets on neutral ships have been purchased for them in foreign exchange.

If immigration from Germany to the United States is suspended, it is hoped that the quota numbers held by people in Germany may be transferred to refugees already outside of Germany. In this way the German quota would continue to be filled. After all Americans have been evacuated from Europe, immigration into the United States from Allied and neutral countries, it is expected, will be resumed. Emigres who are in Allied countries on temporary visas and have not joined the armed forces will continue to seek admission here.

Plans for the meeting of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee at the White House on October 16 and 17 have not been canceled. The immediate problem will be to find permanent homes for 100,000 refugees now scattered through England, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and the Scandinavian countries.

### PALESTINE

Slight relaxation of the Palestine government's immigration policy permitted the landing of a boatload of refugees who were formerly in the Czech army. The men were immediately incorporated into Palestine's defense forces. There is a strong possibility that the immigration ban will be relaxed and the limited immigration policy outlined in the White Paper revised.

In the meantime the Jews of Palestine have dropped their attacks on the British Government for its recent Palestine policy and have thrown their full support to the Allied cause. By the middle of September, 100,000 Palestinian Jews (one third of them women) had volunteered for war or emergency service in a registration sponsored by the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council. At the same time, Arab organizations have announced support of the Government.

Imperial defense measures have been enforced in Palestine. Action has been taken to conserve essential commodities, including food supplies. Haifa has had a test blackout.

American Zionist leaders returning from World Zionist Congress in Geneva after the war had begun, asserted that the world conflict may force Britain to abandon the White Paper policy of restricted immigration and land purchase and that the center of Zionist activity might now shift to the United States as the principal neutral country. Financial support for Palestine which used to come from Poland, England and France will now be drastically curtailed.



AT HOME

America's neutral position in the conflict will not immunize her from the effects of the war in Europe. In the field of social welfare, the problem of war relief is once again coming to the fore.

Under the Neutrality Act, which President Roosevelt invoked soon after the declaration of war by England and France, any organization wishing to raise money for relief or any other purpose for a belligerent nation must obtain a permit from the State Department and report to it regularly. The Red Cross, however, which submits its audits to the Secretary of War has authority to make appeals as it sees fit.

A group of community chest leaders meeting in New York last week suggested that Secretary Hull be asked to appoint a standing advisory committee of citizens experienced in welfare problems to assist the State Department in reviewing requests for war relief fund-raising permits. This suggestion has not yet been accepted by the State Department. In the meantime, it is reported from Washington that as of September 19, the Department had already granted permission to 42 organizations to begin or to continue raising funds for welfare purposes intended for the population or institutions of belligerent countries.

The war has naturally affected the work of national and overseas Jewish organizations dealing with overseas and refugee needs.

As the situation changes with kaleidoscopic speed from day to day, the agencies are constantly forced to adjust themselves to altered conditions. Each day brings new crises, new emergencies, a host of new problems. Old procedures no longer apply and new formulas become rapidly outdated. While the large questions of Europe -- the fate of Poland, the position of Russia, the scope and duration of the war -- remain unsolved, the many smaller questions are not likely to be answered quickly. And such questions as how aid is to be given to the stricken Jews of Poland, what is the status of refugees in Europe, what Britain intends

to do in Palestine, are all, relatively speaking, in the minor category.

Nevertheless, the national Jewish agencies are working to reduce these uncertainties to a minimum and to meet every situation as it arises with all the resources at their command.

The Council has requested some of the major organizations concerned to submit authoritative statements on the effect which the war has had on their work.

United Jewish Appeal. According to a statement issued by the joint chairmen of the United Jewish Appeal, each of the three constituent agencies in the UJA has been faced with emergency demands which can be met only if local communities fulfill their obligations "with greater dispatch than ever". Summaries of the situations confronting the three agencies follow.

1. National Refugee Service, Inc. The limited flow of refugees to the United States is expected to continue at the same rate as before the war. Refugees are continuing to leave Germany and the number of transient refugees waiting in other countries is still large. The NRS is concerning itself especially with the concentration of refugees in Cuba and Shanghai. It is quite unlikely that there will be any diminution from the quota permitted by Federal law. The work of rerouting, resettlement, maintenance and employment continues as heretofore.

The National Refugee Service is issuing Informational Bulletins to all its cooperating committees and organizations throughout the country. The Bulletins outline procedures which local groups should follow in the present crisis in respect to affidavits, overseas correspondence, transmission of funds, etc.

2. Joint Distribution Committee. Originally set up to cope with a war situation, the Joint Distribution Committee is now adjusting itself to the requirements of the second World War. In the first three weeks of hostilities, it was flooded with urgent requests for aid from practically all its committees overseas.

The JDC is cooperating with the Council for German Jewry in London, the Jewish Colonization Association, the Hicem (HIAS-ICA Emigration Association) and relief committees in many European countries. It is also discussing cooperative measures with other relief organizations here, such as the American Red Cross and the American Friends Service Committee.

The war has greatly increased the responsibilities of the JDC, which made expenditures far beyond its September budget for emergency needs in Poland, where immediate funds were required for food, shelter and the evacuation of women, children, the aged and the sick. Emergency funds for Jewish relief organizations in other countries have also been provided in the past weeks.



The JDC has had requests from emigration bureaus in Germany and former Austria for assistance in relation to persons now leaving those countries. War developments have brought urgent calls on the JDC for larger sums for refugee assistance in Central and South America, Cuba and Shanghai.

A good deal of the JDC's activities in Europe will now devolve upon the American representatives of the JDC in Europe. In most European countries local collection of funds for assistance to refugees is being sharply reduced and many local European communal leaders are now withdrawing from welfare and refugee activity to devote their services to matters of immediate national interest in their respective countries.

Plans are now under way to set up JDC offices in certain countries which are now neutral and from which the most effective relief work may be possible.

The situation which the JDC faces changes hourly. Many phases of the European relief problem are still question marks, depending for solution upon the events of the next weeks or months. In the meantime, the JDC "is exerting every possible effort to discover whatever means may be useful to bring relief and assistance" to the stricken Jews of Europe. The JDC asserts that it will keep Jewish communities periodically informed of all the efforts it is undertaking.

3. United Palestine Appeal. While Palestine remains out of the area of war operations, it will be able to harbor thousands of refugees who must be evacuated from many European countries. When the six-month suspension of immigration, scheduled to begin October 1, 1939, is lifted, a good proportion of the 75,000 Jews to be permitted to enter Palestine in the next five years under the White Paper should be allowed to immigrate. Zionist leaders are hoping that the current immigration policy will be relaxed still further in return for the support which the Jews of Palestine are giving the British Government in the present emergency.

The maintenance of the institutions and enterprises established during the last two decades will require much additional support from the United States. In the first place, thousands of Palestinian Jews will be withdrawn from their reconstructive work to take part in the war, and their tasks will have to be continued in increased measure by others. Secondly, it will be necessary to make up for the considerable loss in the financial support which can be expected at this time from the belligerent countries.

The United States will have to assume most of the burden of the two major responsibilities in Palestine, if the present Palestinian structure is to be maintained and advantage taken of the new opportunities which the present situation may afford for resettling there some of Europe's hard-pressed Jews.

HIAS. The Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society reports that it is concerned with emergency situations which have arisen since the war began. HIAS-ICA offices at Bucharest and Cernauti, Rumania, and Kaunas, Lithuania, have been dealing with the influx of refugees from Poland. The French Government has asked the HICEM\* offices in Paris to take charge of all refugees from Germany

\* The work of HICEM, the European emigration office with headquarters in Paris, is maintained by funds secured from the JDC, the British Council for German Jewry, The Jewish Colonization Association (ICA) and HIAS. The first three of these provide funds for transportation and landing fees of refugees from Germany. The latter two contribute toward the administrative overhead of HICEM. HIAS finances normal emigration from East European countries. The JDC also provides special funds in cases of persons released from concentration camps.



who have visas to overseas countries and to evacuate them from the large cities to the French ports, from which they are to leave as shipping facilities permit. Refugees dumped by German steamers rushing back to home ports before the war started have been assisted by HIAS. Emigration which is still permitted from Germany has, in the present uncertainty, assumed an urgent character and HIAS is responding to emergency demands for transportation funds, etc.

The HIAS is considering the re-establishment of its wartime service of searching for relatives in the parts of Poland occupied by German troops.

American Ort Federation. Only one third of the World Ort Union's budget was assigned this year for training programs, industrial aid and agricultural work in Poland. In what form this work will continue will depend in large measure on the political status of the former Polish territory. The Ort has been conducting schools in Germany and carried on an extensive program of work in Soviet Russia until early 1938. It was able to cooperate with these governments in peace time. How the war has affected this situation is not yet known.

In any event, it is reported that the Ort program is going forward in Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania, and among refugees in Switzerland, France and England. Additional activities may be undertaken for the Polish war refugees in Rumania. The advanced classes of the training center in Berlin have been transferred to England where a new Ort center is about to open in Leeds.

European countries will now, of course, be able to provide very little of the budget of the World Ort Union. Ort officials believe that they will even have to revise their estimates of the sums they had expected from their Canadian campaign. Meanwhile the Ort is being called upon to initiate industrial and agricultural training and retraining programs for refugees in Latin America and has conferred with the National Refugee Service on the need for vocational training centers for refugees in the United States.

Yeshivahs. Most of the Eastern European institutions supported by American welfare funds are in Poland and many are in cities which are today figuring in the news dispatches from the Eastern front. Some of the cities have been bombed. Many have been captured by the Nazis. Others have fallen to Soviet forces. What has happened or will happen to the institutions there, most of them yeshivahs for higher Hebrew learning, is pure conjecture.

The JDC, which has in the past acted as an agent in transmitting welfare fund appropriations to European yeshivahs, reports that, for the time being at least, no money can be sent from here to Poland and there are difficulties in the way of transmissions to Lithuania and Rumania. Money is being sent only by cable to those two countries. Yeshivahs in Lithuania and Rumania, it is learned here, have taken in a number of refugees from Poland in the past weeks.

Yeshivahs and other traditional charitable institutions in Palestine have been hit by the war in two ways. The cost of living has risen sharply and all local credit for the institutions has been cut off since the war started. The Executive of the Vaad Leumi and the leading rabbis of Palestine have cabled the Council urging American welfare funds to cable money to these institutions immediately.



General Jewish Council. Representatives of the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith and Jewish Labor Committee agreed at a meeting of the General Jewish Council on September 17 that present emergencies "require an intensification of activities and a unification of the efforts" of the four agencies in the GJC. The meeting considered three alternative plans for the assumption of greater responsibility by the GJC in the direction and execution of civic-protective work and cooperative financial efforts. Each of the plans provides for cooperation with Jewish relief organizations and the enlargement of the GJC's membership. One of these plans may be adopted at another meeting scheduled for October 1.

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The Council will continue to keep its member agencies informed of the changing situation and of variations in local activity which war conditions may dictate.



September 22, 1939

Mr. Eliezer Kaplan  
Jewish Agency  
P.O.B. 93  
Jerusalem, Palestine

Dear Friend Kaplan:

Once again the Poale Zion and the Gewerkschaften campaign have risen to plague our efforts on behalf of the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth. At a time when the Jewish Agency is expecting greater financial response from American Jewry, which means, of course, the United Palestine Appeal, we are confronted by a campaign on the part of the Gewerkschaften with a quota of \$1,000,000, the largest that has ever been undertaken by it.

If ever I have seen evidence of lack of good faith and of discipline it is displayed by your colleagues of the Gewerkschaften. We here are helpless to stem the tide of this chaotic resistance to the decisions of the Congress and to the ordered discipline of American Jewish fund-raising for Palestine.

I attach herewith a copy of a memorandum sent to me by Mr. Isidor Coons who represents the Joint Distribution Committee in the United Jewish Appeal. It is a significant memorandum and cannot be without its effect upon the issues which concern the United Palestine Appeal and its share in the allocations and in the participation in the campaign of 1940, in the event, particularly, that there should be a United Jewish Appeal.

I also attach a copy of the announcement by the Gewerkschaften of its adoption of a quota of \$1,000,000.

You will observe that the slogans are identical with those that must be used by the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth and the United Palestine Appeal.

In a world shaken by war the effects of publicity may seem trivial, particularly to you in Palestine who are burdened by so many financial problems of growing magnitude.



Mr. Eliezer Kaplan

September 22, 1939

I cannot refrain, however, from expressing the hope that even though the Messianic days may not be at hand, Zionist leadership might succeed in being more firm than it is in imposing discipline upon its constituency.

Cordially yours.

Henry Montor  
Executive Director

HD:BO  
Enc. 2



SEPTEMBER 24, 1939

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN

MR. MENDEL N. FISHER

We were advised that the Jewish National Fund must register with the Secretary of State pursuant to the rules and regulations covering the solicitation and collection of contributions for use in Palestine.

In accordance with the decision of the Administrative Committee of the Jewish National Fund of America authorizing us to proceed with the filing of the necessary papers, we requested Mr. Maurice M. Boukstein to confer with the officials in Washington and further asked them not to file any papers until it has been absolutely ascertained that we come within the rule made by the Department of State.

Although the Secretary of State has ruled that Palestine comes within the "belligerent" countries affected by the Proclamation, it was felt that the Jewish National Fund is definitely exempt and does not have to register under the provisions of the Act.

You will see from the official communication received from Mr. Boukstein on this subject under date of September 22nd that Mr. Hague of the State Department has definitely exempt the J.N.F. which does not have to register.

Mr. Boukstein has also made inquiries about the Keren Hayesod and will be glad to convey the information to Mr. Lipsky.

MNF:SS





MINUTES OF MEETING  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
CHICAGO ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE  
September 27, 1939

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Members present:

Mr. Sigmund Livingston - Chairman  
Mr. E. M. Schnadig  
Mr. Alfred Alschuler  
Mr. Howard Mayer

Staff Members:

Mr. Miles M. Goldberg  
Mr. Sydney B. Lavine  
Mr. Max N. Kroloff  
Mr. Stanley Jacobs

Guests present:

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland  
Mr. Alfred Fleishman of St. Louis

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The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr. Sigmund Livingston.

The Chairman reported the gratifying response which he received to his letter to our keymen, suggesting that rabbis during the High Holy Days emphasize the importance of the maintenance of peace for America. He exhibited many clippings evidencing newspaper publicity, given in various communities, to the utterances of the type suggested. These included newspaper stories of special prayers for peace in the United States uttered by Jewish congregations.

Mr. Howard Mayer reported concerning the various proposals which he had submitted at the meeting last week, designed to evidence the desire of American Jewry for the avoidance of participation in foreign war by the United States. He reported that he had been advised, by one whose opinion he respected, that prayers for peace ought not to be directed to the President in order that there should be no embarrassment to the President in his program, but rather, directed to the members of Congress; secondly, that the idea of a prize to be offered by a Jewish industrialist should be amended in view of the President's plan. Rabbi Silver pointed out that one reason why there had not been more statements from Rabbis of support to the President in his declaration that America should remain at peace, prior to the High Holy Days, was the fact that Jewish groups had been adjourned for the summer. Mr. Livingston pointed out that an appropriate resolution on the subject would probably be passed at the forthcoming A.D.L. conference at Atlanta.

Mr. Livingston reported concerning the conference held in New York, September 21st by representatives of the A.J.C. and the A.D.L. As reported to Mr. Livingston by Mr. Haberman, the following two points were determined upon for immediate attention:

1. Each group to advise the other of contemplated fund-raising plans for each community where fund raising is to transpire.

Messrs. Willens and Finder to meet as soon as possible for the above discussion, having present any persons whom they desire.

2. Each organization to prepare a chart of its activities and estimate of cost and expenses. When these are finished, the gentlemen at this conference to check the charts against each other for the purpose of ascertaining future activities and suggestions.

In reply to inquiry by Mr. Alschuler, Mr. Livingston stated that we would do everything we could to carry out the understanding.

Mr. Livingston then summarized the several proposals for reorganization of the General Jewish Council, which had been submitted to it.

Mr. Kroloff advised the committee of Judge Ellman's letter, in which it was suggested that the A.D.L. pay as its proportionate share of the Colo broadcasts, the amount being charged to each of the other cities, namely \$2000, less a \$600 deduction because of the failure to get a Chicago outlet, or net amount of \$1400.

Dr. Silver then stated that he was not concerned with the problem of payment for the past broadcasts, but that he was interested in a new series now being planned. He stated that conferences had been held with representatives from Detroit, Cleveland, Toledo and Cincinnati; that the communities responsible for the original broadcasts have found them very helpful; that they are planning a series of thirteen broadcasts at a total expense of from \$26,000 to \$30,000, to be financed by the interested communities; that the group had asked the A.J.C. to help in financing or to subsidize the project entirely, but that the A.J.C. had refused because (1) they were reorganizing their own program, and (2) the new broadcasting code might silence Coughlin; that as a result, the communities are deducting from their A.J.C. contributions the amounts of their respective shares of the cost of these broadcasts. Dr. Silver suggested that the A.D.L. make some contribution to indicate support of the program and to show the sponsoring communities that their desire for this particular defense work is recognized. Dr. Silver added that the money which will be contributed voluntarily by listeners will go directly to the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice. He stated that past experience showed that such contributions came from non-Jews and that the contributions totalled from \$750 to \$800 per broadcast. He further stated that he thought the A.D.L. should give \$5,000. Mr. Alfred Fleishman mentioned that Station WEW of St. Louis University (Catholic) broadcasts Coughlin's Sunday afternoon talks but is not on the air in the evening. He suggested a transcription of the Cole broadcast be provided for that station, and that an effort be made to prevail upon the management to carry it. Dr. Silver said he would make note of this suggestion and refer it to the committee. Mr. Livingston remarked that the committee would give consideration to Dr. Silver's request, but that a \$5,000 contribution could not be expected. Reverting to Judge Ellman's correspondence, the committee voted to refer the question of our share of the cost of past broadcasts to Mr. Gutstadt for his further consideration and action.



Mr. Kroloff called attention to the Frederick Stevens' program and dissemination of news items in rural areas, which is presently handicapped because of lack of a syndicate service. Such service would assist in placing the materials in the hands of 10,000 weekly newspapers. The financial requirements for such a service are \$158 per month, beyond our present expenditures for this program. After discussion on the question of budgeting our finances, it was decided to postpone consideration of this appropriation until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.



Messrs. Alschuler and Schmadig suggested that there be made available to the Committee monthly, a financial statement showing the assets, liabilities and anticipated receipts. The Chairman concurred in the idea that such statement be provided.

The forthcoming regional conferences of A.D.L. were then explained by the Chairman. He called attention to the conference to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on October 7 and 8, and the following one to be held in Chicago on November 4 and 5.

Mr. Jacobs explained that Dr. Preston Bradley, with whom negotiations had been made for radio broadcasts, had indicated his willingness to take up the matter now. In the absence of Mr. Spiegel, who is familiar with developments in this matter, it was decided to postpone consideration until Mr. Spiegel's advice had been received.

Mr. Fleishman called the Committee's attention to a situation which had developed in St. Louis and received the advice of the Committee with respect to the handling thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

*Max N. Kroloff*

Max N. Kroloff  
Assistant Secretary

LNK:RR

*Dr. Silver*

September 27, 1939

Dr. Israel Goldstein  
270 West 89th Street  
New York City

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

I am asked by Dr. Silver to inform you that he has, in accordance with the decision made by the Administrative Committee of the United Palestine Appeal at its last meeting, designated you a member of the negotiating committee which will meet with a similar committee of the Joint Distribution Committee to consider the plans for the 1940 campaign.

I shall advise you further with regard to a date for the first meeting of the two committees.

Sincerely yours,

Henry Montor  
Executive Director

P. S. The membership of the committee, in addition to Dr. Silver, consists of the following: Judge Rothenberg, Dr. Goldman, Mr. Lipsky and yourself.

HM:EH

Also sent to: Judge Rothenberg, Dr. Goldman  
and Mr. Lipsky



October 4, 1939

Mr. Albert Finston  
Philtower Building  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

My dear Friend:

I recall with pleasure our contacts during the 1938 Campaign in Tulsa and I am taking the liberty of writing to you at this time knowing of your profound interest in the problem of overseas relief and of the upbuilding work in Palestine.

I have been informed that your community, in planning its Welfare Campaign for 1939, has set a quota of \$48,000 out of which \$20,000 has been assigned to the United Jewish Appeal. In 1938, Tulsa gave to the United Jewish Appeal the sum of \$15,200. You know, of course, that in 1939 the United Jewish Appeal set an emergency goal of \$20,000,000, far in excess of the amounts raised in previous years. This goal was set on the basis of the terribly increased needs which developed during the year - needs which the war which broke out in September did not lessen, but increased a hundredfold. If we have not gone out in the American Jewish communities with a desperate appeal for additional funds greatly needed, it was only because we did not at this particular moment wish to impose additional burdens upon our people who had responded very generously during the year, and also because we wanted a little more time to get our bearings.

Under these circumstances, I am sure that you will agree with me that Tulsa's allocation of \$20,000 to the United Jewish Appeal is quite inadequate. Most communities this year gave to the United Jewish Appeal three and four times what they gave last year, some ten times as much. Will you not therefore urge upon your Committee to reconsider its overseas allocation in order to bring it more closely in line with the great needs which have developed, and also with what all the other communities of the United States have done during this year, and are doing?

With all good wishes, permit me to remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:EK  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

MEMORANDUM

October 4, 1939

TO: DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

FROM: SAM CAPLAN

Attached herewith are the minutes of the last meeting of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.

Please take note that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 9th, at 4 P.M. at the ZOA office.





MINUTES OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS HELD ON MONDAY,  
OCTOBER 2, 1939 AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE OFFICES OF THE ZOA, 111 FIFTH AVE., New York

PRESENT: Dr. Solomon Goldman presiding; Leon Gellman, Hayim Greenberg, Louis Lipsky, Mrs. Bertha Schoolman, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Robert Szold, David Wertheim, Stephen S. Wise.

Samuel Caplan, secretary, and Morris Margulies.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MR. MONSKY AND DR. ADLER: The secretary reported that pursuant to the decision of the last meeting, Dr. Goldman had spoken to Mr. Monsky and invited him to join the Committee. Mr. Monsky expressed his readiness to accept the invitation but asked to be permitted to consult his Executive Board and promised a definite reply by October 6th.

Dr. Goldman had been unable to communicate with Dr. Adler because of the latter's illness.

UPA DISTRIBUTION TO JNF: The secretary reported that following the decision of last meeting requesting the UPA to withhold distribution of funds to the KH and KK subject to directions of the Executive, Dr. Goldman had sent the following cable to Jerusalem:

WRHS

ELIEZER KAPLAN  
JEWISH AGENCY - JERUSALEM

INFORM WHETHER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS HOLD ALL FUNDS PENDING  
RECEIPT YOUR TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS APPLY TO TOTAL RECEIPTS  
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL FOR FORWARDING LONDON OR JERUSALEM AS  
PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS OR WHETHER ONLY TO KEREN HAYESOD SHARE  
WITH KEREN KAYMETH FORWARDING ITS SHARE IN REGULAR MANNER

SOLOMON GOLDMAN"

In reply the following cable was received:

"September 22, 1939

GOLDMAN  
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

YOUR CABLE 20th GRANOVSKY AGREED SAME ARRANGEMENT NEW YEAR  
GREETINGS

KAPLAN"

On September 25th the following cable was received from Mr. Ussishkin:

"GOLDMAN  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

VEREHEMENTLY OPPOSE ANY PROPOSAL CHANGE EXISTING PROCEDURE  
ALLOCATION OR TRANSMISSION KEREN KAYEMETH SHARE UNITED  
APPEALS FUNDS STOP ALL KEREN KAYEMETH REMITTANCES MUST BE  
FORWARDED DIRECT AS HERETOFORE MEDIUM TO BE DETERMINED BY  
US JOINTLY WITH EXECUTIVE

USSISHKIN"

Identical cables were also received by Dr. Wise, Dr. Silver and Mr. Lipsky.

The UPA had meanwhile received cabled instructions from Eliezer Kaplan to transfer 12,500 pounds sterling to KK, Jerusalem; and \$50,000 to KH through London.

On September 29th the UPA received the following cable from Mr. Ussishkin:

"SILVER  
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

REGRET MISUNDERSTANDING PREVIOUS CABLE STOP ALL AVAILABLE  
KEREN KAYEMETH SHARE UNITED APPEAL INCLUDING TWELVE THOUSAND  
FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS SHOULD BE CABLED THROUGH AMERICAN KAYEMETH  
AS HERETOFORE STOP PRESENT SITUATION UNSUITS CHANGE  
KAYEMETH PROCEDURE

USSISHKIN"

The secretary further reported a communication from the Jewish National Fund of America, notifying the Committee of the action of the JNF Board of Directors at a meeting on September 25th as follows:

1. To request that all funds shall be transmitted to Palestine as heretofore in accordance with the agreement entered into between the Keren Kayemeth and the Keren Hayesod until orders to the contrary are received from Mr. Ussishkin.
2. To request the United Palestine Appeal to turn over to the Jewish National Fund of America the check in the sum of \$55,000 which is now being held by the United Palestine Appeal, so that the Keren Kayemeth in America may transmit this amount immediately to Mr. Ussishkin"

It was the decision of the committee to invite Dr. Israel Goldstein to the next meeting in order to arrive at an understanding with regard to the transfer of the JNF funds from the UPA.

CABLE FROM PALESTINE AMT. VIENNA: The secretary reported the receipt on September 20th of the following cable from Vienna:

"ZIONISTS  
NEW YORK



"ZIONISTS

WE NEED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF 600 PERSONS IN POSSESSION  
OF CERTIFICATES OF THE PRESENT IMMIGRATION SCHEDULE THIRTY-SIX  
THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR TICKETS TO PALESTINE WE URGENTLY APPEAL  
FOR YOUR HELP AND YOUR CABLE REPLY

PALAMT ROTHENBERG"

The following cable was thereupon sent to Jerusalem:

September 22, 1939

"ELIEZER KAPLAN  
JERUSALEM

ROTHENBERG VIENNA CABLED REQUEST THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS  
FOR TICKETS PALESTINE SIX HUNDRED PERSONS WITH CERTIFICATES  
PRESENT SCHEDULE CABLE WHETHER AUTHORIZED

SOLOMON GOLDMAN"

To which the following reply was received from Eliezer Kaplan:

"September 27, 1939

GOLDMAN  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

YOURS 22ND OWING VERY DIFFICULT FINANCIAL SITUATION AND  
GREAT NEEDS REGRET UNABLE COVER TRAVELLING EXPENSES IMMIGRANTS  
ADVISE ROTHENBERG APPROACH JOINT HIGH OTHERS REGARDS

KAPLAN"

NEW CABLES: The secretary read the following cables:

"September 29, 1939

GOLDMAN  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

SPECIAL TRANSPORT GERMANY PALESTINE POSSIBLE IF TWELVE THOUSAND  
POUNDS AVAILABLE CABLE REPLY

RECHA FREIER ORCHIP"

"September 29, 1939

PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORP.  
NEW YORK

FOLLOWING FOR BAERWALD AND GOLDMAN QUOTE UNDERSIGNED DISCUSSED  
SITUATION AND DECIDED URGE THAT PALESTINE QUOTA JOINT DRIVE BE  
AUGMENTED BY LARGE FUNDS ANTICIPATED TO BE REQUIRED SOON FOR  
INCREASING URGENT SOCIAL AND RELIEF WORK AND SUCH FUNDS THROUGH  
INSTRUMENTALITY VAAD LEUMI BE ALLOCATED AND SUPERVISED SPECIAL  
COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY YOU WITH RIGHT COOPTION

HENRIETTA STOLD MAGNES SIMON BAROWAY VITELIS"

LETTER FROM JDC: Dr. Wise reported that he had received the following letter from Mr. Joseph C. Hyman:

"Dear Rabbi Wise:

We have received from our European Chairman, Mr. Troper, who was in Amsterdam on Monday, a cablegram to the effect that 2,930 Palestine emigrants possessing certificates and transit visas, are ready to embark on steamers at Trieste, provided the transportation charges are covered. Of this group, 930 certificate holders are in Berlin, 1,200 in Prague, 600 in Vienna and 200 in Bratislava. Mr. Troper understands that the expenses of the Prague group are covered by the trustees of the Czech Fund. That would leave 1,760 who would require \$60 each, or a total of something over \$100,000.

As you know, through the Hicem, the J.D.C., the Jewish Colonization Association and the British Council for German Jewry have up to this time shared equally in the transportation charges for these purposes. Mr. Troper plans today to be in London to discuss this matter with the representatives of the Council and with such members of the ICA as he can reach. We do not know at this moment how the Council for German Jewry and the ICA are affected by the exchange regulations of the British government. The ICA, as you know, is a British corporation. In any event, this situation which requires for 1,700 persons a fairly large sum — \$100,000 — creates a very substantial problem which will become acute should the ICA and the Council for German Jewry be unable or unready to participate.

In view of the enormous burdens under which we are laboring at the present time, I felt that I should bring this matter to your attention with a view to your considering it with your colleagues of the United Palestine Appeal and with the Jewish Agency. The war has created new conditions for all of us. I am not unaware of the fact that up to this time the U.P.A. has taken the position that it serves only to remit funds to the Jewish Agency which must determine their distribution. In connection with the 1,700 persons ready to go to Palestine (which we all want to expedite) I should like to urge the prompt consideration of this matter by the United Palestine Appeal and the Jewish Agency, as well as by the other organizations which up to this time have been helping to defray transportation costs to Palestine. As I understand, that situation brooks very little delay, since visas must be used up as promptly as possible, I shall be very glad to have word from you at the earliest moment."

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Joseph C. Hyman, Executive Director  
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

It was the consensus of opinion that:

- (1) The Committee request the Executive in Jerusalem to authorize the expenditure of funds to meet the repeated requests from abroad for facilitating the transfer of refugees to Palestine.
- (2) A Committee of Dr. Wise, Dr. Silver and Mr. Lipsky to confer with Mr. Hyman with a view to agreeing upon a joint application by the UPA and the JDC to the Allocations Committee for a special appropriation to relieve this emergency.



REQUEST OF MIRACHI: Rabbi Wolf Gold, speaking for a special committee of the Mirachi consisting of himself, Mr. Gedaliah Bublick and Mr. Gellman, stated that the Mirachi had received a cabled appeal from the Chief Rabbinate of Palestine asking that a special campaign be undertaken in the United States to collect food for the relief of the Yishuv Mayashan. He pointed out that because of the war situation, the Old Yishuv had been cut off from all sources of income and receiving no direct support from the public funds, it was consequently on the point of starvation. He further stated that the Mirachi was prepared to initiate such a campaign.

Dr. Silver pointed out that both the JDC and the UPA had issued statements assuring the public that no special campaigns were necessary and the proposed action by the Mirachi would undermine the position of the UJA. He further questioned the advisability of raising in the public mind a distinction between the Old Yishuv and the New, which such a campaign would emphasize. While it is true that the Old Yishuv needs special assistance, Dr. Silver inquired whether this assistance could not be rendered in a form which would not disrupt the normal activities of the UJA and not unduly disturb the public.

Dr. Goldman agreed with Dr. Silver's position and added that at a meeting of the Executive in Geneva, following the Zionist Congress, it was made clear that Palestine was not in immediate need of food supplies.

Mr. Lipsky pointed out that a special campaign for food supplies would be detrimental to our position here, in view of the fact that we have been stressing not only the priority but also the superiority of Palestine in the present emergency.

It was decided, in agreement with the committee of the Mirachi, to request the Jewish Agency to authorize an appropriation by the UPA of a special amount for the purchase of food supplies here, to be shipped to Palestine for the relief of the Yishuv Mayashan.

MEMORANDUM ON FOOD PACKAGE AGENCY: The secretary presented a memorandum received from Rosen Tours, proposing that a food package agency be set up for the transfer in the future of food supplies to Palestine by individuals. This memorandum was referred to Mr. Skold who was designated as chairman of a special committee to deal with economic matters.

CABLE FROM DOBKIN: The secretary read the following cable:

"September 29, 1939

GOLDMAN  
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ACTION MAGNES DISPATCHED FOLLOWING TELEGRAM BAERWALD JOINT QUOTE PART POLAND OCCUPIED BY SOVIETS CONTAINS OVER TWO MILLION JEWS STOP AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES AND MYSELF CONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS WARRANTED ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS ONE REPATRIATION ABOUT 2000 PALESTINIAN JEWS STRANDED THERE TWO EVACUATION VIA ODESSA INTO OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING PALESTINE OF REFUGEES FROM GERMAN OCCUPATION AREAS WHOSE NUMBER REMOURED BETWEEN TWO AND FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND THREE TRANSIT FACILITIES VIA ODESSA IN RUSSIAN STEAMERS FOR IMMIGRANTS WITH BRITISH VISAS TO PALESTINE FROM LITHUANIA LATVIA THERE BEING NO OTHER WAY THROUGH FOR THEM FOUR IF YOU CONSIDER ADVISABLE ALSO POSSIBILITY EVACUATION ZIONIST LEADERS FROM RUSSIAN OCCUPIED AREA STOP SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER SENDING ROSEN EXPLORE THESE MATTERS POSSIBLY ACCOMPANIED BY IMMIGRATION EXPERT FROM PALESTINE PLEASE CABLE MAGNES

DOBKIN"

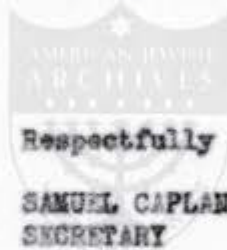
The Committee agreed to Dr. Goldman's suggestion that a cable of inquiry covering the subject matter raised by Mr. Dobkin be transmitted to Dr. Weizmann, if possible through the facilities of the British Embassy.

MEMBERSHIP IN NEW CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATIONS: The chairman stated that he, as well as other members of the Committee, had received invitations to become sponsors of a special campaign for relief in Poland and inquired what should be the attitude to such invitations. It was generally agreed that it would be inadvisable for members holding positions in the UPA to identify themselves with other campaign activities.

The chairman stated that a cable signed by Isaac Gruenbaum and others had been received by the Federation of Polish Jews, asking that organization to cable immediate financial assistance for Polish Jews.

It was decided to cable an inquiry whether the Executive was identified through Mr. Gruenbaum with this appeal and whether a special agency was being set up to finance the transfer of Polish Jews to Palestine.

NEXT MEETING: It was decided that the next meeting be held on Monday, October 9, at 4 P.M.



Respectfully submitted

SAMUEL CAPLAN  
SECRETARY



2017/12/11 22:01  
1939  
1938/11/28 21:02

MINUTES OF Z.O.A. EXECUTIVE MEETING, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 4 P.M.  
AT THE ASTOR HOTEL, BROADWAY AND 44TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

**PRESENT:** Dr. Solomon Goldman (in the Chair), Messrs. Robert M. Bernstein, Charles A. Cowen, A. K. Epstein, Judge Harry M. Fisher, Abraham Goldberg, Abraham Goldstein, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Murray Gurfein, Mordecai Konowitz, Dr. Harris Levine, Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Dr. Ludwig Louisohn, Louis Lipsky, Morris Margulies, Rabbi Irving Miller, Charles Ross, Louis P. Rockor, Judge Morris Rothernberg, Ezra Z. Shapiro, William I. Siogol, Morris Weinberg; Alfred J. Kahn (representing Avukah), Eliezer Lipsky (representing Masada), Mrs. Moses P. Epstein (representing Hadassah); Harry Frankol of Cincinnati, by invitation; and Samuel Caplan, I. Maltin and Meyer W. Weisgal.

**Excuses for Absence:** Messrs. David Boronstein, Judge Henry Ellonbogen, Dr. Harry Friedonwald, Rabbi Edward L. Israel, Meyer Levy, Judge Julian W. Mack, Carl Shorman, Simon Shetzer, Robert Szold, Elihu D. Stone, Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Dr. Goldman called upon the Secretary who reported as follows:

This meeting marks the first gathering of the Executive since the beginning of the new Zionist fiscal year. My report, therefore, will of necessity be circumscribed by the brief period that has elapsed.

On the basis of the unusually heavy mail that has reached us -- and on the basis of information gathered as a result of a number of meetings that I have attended, it is correct to say that there is a definite feeling that the coming year will witness a strong upsurge in Zionist sentiment which is certain to be reflected in an increase in Zionist activity and growth of the Zionist Organization.

Since the last meeting of the Executive on September 20th, the Emergency Committee of whose formation you were informed at the last meeting, has held three meetings. The following is a summary of the decisions taken by the Emergency Committee:

Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs:

As I already indicated, the new political developments arising out of the conflict in Europe have been fully dealt with by the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, which was organized following a decision passed at a meeting of the World Zionist Executive held at the conclusion of the Zionist Congress, when the outbreak of the war seemed imminent. This committee was empowered to represent the World Executive in the United States. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Solomon Goldman and Mr. Louis Lipsky were named to comprise the committee and given power to co-opt representatives of all Zionist bodies in the United States. Consequently, the committee was enlarged to include two representatives



each from Hadassah, Poale Zion and Mizrachi, as well as Dr. Silver as Chairman of the U.P.A. and Mr. Szold as Economic and Legal Advisor. The committee has held three meetings since its formation; the following is a summary of the actions taken by it -

Subsequent to the organization of the committee, Dr. Goldman, Mr. Lipsky and Dr. Wise visited Washington on Sept. 11, when they conferred with the new British Ambassador Lord Lothian and Secretary of State Hull. These meetings were designed to establish personal contact with the new British Ambassador and to make certain inquiries of the State Department with reference to matters involving our current work in Palestine. The Secretary of State was of the opinion that Palestine would come under the classification of a belligerent country. At its subsequent meetings the Emergency Committee dealt principally with a number of cable requests from various European centers for funds to meet the immigration needs into Palestine. These requests were directed to the United States because of lack of communication with Palestine and London, and were therefore transmitted by the committee to the Executive either in Jerusalem or London.

A delegation representing the Mizrachi appeared at a meeting of the Emergency Committee on October 2, with the proposal that a special campaign be undertaken in the United States to collect food supplies to be sent to the old Yishub. The delegation based its proposal on the fact that it has received advices from the Chief Rabbinate of Palestine that the old Yishub was faced with starvation conditions as a result of the war.

The committee expressed opposition to such a campaign, but suggested instead the possible appropriation of funds for the purchase of food supplies, if the need were acute. Upon inquiry of the Executive in Palestine, the Emergency Committee was advised not to appropriate any funds for this purpose and that the situation could be relieved by action of the Executive in Jerusalem. With reference to the question of food supplies, the committee was further advised by Palestine that such supplies were not required for the present because the Palestine Government has taken steps to obtain ample foodstocks from neighboring countries.

On October 10th the committee advised Dr. Weizmann to come here as soon as convenient. The committee is examining the possibilities of establishing contact with Zionist communities in occupied Polish territory. It is expected that some results may be achieved soon.

In view of the significance attached to the forthcoming meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, to be held in Washington, the committee in conjunction with the United Palestine Appeal has prepared a memorandum for submission to the Conference on the subject of absorptive capacity of Palestine in relationship to the refugee problem and the need of finding a home for large masses of Jewish victims of war and persecution.

It is yet too early to define clearly the tasks of the Emergency Committee. This will come about with the gradual clarification of the situation. However, the committee, as set up, is both prepared and equipped to function in whatever manner it is called upon, and to carry out the duties with which it has been entrusted by the Executive of the Jewish Agency.



MEMORANDUM

October 12, 1939

TO: DR. ABBA HILLEL SILBER

FROM: SAMUEL CAPLAN

1. Attached herewith is a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Emergency Committee.
2. Please note that the next meeting is set for Tuesday, October 17th, at 4 o'clock at the ZOA office.
3. Attached herewith is a draft of statement on the Emergency Committee which is to be discussed at the next meeting.



MINUTES OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS HELD ON  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1939 at 4 P.M. AT THE OFFICES OF THE ZOA, 111  
FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

PRESENT: Dr. Solomon Goldman presiding: Leon Gellman, Hayim Greenberg,  
Louis Lipsky, Mrs. Bertha Schoolman, Robert Szold, David  
Wertheim, Stephen S. Wise.

Samuel Caplan, secretary, and Dr. Israel Goldstein by invitation.

Minutes of the previous meeting as circulated were approved.

RE UPA FUNDS: The chairman stated that pursuant to the decision of the last meeting, Dr. Israel Goldstein had been invited to discuss with the Committee the matter raised in connection with the distribution of the UPA funds to the Jewish National Fund. Dr. Goldstein stated that the misunderstanding which had arisen in this connection had been removed and that the JNF had received from the UPA its allotment of funds. Several members expressed their regret over the multiplicity of cables sent by Mr. Ussishkin concerning this matter.

Dr. Wise raised the question of the renewal of the contract between the KK and KH for the 1940 UPA campaign. It was his opinion that in view of the emergency needs of the KH, involving also possible expenditures for transportation of immigrants into Palestine, the new contract ought to be revised to give the KH a larger proportion of the funds.

Mr. Lipsky felt that for the period of the war, the agreement between the KH and the KK should be based upon an arrangement whereby the KK would receive a fixed amount in addition to what it raises through its own efforts, and the balance should be made available to the KH to meet the emergency needs. He questioned, however, the advisability of the Emergency Committee undertaking the responsibility for making a decision with regard to the new contract and suggested instead that an inquiry be made to Jerusalem as to the opinion of the Executive in this matter.

Dr. Goldstein stated that committees representing the KK and the KH were about to negotiate regarding the new contract. He too felt that in view of the emergency it was inadvisable to adhere to strict formulas, but in order to meet the situation he said that he would like to urge upon Mr. Ussishkin to agree to an arrangement similar to the one employed with regard to the Bitzaron fund so that the amount needed for emergency would represent the joint contribution of the KH and KK.

It was agreed to address a cable to Jerusalem asking for instructions regarding the new contract between the KK and the KH in view of the larger needs of the KH.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS: Dr. Wise reported on his interview with Mr. Joseph Hyman and Dr. Bernard Kahn of the JDC.

Dr. Wise's letter to Dr. Silver covering this report and Dr. Silver's reply on the matter of the UPA making commitments to meet transportation expenses are appended to these minutes.



Dr. Goldman was of the opinion that the Emergency Committee ought to have at its disposal an amount estimated at about \$100,000 to meet the requests which are becoming increasingly pressing for transportation of immigrants to Palestine. He felt that the inability of the Zionist groups here to undertake financial commitments, which may be found to be necessary, would seriously hamper us in our negotiations with the JDC for the forthcoming UJA campaign. He urged that this position be made clear to the Executive in Jerusalem coupled with a request for authority to make such commitments as may be necessary.

It was agreed to send a cable along these lines to Jerusalem.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The secretary read the following cables sent after the last meeting:

"October 2, 1939

KAPLAN  
JERUSALEM

MIZRACHI BROUGHT OUR NOTICE URGENT APPEAL PALESTINE  
CHIEF RABBINATE LAUNCH CAMPAIGN HERE COLLECT FOOD FOR  
YISHUV HAYASHAN STOP OPPOSED SPECIAL CAMPAIGN VIEW CONTRACT  
JDC ALSO GENERAL SITUATION BUT AGREED URGE AGENCY AUTHORIZE  
UPA APPROPRIATION PURCHASE FOOD HERE SPECIFIC RELIEF YISHUV  
HAYOSHAN STOP PLEASE CABLE AUTHORIZATION AND SPECIFIC AMOUNT

GOLDMAN WISE LIPSKY SILVER"

to which no reply has as yet been received.

The following cable was also sent:

"October 3, 1939

KAPLAN  
JERUSALEM

FRIEDER BERLIN CABLED REQUEST TWELVE THOUSAND POUNDS SPECIAL  
TRANSPORT ALSO REQUESTS VIA JDC ESTIMATING \$100,000 FOR  
1760 CERTIFICATE HOLDERS STOP INTEND JOINING JDC IN  
APPLICATION ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE THIS PURPOSE REQUEST  
IMMEDIATE AUTHORIZATION COMMIT UPA EXPEND SUM ASSUMING  
OBTAINABLE FROM ALLOCATIONS

GOLDMAN SILVER LIPSKY WISE"

to which the following cable was received in reply:

"October 6, 1939

GOLDMAN  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

ACCORDING INFORMATION LANDAUER DOUBT WHETHER FREIER  
AUTHORIZED STOP OUR GENEVA OFFICE DEALS QUESTION  
TRAVELLING EXPENSES STOP OPPOSE STRONGLY ANY DIRECT  
ALLOCATION TRAVELLING EXPENSES

KAPLAN"

The secretary reported receipt of the following cable in answer to  
Mr.Szold's inquiry:

"October 4, 1939

GOLDMAN  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

DELAY REPLY WHEAT PROPOSALS DUE NEGOTIATIONS GOVERNMENT  
WHO HOPES ORGANISE CHEAPER SUPPLY FROM NEIGHBOURING  
COUNTRIES STOP PREFER THEREFORE RESERVE AMERICAN FUNDS  
OTHER URGENT NEEDS POSSIBLE LATER PURCHASES

RUPPIN KAPLAN"

DR.WEIZMANN'S COMING: It was agreed that in view of the fact that  
Congress in Washington is about to dispose of the Neutrality Legis-  
lation, Dr.Weizmann be advised to come to the U.S. as soon as it is  
convenient for him to do so.

PALCOR-JTA: Dr.Goldman stated that Mr. Landau of the JTA had spoken  
to him with a view to bringing about a merger between Palcor and the JTA  
and he asked whether it would not be advisable for this Committee to  
facilitate this result. Mr. Lipsky stated that he and Mr.Montor had been  
conducting negotiations with the JTA but that the latter had failed to  
advance any reasonable proposal for a merger.

It was decided that Mr.Lipsky and Mr.Szold act as a committee to meet  
informally with Mr.Landau to continue negotiations.

SENDING REPRESENTATIVE TO BALTIC COUNTRIES: Dr.Goldman stated that the  
JDC is about to send Dr.Rosen to visit the Baltic countries and possibly  
also the occupied territories of Poland and suggested the advisability  
of sending an American Zionist also to visit these countries in order to  
establish contact with the Zionists there.

Dr.Wise suggested that this proposal be discussed with Justice Brandeis  
and the suggestion was also made that it be taken up with the American  
Jewish Congress.



SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES: Dr. Goldman suggested that the Emergency Committee establish direct contact with the Jewish communities in South America with a view to aiding in stimulating Zionist sentiment as well as to develop the goodwill of their governments for the time when peace discussions will be held.

It was decided that prior to undertaking any activities, information on Zionist work in South America be obtained from the London office.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REFUGEE CONFERENCE: Dr. Wise stated that the Intergovernmental Conference will definitely be held next week and suggested that Dr. Goldman, Mr. Lipsky and he go to Washington as soon as possible for meetings with the proper authorities, with a view to bringing about the favorable consideration by the Conference of the proposals to be made with regard to the availability of Palestine as a center for refugees.

MR. SZOLD'S REPORT:

1. On the matter of food packages to Palestine referred to him by the last meeting, Mr. Szold was of the opinion that the proposal should not be considered at this time.

2. Mr. Szold suggested several names to constitute a small committee to act as consultants in economic matters and he was urged by the meeting to proceed in the formation of this committee.

STATEMENT ON EMERGENCY COMMITTEE: The chairman stated that a draft of a statement announcing the formation of the Emergency Committee had been prepared and suggested that it be circulated among the members and discussed at the next meeting.

AFL CONVENTION: Mr. Greenberg reported that the Poale Zion had been informed that a resolution on Palestine was to be introduced at the current convention of the American Federation of Labor and their suggestions were solicited with regard to the text of the resolution. It was the consensus of opinion that the proposed resolution contain the following phrase: "Implementation of the Balfour Declaration through the establishment of a free Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine."

NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee be held on Tuesday, October 17th at 4 P.M. at the ZOA office.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL CAPLAN  
SECRETARY

C  
O  
P  
Y

October 3, 1939

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Dr. Bernard Kahn and Mr. Joseph C. Hyman of the Joint Distribution Committee appeared promptly at my study at 8:45 this morning, and your telegram arrived within a few moments of our meeting telling us to our regret that you had found it necessary to leave last night because of the uncertainty of planes this morning.

Let me deal first with the cablegram from Dobkin-Magnes. They have sent formal acknowledgement, which perhaps we might do if we thought it necessary.

As for the first part of the letter, the estimate of Dr. Kahn is that the 2,000,000 Jews in the Soviet-occupied part of Poland should be reduced to 1,200,000, excepting possibly for two or three hundred thousand who have temporarily taken themselves into the area for protection against the Nazi regime.

As for the repatriation of 2,000 Palestinian citizens or Jews resident in Palestine, who happen to be stranded in Poland, the question is whether they are Palestinians, whether they hold Palestinian citizenship, or whether they are merely Palestinian residents.

As for the evacuation proposal, Dr. Kahn does not believe -- and I am inclined to share his view -- that Russia will permit huge concentration camps for tens of thousands of people; but will send them into the country regions; and, in any event, not permit them in large numbers to be in or near Odessa.

Assuming that it be true that there are two to four hundred thousand refugees from German occupation areas, where shall they go even if the impossible sums could be found that would enable them to be moved?

As for #3, we are agreed ~~that~~ those people, who hold British visas to Palestine from Lithuania and Latvia, can only be a limited number.

I feel, as does Dr. Kahn, that with respect to #4 there is hardly any possibility of the evacuation of Zionist leaders from Russian areas now. I do not see why this should be considered an opportune time for such evacuation.

As for the final suggestion that Rosen explore these matters, the Committee has already thought of sending him after some weeks.

Dr. Kahn and Mr. Hyman do not believe -- and I am prepared to agree with them -- that things are sufficiently stable in the way of community organization to permit more than limited exploration at this time. I think we should have a chance to discuss that matter further in the next days.



With regard to the other and more pressing matter, namely 2,960 Palestinian immigrants possessing certificates and transit visas, Mr. Hyman and Dr. Kahn are entirely sympathetic, but maintain that formerly the arrangement was that the expense of transportation to Palestine was divided between the Council for German Jewry, the ICA and the Joint Distribution Committee. On account of exchange regulations arising out of prohibitive war conditions, it may become impossible for the Council for German Jewry -- which has changed its title to Council for (Jewish) Victims of Nazi Oppression -- to grant any funds for these purposes; and the Joint Distribution Committee would probably be left alone among the three organizations as far as meeting the burden of expense is concerned. The ICA has English incorporation and therefore is in the same position as the Council. Mr. Hyman made the suggestion that if we would do the rest, they might be prepared to recommend that they continue to bear their share of the burden; but in view of the enormous claims that will shortly be made upon their support, they could not afford to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for transportation. We agreed that we would recommend to our several organizations that we divide the expense -- they to meet one-half and we to meet one-half. I pointed out the difficulty under which we rest insofar as we are not a distributing, but merely a collecting body. The matter thus rests until after we shall have discussed it, as I told them that we would find it necessary to take the matter up with London (Weizmann) and with the Executive in Jerusalem.

With cordial greeting, I am

Faithfully yours,

Stephen S. Wise

P.S. I still feel that as an Emergency Committee we ought to act as if we had power and accept the responsibility for our action, whether it temporarily dislocate the budget or not, seeing that there is every reason to believe that there will be considerable allocation for Palestine needs from the UJA.

I have omitted to make reference to the fact that Mr. Hyman called special attention to a statement made by you in your recent communication, which was to the effect that the Zionists would take over the task of transporting the refugees to Palestine. I have looked over the memorandum and your statement on the war situation, but I cannot find any such reference unless it be the statement at the foot of Page 1, namely "On September 8th, as a result of a message from the Jewish Agency representatives in Geneva, sufficient funds were sent by the United Palestine Appeal in New York to make possible the transportation of a thousand Jews from Germany to Palestine."

C  
O  
P  
Y

October 6, 1939

Dr. Stephen S. Wise  
40 West 68th Street  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Wise:

Let me thank you for the report of the meeting with Dr. Kahn and Mr. Hyman which **you held last Tuesday.**

The question whether the UPA should help finance the transportation of immigrants to Palestine is a very serious one, and there ought to be a decision in principle made by us in agreement with the Jewish Agency in Palestine, for there will be many such requests in the future. Heretofore, our funds were not used for that purpose. If we show too ready a disposition to assume responsibility for this item, it may well be that the JDC would be only too eager to unload the responsibility which it has in the matter upon us. I am inclined to believe that our act in financing a thousand Jews from Germany to Palestine, in response to the appeal from Geneva, has encouraged the JDC to regard that as a precedent. I also think that we should make definite inquiry from the Council for German Jewry and the I.C.A. whether they are in a position to continue their subventions. While there will be increased allocations for Palestine out of the 1939 campaign, the demands of Palestine upon us will be much greater because other sources of revenue for Palestine will be practically shut off, whereas the income of the JDC, derived wholly from the United States, will suffer no reduction because of the war. The JDC will receive far more than it expected out of the 1939 campaign, and while the demands upon it next year will undoubtedly be much heavier, they will be met not out of the 1939 campaign, but out of the 1940 campaign. I am inclined to believe that the JDC has large available funds which it can put to no better use than that of assisting in the transportation of refugees from Europe to Palestine where they cease to be a charge upon that organization.

I am in favor of making our necessary contribution to the \$100,000 fund required for the transportation of the 2,960 Palestinian immigrants, as an emergency, but it should be clearly understood that the JDC is not to regard that as a precedent for similar requests in the future.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Abba Hillel Silver

AHS:BK



EDMUND I. KAUFMANN

HOMER BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 13, 1939

Rabbi Hillel Silver  
c/o The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Hillel:

Enclosed herewith you will please find copy  
of letter to Henry Irtelson which is self-explanatory.

I know that Canada is a dominion and has  
a right to determine its own destiny. Nevertheless,  
I have a hunch that something can be done, and to that  
end, I should like to exchange views with you.

Trust that you are well and with warm regards,

I am

Very cordially,

*E. I.*

EIK:LW  
Encl.

October 13, 1939

Mr. Henry Ittelson  
1 Park Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Henry:

6           For some time past I have been wanting to write to all of the members of the President's Refugee Committee, and finally, before doing so, I am writing you for the purpose of securing your advice and suggestions.

On several occasions I have sent money to the Spanish Refugee Committee, and just received a request again for funds for them. From reliable sources I learned that there are well over 200,000 Spanish refugees interred in France. Wandering through Europe are probably over 100,000 refugees of mixed race and creed without passports and without citizenship. We can now add those many thousands of Czechs and Poles who refused to stay in their country when they lost their liberty. We know also that the Jews of Germany are faced with a condition that is worse than that which existed in the Middle Ages. In what was Poland, we know that there are close to 4,000,000 Jews. While their condition at present may not be worse than the balance of the Poles who were in similar circumstances, we do know that Hitler and his rule will never permit these Jews to have equal opportunities or to live in peace. Communism will not only deprive them of what they possess, but will destroy their religion. Like you, I cannot value a Jew's life to be of greater worth than a Christian's. All human beings are human beings. The Spanish refugee mother is no different than the Polish or German mother. We here in America spend millions of dollars maintaining wild life sanctuaries. Warring nations are spending billions destroying life, trying to save this world for civilization. Should we not now give some thought to saving life.

England owes us billions and we have very little chance of getting any money that these warring nations owe us. Canada is over 446,000 square miles greater than the United States. It has a population the size of New York State. It imports \$290,000,000 worth of textile machinery, dyes, materials, etc., which could be easily made in Canada. If Canada would set aside a certain number of square miles as a refuge and sanctuary for all those who have been made homeless, she not only would thrive, but would be doing a civilized and humane act. Our



Mr. Henry Ittelson -2

October 13, 1939

various organizations, after several years of effort, have done very little in placing refugees, and when they have been placed, it is usually in such countries where the climate is totally different, and where to-morrow there may be a revolution and these refugees asked to move. Surely none of us has forgotten the St. Louis with its cargo of human misery.

I prefer Canada for many reasons. The first, of course, is that they would enjoy a full measure of safety, and secondly, it is important for us and for the safety of this continent to have a strong neighboring nation. In other words, if Canada had admitted immigrants during the past fifty years, as this nation has, there is no reason why Canada would not be in a position to at least defend itself or help us in time of war in a comparable manner as we were able to help the Allies in the last war. Possibly this nation would be satisfied to say to Great Britain: "Arrange with Canada to have it set aside a certain number of square miles, pay Canada for this land, give a mandate to this nation and Canada, and have England take notes from the refugees to be paid over a period of twenty-five to thirty years, and then turn these consumers notes over to this nation as a credit on England's debt to us." This might be a deal for the land, and to help give these refugees a start. All of this may involve \$100,000,000, may be \$500,000,000, but regardless, it could be done and it should be done.

Hitler in his peace talk of October 6, indicated that the Jewish question should be solved. I do not think that it is a Jewish question; I think that it is a Christian one. Christianity cannot hope to survive by destroying Judaism. To my mind, it is a question of human rights and decency. Certainly all nations, with the exception of Germany and Russia, would join in some movement whereby oppressed people could always have a sanctuary. Relief, while necessary, is futile. It has no lasting effect. Human beings should be given the right to work, to create, and to live in peace, and there are many unused square miles in Canada which could be used for this purpose. No one can object to creating a place called "Liberty Land" for all people and for all times.

I could write so much more, but I think that I have given you a portion of which is in my mind. Please let me hear from you in the near future as I greatly value your opinion.

With affectionate greetings, I am

Sincerely,

NIK:LN

Discussion on Political Report:

Judge Rosenblatt expressed the thought that the political report represents a splendid effort. He then called attention to the fact that a similar situation to that which confronted the Zionist movement in August, 1914 now exists. At that time, within three weeks an emergency meeting was convoked in New York, and Mr. Brandeis was brought in. Immediately an Emergency Fund was organized to save Jewish colonization in Palestine. Perhaps this is not needed at this time, he said, because the Yishuv has 500,000 people, but there are two or three important points which we dare not neglect. We had opportunities for expansive colonization that we lost in 1914, let us not lose them twenty-five years later.

Judge Rosenblatt further expressed the thought that the small, private shipping company in Palestine which operates from Rumania with two little ships, might be made the nucleus of a national effort for a real steamship service, so that we will not be continually dependent upon the good-will of others, as we are today. He suggested that the Zionist Organization take the initiative in organizing a Palestine Cooperative Committee, including Hadassah, Poale Zion and Mizrahi, which should mobilize national and private effort to take advantage of every opportunity from which we can grow into the real National Home in Palestine.

REPORT ON UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL :

The Chairman called upon Mr. Henry Montor, Executive Vice-Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and Executive Director of the United Palestine Appeal, to report on the fund-raising effort.

Mr. Montor reported that between January 1, 1939 through September 30, 1939 -- a period of eight months -- there was made available in cash for Palestine, through the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth, \$3,043,000, which, inadequate though it is for the needs, is the largest sum ever sent in cash in a similar period for the National Funds, to Palestine. The funds of the United Palestine Appeal are raised, in addition to the private collections of the Jewish National Fund, through the United Jewish Appeal. On January 1, 1939, a campaign was inaugurated for \$20,000,000. to cover the needs of the United Palestine Appeal, the Joint Distribution Committee and the National Refugee Service. In the first six months there was raised by the United Jewish Appeal an amount of slightly more than \$15,000,000; of that sum, some \$9,000,000 in cash has already been raised. The Constitution of the United Jewish Appeal provided that the first nine and one-half million dollars was to be divided as follows: five million dollars to the Joint Distribution Committee; two and one-half million dollars to the United Palestine Appeal; and two million dollars to the National Refugee Service. From the cash that has thus far been received, four and one-half million dollars has been given to the J.D.C.; two and one-quarter million to the U.P.A.; and \$1,820,000 to the National Refugee Service. There have been conducted thus far by the U. J. A. and the U. P. A. over 1,800 campaigns, and in each case the community has adopted a larger quota than the composite sum total raised in 1938. Over \$15,000,000 has already been provided, and the balance of the year will see the inauguration of new campaigns. Philadelphia is now under way; Baltimore, Cincinnati and other major communities are still to conduct their drives. Mr. Montor stated further that the success of the plans of the United Jewish Appeal seems in doubt; the question arose as to whether the agencies in the United Jewish Appeal would have the capacity to stand many campaigns. Since September 3rd a most earnest attempt has had to be made by the three agencies within the United Jewish Appeal, and the United Jewish Appeal itself, to offset



rumors and misunderstandings, and to emphasize that the funds that are required are far greater than could possibly have been envisaged in 1939. The United Palestine Appeal, of course, is primarily concerned with the needs as they relate to Palestine, and those needs cover (1) immigration, and (2) the support of the internal economy of Palestine. With regard to immigration, first, the German Government is not preventing the emigration of Jews from Germany. As a matter of fact, the Gestapo is encouraging the emigration of Jews of fifteen and under, fifty and over. It may be emphasized that the Palestine Government is cooperating in the reception of Jews into Palestine at this time. There will leave from Trieste some 31,000, largely financed by the Keren Hayesod and the funds being sent by the New York headquarters of the Keren Hayesod, in addition to funds provided by Jerusalem. Fifty thousand certificates were issued in the past three months. In addition, five thousand certificates were issued by the Palestine Government. In addition, unregistered migrants continue to come into Palestine, and the responsibility for their maintenance rests upon the Jewish Agency for Palestine. In discussing the internal economy of Palestine, Mr. Montor added, it ought to be emphasized also that obligations completely unexpected have been thrown upon the Jewish Agency because of the outbreak of the war. The stoppage of building operations, etc., have built up a widespread need, and we ought to face the fact that we were apprised of recently that in the last month the Jewish Agency for Palestine, in addition to its many other obligations, has had to provide for the feeding of 30,000 Jews in Palestine.

In concluding, Mr. Montor pointed out that the question which now faces Zionists in America is the prospect for 1940 -- whether there shall be a unified campaign, and under whose direction it shall be conducted. The cash out of the nine and one-half million dollars has not yet been forthcoming; the allocations committee of the U.J.A., has not yet met; it will. All decisions with respect to the distribution of the first nine and one-half million dollars rests completely in the hands of these people. If the United Palestine Appeal is to carry out its obligations with respect to the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth in Palestine, we have to know what strength we are bringing into a 1940 campaign. If we proceed on the assumption that there shall be a continuation of the 1939 U.J.A., we are faced with two decisions: (1) that Zionists take a far greater part in the administration of Welfare Funds throughout the country than they have up till this time. We can have very pertinent discussions as to how funds can be raised, but the Welfare Funds in this country, totaling some 180, are today the only channel for the raising of funds for Palestine. Unless the Zionists make themselves an integral part of these Welfare Funds, we will not get very far. (2) A unification of Zionist forces with respect to fund-raising. In 1939 there was a slight diminution of the competition between fund-raising bodies; 1940 may see a resurgence of these competitive efforts. Although the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth are the responsibility of all organized Zionists, and obviously, the needs for 1940 are greater than they were in 1939, nevertheless we are confronted by a campaign by the Gewerkschaften for one million dollars, at a time when their cooperation in the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth should have been greater than ever before. There are various other institutions that have engaged in Palestine fund-raising and have launched new enterprises for pot institutions in Palestine, thus diminishing our strength which must be directed toward the United Jewish Appeal or the United Palestine Appeal. Mr. Montor expressed the hope that some discipline will be enforced in fund-raising for Palestine.

#### REPORT ON JEWISH NATIONAL FUND :

In the absence of Dr. Israel Goldstein, President of the Jewish National Fund, the Chairman called upon Mr. Mendel N. Fisher, Executive Director to report on behalf of the Jewish National Fund.

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

C O P Y

October 17, 1939

WISE SILVER  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

DISASTER POLISH JEWRY OBLIGES US MAKE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS HELP  
THEM ESPECIALLY THOSE IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND ENABLE SECURE  
THEIR ADMISSION PALESTINE STOP PLEASE ADVISE HOW SPECIAL FUNDS THIS  
PURPOSE OBTAINABLE STATES STOP IS IT POSSIBLE ARRANGE SPECIAL  
COLLECTION AT LEAST FROM POLISH JEWS THERE STOP APPEAL YOU GIVE  
YOUR ATTENTION AND AID THIS URGENT TASK DESPITE OTHER HEAVY BURDENS  
THRUST UPON YOU STOP APPROACHED ALSO POLISH JEWISH CONFERENCE NEWYORK  
STOP CABLE EXECUTIVE GRUNBAUM

WRHS



*Handwritten notes and signatures in a box, including '5 July 1939' and 'D. H. Silver'.*

*Handwritten signature 'M. H. Silver'.*



Spaithes

① Loan for 1954  
② Ford Package

WRHS



STOB CABLE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
THREAT FROM LOB STOB APPROVED ALSO POLISH JEWISH CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM  
LOAN ATTENTION AND VIO THIS PRESENT TASK DESPITE OTHER HEAVY BURDENS  
COLLECTION AT LEVEL FROM POLISH JEWISH THERE STOB PRESENT LOB GIVE  
PURPOSE OBTAINABLE STATES STOB IS IT POSSIBLE ARRANGE SPECIAL  
THEIR ADMISSION ENTERLINE STOB PLEASE ADVISE HOW SPECIAL FUNDING THIS  
THEIR EFFECTIVELY THOSE IN NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITIES AND ENABLE SECURE  
DISSEMINATE POLISH JEWISH OFFICES AS MAKE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS HERE  
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION  
MISE STOB

October 13, 1953

COPIA

DE. VERA HILLET STOB

AMERICAN ZIONIST BUREAU

625 WOODWARD BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

DATE October 17th, 1939

TO Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

FROM Rabbi Isadore Breslau

- 1- Mr. Montor was in Washington and at once established contact with Mr. Pell of the State Department and submitted memorandum on the refugee problem in behalf of the American Emergency Committee for Palestine Affairs, to the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees. Copy of release on memorandum enclosed.
- 2- Enclosing copy President's opening remarks to Conference.
- 3- It is reported that Mr. Rublee is giving a special luncheon to a specially invited group, Wednesday afternoon. Trying to secure invitation for Mr. Montor to attend luncheon.
- 4- Chatham has not yet received the Skipper's invitation for interview. HVC feels it would be improper to press the request a second time with Skipper's secretary. Will also consult LDB in this matter tonight.
- 5- FF's secretary reports that he has taken the question of Emerson, Winterton appointments up with Lothian, but have not yet discovered when or under what circumstances meeting will take place. FF unusually busy with court matters and hard to reach.
- 6- Mrs. De Sola Pool is in Washington, and on behalf of Hadassah, submitted to Myron C. Taylor a separate memorandum outlining Hadassah's program of Youth Aliyah, offering the committee its help, etc. At Mr. Taylor's suggestion, Mrs. Pool sent copies of the same memorandum to Winterton and Emerson. Mrs. Pool further asked Montor and myself to keep her advised of all negotiations, conversations, appointments, etc. She is also anxious to arrange personal interview Emerson, etc. I discussed with her at great length the overlapping of our respective efforts. Mrs. Pool is here of course, not in an independent capacity, but as representative of the Hadassah board.



הסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

# ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

111 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

October 17, 1939

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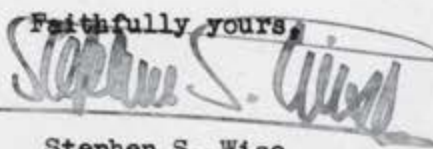
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I assume that I shall hear from you with respect to this telegram addressed to you and me by Greenbaum of the Executive. I do not know what you plan to do about it. I have only one comment to make: we, on behalf of the Emergency Committee, cable to Palestine for the right to use funds on behalf of these refugees; and then Greenbaum cables in these terms. It shows what an anomalous position is our own. My own feeling is that, in order to conform to the terms of a pre-war arrangement, we are making two grave mistakes: (1) we are failing to facilitate the immigration into Palestine of nearly 3,000 refugees with passports; (2) by so doing we are resigning an opportunity to render a service which would help us in next year's collections under all circumstances; and at this time give us a basis upon which to rest our appeal for large funds from the Allocations Committee.

You, Dr. Goldman and the rest of us ought at once to say we will expend whatever money is needed. We could make an arrangement with the JDC that they spend half of this money. They never gave more than one-third, because of the arrangement of which you know with the ECA and the Council for German Jewry; so that if they are pushed up to meeting one-half of the expense, we shall be doing very well. We ought to act with courage and resolution and say we are going to do what we think necessary to facilitate the entrance of those refugees throughout Europe into Palestine. That is our job, and we take it for granted that when the time comes to make allocations we shall be able to prove our case, more particularly seeing that we are dealing with the JDC and sharing their burden as they are sharing ours in the matter. I would go even further, Dr. Silver, I confess, and take over the whole responsibility of transportation up to December 31st of refugees to Palestine, taking it for granted that we would be reimbursed at least for this, and that we would have this to our credit for 1940 if it should become necessary, as it may, to conduct our own UPA campaign.

Faithfully yours,



Stephen S. Wise

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

P.S. I take it for granted that you have sent a copy of the radiogram from Kaplan to Montor, Baerwald and the heads of the UJA, leaving out the last sentence to the latter on Alaska, which would not be of interest to them from our point of view.





AMERICAN ZIONIST BUREAU

625 WOODWARD BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

DATE October 18th, 1939

TO Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

FROM Rabbi Isadore Breslau

1- Visit with LDB evening of October 17th. He feels confident that meeting with the Skipper will take place as soon as time can be found. The Skipper as may be expected is quite busy now, but LDB feels sure that Miss Le Hand his secretary, can be relied upon to arrange the meeting at the first available opportunity. (The delay seems to be our own fault. We should have initiated the plan for such a meeting much earlier).

LDB had not heard from FF with regard to a meeting with Sir Herbert Emerson and urged me not to press the matter further until I had heard exactly what FF had done in the matter.

Mr. Rublee's luncheon of today LDB understood to be one of personal nature, that it would not be proper to seek an invitation for Mr. Montor.

2- Called office of FF this morning and learned that nothing had been done to arrange meeting between LDB and Emerson. After his conversation with Lord Lothian, he had received an invitation to the Rublee luncheon, but inasmuch as court was in session, he could not attend.

3- Petitions arrived from Jewish Morning Journal. These were in very loose form and even the names of the important people we found were not listed nor arranged in any schedule. This all had to be prepared for presentation to the State Department. Mr. Lipsky who arrived from Baltimore, prepared a special statement with which we went to the Department at 1:00 P. M. (Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Montor, Mr. Morris Simon of Washington and I. Breslau). Mr. Pell had advised me in the morning that we were to present the petitions to Myron C. Taylor as the President's Representative. When we arrived at the State Department, the Inter-governmental Conference was just breaking up and Mr. Taylor left. Mr. Pell then asked Lord Winterton to receive us. Lord Winterton demurred and said that he could not act for the President, and so Mr. James G. McDonald acted in Mr. Taylor's place and received us. At the same time, Sir Herbert Emerson was drawn into the group and when told of 300,000 --- he imagined for the moment that we were offering the Committee \$300,000. His face fell a bit when he discovered it was 300,000 signatures. After some informal conversation and after we presented the formal statement of Mr. Lipsky for reference to the Committee and to the President, we left all petitions and documents in the office of Mr. Robert Pell.

Before leaving, we raised the question of a possible meeting between Emerson and LDB. Emerson expressed willingness and pleasure to keep such an appointment, but inasmuch as they were leaving for New York this afternoon, it could not be arranged for today. Mr. McDonald assured us that he would do everything possible to help arrange such a meeting before Sir Herbert left. Such a meeting could take place possibly next Thursday when Sir Herbert was coming to Washington again.

AMERICAN ZIONIST BUREAU

625 WOODWARD BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

DATE October 18th, 1939

TO Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

FROM Rabbi Isadore Breslau

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In the meantime, it was agreed that Mr. Montor was to call McDonald in New York.

Release of yesterday prepared by Mr. Montor, got especially good coverage in today's New York Times. Release on today's meeting was also prepared by Mr. Montor and distributed here to all correspondents, newspapers and agencies. Wire sent to Jewish Morning Journal.

For our future guidance, it might be well to bear in mind that such projects as that of the Jewish Morning Journal should be brought to our attention much earlier. We should not be put in a position of having to prepare material and arrange for a meeting at such short notice. The material arrived at 10:30 and by 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon, we had to be prepared to meet with Mr. Taylor.

4- Mrs. Pool had received from Mr. McDonald the assurance that the British members of the Committee would see that Hadassah's request for certificates would be met. Mr. McDonald later in the day, gave us the same information.

5- Mr. McDonald told Mr. Lipsky and the rest of us, that at tomorrow's luncheon in New York, an opportunity would be found for personal and intimate conversations between our people and members of the Committee.

6- Enclosing today's release.



October 19, 1939

Mr. Henry Montor  
United Palestine Appeal  
111 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Montor:

I tried to reach you by phone but I was told that you were in Philadelphia. Last evening, Mr. Gellman and Rabbi Gold of the Mizrachi called on me here in Cleveland and discussed with me two matters - first the urgent cable which they received from Rabbi Berlin asking for an immediate additional allocation of \$30,000 and secondly, Mizrachi's share in the 1940 Campaign.

As far as the second item is concerned, I told them that we had not yet met with the JDC on this subject and as far as I knew, there had been no meeting between the KH and the KK either. I expressed to them the thought that the greater needs of all the constituent organizations will have to be taken into consideration when the final arrangements are made.

With regard to the pressing cables of Rabbi Berlin, I made it clear to them that the UPA was in no position to allocate any additional funds to the Mizrachi without the consent of the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth, and that the consent of these important bodies would in all probability have to come from headquarters in Jerusalem. I suggested to the Mizrachi the possibility of their making a loan for the amount to be paid out of their 1940 allocation. I suggested that they get in touch with you and Mr. Lamport to talk over this matter. I am of the opinion that we ought to be as cooperative in this matter as we possibly can. After all, Mizrachi's share of the 1939 UPA Campaign is a very meager one.

I would suggest that you get in touch with Mr. Ittelson and see whether a meeting of the Allocation Committee can be arranged for Monday afternoon, October 30 inasmuch as we are to have a meeting of the UJA that evening. It will be impossible for us to wait indefinitely for Mr. Lasker. You might suggest to Mr. Ittelson the sending of an alternate to this meeting. If these

Henry Montor

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10-19-39

two meetings are held in the afternoon and the evening, I am wondering if it would be possible to hold a luncheon meeting of the Emergency Committee? This would save the out of town members a special trip to New York - and there are vital matters on which the UPA would like to have the judgment of the Emergency Committee.

Are there any interesting speakers available for a meeting of the Cleveland Zionist Society in November?

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK





October 19, 1939

Mr. Edmund I. Kaufmann  
Homer Building  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Ed:

Thank you so much for your kind note and for the letter which you enclosed. I read it with a great deal of interest. Of course there is room in Canada for tens of thousands of refugees, and of course it would be fine if Canada would set aside a certain number of square miles as a home for the homeless of Europe. But knowing Canada as I do, and the bitter French Canadian Catholic resistance to the coming into Canada of any but Catholic immigrants, I think that the proposal contained in the letter is like so many similar proposals - good, sound, but not feasible.

However, there is no reason why the contents of this letter should not be brought to the attention of the members of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees now meeting in Washington. Perhaps it can persuade Canada to admit a small number of refugees, even if it is not prepared to set aside a "sanctuary" for a large number.

Generally speaking, I believe that in our thinking and our planning we are placing the wrong emphasis in the present situation. We will never be able to solve the refugee problem. We will not be able even to scratch the surface of this colossal and tragic problem. Much time, energy and substance will be spent and after some years it will be found that only an insignificant number of refugees have actually been helped. As long as the regime responsible for the creation of refugees remains in power in Europe, all that we do will prove to be hopelessly inadequate. I am not advocating that we do nothing in this direction. That would be quite inhuman. I am suggesting, however, that our chief concentration should be on doing our utmost to bring about the defeat of that government which is responsible for all the human disasters of the past six years and for the present war. A defeat of the Nazis in this war will mean the destruction of their vicious racialism and chauvenism which have poisoned the political life of all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It will mean a return to the principle of the "rights of minorities" inclusive of the rights of Jewish minorities in Europe and will,

Edmund Kaufmann

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October 19, 1939

by and large, liquidate the refugee problem. This is our only hope. The American people should be aroused to the real implications of the present European war in order that they may give the maximum of help to Great Britain and France in this struggle - all help short of war.

For the duration of the war, we shall of course have to do our utmost to heal the wounded and feed the hungry - and there will be millions of them. Emphasis should be put on immediate relief rather than upon long range projects of preparing territories for mass emigration and colonization. There are a few places to which refugees can immediately go in more or less substantial numbers. These should be given every facility to reach their destination. Beyond that, our concentration should be on helping Great Britain and France win this war.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK





From:  
American Zionist Bureau  
For American Emergency Committee  
for Palestine Affairs  
625 Woodward Bldg.  
Washington, D. C.  
National 8508

[1439]

Release: Thursday, October 19

238,199 SEND INDIVIDUAL PLEAS TO ROOSEVELT TO BACK PALESTINE

REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

Mass of Petitions Presented in Connection with Intergovernmental Committee  
for Refugees Conference Held in Washington; Myron Taylor Receives Petitions  
for President.

Numerous Governors, Senators, Congressmen, Mayors and Other Officials Join in  
Urging "Prime Consideration" for Palestine "as a Place of Refuge for  
Persecuted Jews"

Washington, D. C. -- In the most massive petition of its kind ever presented  
to the President of the United States on behalf of the upbuilding of the  
Jewish Homeland in Palestine, 238,199 individual signatures of Senators,  
Congressmen, Governors, Mayors and other distinguished civic and public leaders,  
in addition to those of hundreds of thousands of Jews in 44 States in the  
nation, were attached to an identical plea to President Roosevelt to urge  
"prime consideration" to Palestine "as a place of refuge for persecuted Jews"  
upon the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees now meeting  
in Washington.

Mr. Myron Taylor, vice chairman and American representative on the  
Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees, received the petitions on  
behalf of the President. Mr. Louis Lipsky of New York, Vice President of the  
Zionist Organization of America, headed the delegation which presented the  
boxes of signatures on behalf of the American Emergency Committee for Palestine  
Affairs. The movement for the gathering of the signatures on the petition  
was initiated by the Jewish Morning Journal, leading American Jewish newspaper  
of New York. Rabbi Isadore Breslau, Director of the American Zionist Bureau,  
joined in offering the petitions.

Text of Petition

The plea, to which the hundreds of thousands of individual signatures  
were attached, read as follows:

"To the President of the United States:

The undersigned, regarding it as inconceivable that Palestine should  
fail to receive prime consideration as a place of refuge for persecuted Jews,  
respectfully urge that at the conference on the refugee problems that you  
have called, you submit that Palestine--recognized by fifty-two nations,  
including the United States, as a National Home for Jews--is a natural haven  
for Jewish refugees to the fullest extent of its economic absorptive capacity."

Senators Sign Petition

Included in the signatories to the plea were Senators Morris Sheppard of Texas, Arthur Capper of Kansas, W. Warren Barbour of New Jersey, Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire, Guy M. Gillette of Iowa and David I. Walsh of Massachusetts.

William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, also joined in the plea for Palestine to the President.

Governors Urge Palestine Consideration

Governor Lewis Barrows of Maine, Governor A. Harry Moore of New Jersey, Governor William H. Vanderbilt of Rhode Island, Governor Charles A. Sprague of Oregon, Governor Culbert L. Olson of California, and Governor Ralph L. Carr of Colorado were others who joined their signatures among the hundreds of thousands of others.

Governor Olson Adds Message

In addition to signing the petition, Governor Olson of California wrote:

"I feel that the civilized world, which has permitted uncivilized attacks upon the Jewish people and fostered intolerance in many parts of the world, owes to the victims of persecution and bigotry the availability of Palestine as a refuge to the fullest extent of its economic absorptive capacity."

Senator Gillette Sees Palestine as Best Place

A special message supporting the petition was written by Senator Gillette of Iowa, who wrote:

"The plight of the unfortunate Jewish people who are being driven from their homes because of unreasoning prejudice is one that touches the heart of every person whose humanity has not been destroyed or warped by prejudice. But there are such determined and widespread attempts being made in so many different countries to arouse this prejudice that there seems to be little chance of finding a place anywhere in the world where these poor people can be received and have the opportunity of establishing homes on the same basis with other citizens.

"Of course, the United States is open to them, but the number that can be received is strictly limited by our immigration quota provisions. It would seem that the friends of these persecuted ones could well unite in efforts to keep the ancient homeland of the Jews open for their entrance. Not only would it be an advantage for them, but the same qualities which have made the Jews valuable citizens in every land would bring to Palestine all



the wealth of their ability and enterprise for its development."

Jewish leader Presents Petitions

In a brief statement made to Mr. Myron Taylor in transferring the hundreds of thousands of signatures gathered by the Jewish Morning Journal, Mr. Louis Lipsky said:

"We are pleased to submit to you for the attention of President of the United States and of the Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees of which you are the Vice Chairman and American representative a mass individual petition sponsored by the Jewish Morning Journal, a [REDACTED] daily newspaper in New York, bearing upon the availability of Palestine as a place of settlement for Jewish refugees and urging that it be given primary consideration by your Committee.

"This petition was obtained by the Jewish Morning Journal during the past few months through the publication of the following statement:

"To the President of the United States:

The undersigned, regarding it as inconceivable for Palestine not to receive primary consideration as a place of refuge for persecuted Jews, respectfully urge that at the conference of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, you submit that Palestine, recognized by fifty-two nations, including the United States, as a National Home for Jews, is a natural haven for Jewish refugees to the fullest extent of its economic absorptive capacity.

"To this petition are attached the individual signatures of 238,199 men and women in 44 States and 404 cities. Among the signatories are many Senators, Congressmen, Governors, Mayors and other public officials.

"The petition represents only a segment of the sentiment which prevails among the Jews of America with respect to Palestine as a National Home. The refugee problem extends over so large a field that it would be presumptuous of us to think that Palestine alone can make provision for the ever-increasing army of Jewish exiles, thrown at the door of humanity, and looking for a haven of peace. But Palestine does represent a great opportunity to provide such a haven of security for substantial numbers and, at the same time, give scope for the rebuilding of Jewish life which oppression and persecution are now engaged in destroying."

Signatories in Congress

Among the members of the House of Representatives who joined in urging "primary consideration" for Palestine as a place of refuge were:

Congressmen Christopher D. Sullivan of New York, John C. Kunkel of Pennsylvania, Raymond S. McKeough of Illinois, Samuel Dickstein of New York, Robert W. Kean of New Jersey, George J. Bates of Massachusetts.

Congressmen J. Francis Harter of New York, Harry Sandager of Rhode Island, Robert G. Allen, Pennsylvania, Emanuel Celler of New York, Sam Hobbs, of Alabama, Reno L. DeRouen, of Louisiana, Joseph A. Gavagan of New York, William I. Sirovich of New York, William J. Miller of Connecticut.

Congressmen Robert Luce of Massachusetts, Stephen Bolles of Wisconsin, Charles A. Buckley of New York, Fred Bradley, New York, Fred C. Gartner of Pennsylvania, John G. Alexander of Minnesota, Charles L. Gerlach of Pennsylvania, H. Carl Anderson of Minnesota, Lawrence J. Connery of Massachusetts, Joseph A. McArdle of Pennsylvania, Sol Bloom of New York, William T. Schulte, of Indiana, John M. Houston of Kansas, Homer D. Angell of Oregon, Leonard W. Schuetz of Illinois, John C. Martin of Illinois, William B. Barry of New York, Arthur B. Jenks of New Hampshire.

Congressmen J. Harold Flannery of Pennsylvania, Joseph L. Pfeifer of New York, Frank C. Osners, Jr., of New Jersey, Martin L. Sweeney, of Ohio, William Lemke of North Dakota, Harve Tibbott of Pennsylvania, Edward J. Hart, New Jersey, Andrew C. Schiffler of West Virginia.

Congressmen George S. Williams of Delaware, Colgate W. Darden, Jr., of Virginia, Matthew A. Dunn of Pennsylvania and Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois.



October 23, 1939

Dr. A. H. Silver

MEMORANDUM

TO Dr. Stephen S. Wise  
FROM Mr. Henry Montor

I am dictating this note from New Castle, Pennsylvania.

I have read the copy of the letter which Dr. Silver sent to you and the copy of the letter which you sent to Dr. Goldman in regard to the fundamental question as to whether funds should be used for (A) transportation of refugees or (B) assistance to the Yishub.

Dr. Blumenfeld brought me on Sunday the most comprehensive and factual material describing both problems. I took this material, of which there is only one copy, with me away from New York so that I might begin preparing the documentary material for the forthcoming meeting of the Allocations Committee.

It is to me a matter of the deepest distress that all our discussions of such vital problems must be held in the form of exchange of memoranda instead of regular and frequent meetings. Instead there exist at least five bodies and organizations at each of which these problems are discussed and none of which seem to have the authority over any or all of the problems.

After having acquainted myself with the material sent specially by Kaplan from Jerusalem, I am convinced that there is no warrant to send further cablegrams to the Executive in regard to the question of (A) transportation, or (B) refugees.

The Keren Kayemeth, insofar as 1939 is concerned, continued to demand that all funds be made available to it for its own purposes. Insofar as the Keren Hayesod is concerned, money is cabled to London as rapidly as it is made available.

The Executive in London and Jerusalem will make decisions as to how the funds are to be used as soon as the funds arrive in London.

I think that we are wasting our energies by cabling on matters which are obvious, and the obvious thing to me at this moment is that we must send a maximum sum to London for the Keren Hayesod. The decision as to how the funds are to be distributed to be made as the funds arrive - and by the Executive. We here are not acquainted with the day to day changes which make essential flexibility of action by the Executive.

The material forwarded here by Kaplan through Blumenfeld provides a shocking picture of the extraordinary needs of the Yishub and yet indicates the possibilities that exist for additional absorption. All of this is bound up with one central fact: the need for money.

There seems to be a misunderstanding with regard to the issue

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

111 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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of transportation of refugees. I should like to meet with you on Wednesday or Thursday at your convenience to explain this.

As you will note, a meeting of the Executive Committee of the United Palestine Appeal is to be held on Monday, at the Aldine Club. By that time I hope to have in shape the material forwarded by Kaplan. I also hope that there will be sufficient consideration of the problem to permit a complete reading of the material, even if it takes an hour of everybody's valuable time.

HM.SB

WRHS





C O P Y

October 21, 1939

Dr. Solomon Goldman  
633 Waveland Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Goldman:

I beg to enclose herewith copy of a letter that has just come to me from Dr. Silver. You will notice that he suggests the proposal that we mention the sum of \$150,000. to \$200,000. in cooperation with the J. D. C. to finance the transportation of European refugees to Palestine. He adds, "I would agree to such a cable."

Since we are to meet on Monday or Tuesday, I shall do nothing about this matter until we have had a chance, on the basis of this letter, to formulate our action. Mr. Montor, to whom I am sending copy of this letter, with copy of the memorandum also, might prepare a cable for us, as Dr. Silver suggests, to Weizmann and Kaplan.

Faithfully yours,

Stephen S. Wise

SSW:T

Copies to:

Mr. Louis Lipsky  
Mr. Henry Montor

P.S. I have just had a telephone message from Mr. Warren, of the President's Committee, suggesting at first an appointment for Monday afternoon at 4 P. M. Mr. Lipsky and I will be occupied at that time, and I was not sure that you would be in town by Monday, so I suggested a Tuesday morning appointment, saying that we were to meet at four in the afternoon. Mr. Warren thereupon said that Sir Herbert Emerson had two appointments Tuesday morning, one with Mrs. Greenberg at 11 o'clock, and another with Mrs. Pool at 11:30. I took it upon myself to say that I did not see why Sir Herbert should see the two ladies separately, that they were or ought to be concerned with one problem, that of Youth Aliyah, and that Sir Herbert should see them together at 11 o'clock, so that we might meet with him from 11:30 on. This arrangement was assented to. I asked Mr. Warren whether this was in response to my suggestion of a day or two ago to Lord Winterton that he meet with us in order that we may discuss our common problem. Mr. Warren's answer was, "I am not sure."

It may be that Lord Winterton will be there, but in any event we have said to Mr. Taylor that you and your associates have not had an opportunity for oral discussion of your problems with representatives of the Intergovernmental Committee.

I take it for granted that all of us will put aside other appointments and somehow manage to be present, even though it be difficult, Tuesday morning, 11:30, at Mr. Taylor's office.

October 23, 1939

Mr. Sholem Asch  
765 Riverside Drive  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Friends:

I did not write to you any sooner because I waited to complete the reading of your "The Nazarene". I have been traveling a good deal and I have but this week found the time to read your great work.

I derived from it untold joy. It is full of the richness of your spirit and is glorified by your matchless artistry. I was both moved and exalted by it. For the first time outside of the field of scientific Jewish scholarship has the life, career and teachings of Jesus been given the authentic Jewish background. In revealing in Jesus the great Jewish mystic, you have linked him up with the golden chain of great Jewish mystics throughout the ages - not excluding your "Tehillim Yid". I was delighted with the manner in which you intertwined the fine parables and midrashim of the New Testament with the wealth of Rabbinic sayings and parables found in other Jewish writings. You have delved deep and have brought up many treasures. I am sure that both the Christian and the Jewish world will be grateful to you for your tender, reverent and illuminating study of the Jewish mystic who reshaped the world.

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



MINUTES OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR ZIONIST AFFAIRS HELD ON TUESDAY,  
OCTOBER 24, 1939 AT 4 P.M. AT THE OFFICES OF THE ZOA, 111 FIFTH AVE., N. Y.

PRESENT: Dr. Solomon Goldman presiding: Gedaliah Bublick, Rabbi Wolf Gold, Hayim Greenberg, Louis Lipsky, Mrs. Bertha Schoolman, Robert Szold, Stephen S. Wise.

Samuel Caplan, secretary, and Mr. Morris Margulies.

Minutes of the previous meeting as circulated were approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The secretary read the following cables received since the last meeting:

"October 10, 1939

SILVER  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

EXECUTIVE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND KEREN HAYFSOD UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO URGE YOU REJECT ALL DEMANDS MADE UPON YOU FOR DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE STOP REQUEST YOU REPLY PETITIONERS APPROACH EXECUTIVE JERUSALEM STOP STRAINED FINANCIAL POSITION HEAVY TASKS COMPEL US INSIST THIS DECISION.



"October 13, 1939

ZIONISTS  
NEW YORK

FOR RABBI SOLOMON GOLDMAN HICEM BUCHAREST REQUIRED TELEGRAPHICAL HIAS NEW YORK SUBVENTION OF 20,000 DOLLARS FOR FIRST GROUP EMIGRATION OF 450 POLISH REFUGEES STOP FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT OF THIS REQUEST OF MAJOR JEWISH AND ZIONIST INTEREST PLEASE ENDEAVOR FOR GOOD RESULT STOP CABLE RESULT YOUR INTERVENTION ZIONIBURO BUCHAREST ZIONIST ORGANISATION OF ROUMANIA AND IN NAME OF REFUGEES

DOCTOR SCHWARZBANDT DOCTOR ROSMARIN"

"October 17, 1939

WISE SILVER  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

DISASTER POLISH JEWRY OBLIGES US MAKE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS HELP THEM ESPECIALLY THOSE IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND ENABLE SECURE THEIR ADMISSION PALESTINE STOP PLEASE ADVISE HOW SPECIAL FUNDS THIS PURPOSE OBTAINABLE STATES STOP IS IT POSSIBLE ARRANGE SPECIAL COLLECTION AT LEAST FROM POLISH JEWS THERE STOP APPEAL YOU GIVE YOUR ATTENTION AND AID THIS URGENT TASK DESPITE OTHER HEAVY BURDENS THRUST UPON YOU STOP APPROACHED ALSO POLISH JEWS CONFERENCE NEW YORK STOP CABLE EXECUTIVE GRUENBAUM"

"October 16, 1939

GOLDMAN  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

DECIDED DELEGATE DR. LANDAUER AMERICA REPRESENT US  
FINANCIAL ECONOMIC MATTERS TRUST HE WILL RECEIVE ALL  
POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE

EXECUTIVE KAPLAN"

"October 20, 1939

GOLDMAN  
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

THANKS TELEGRAM PREPARING LEAVE APPROXIMATELY FIRST HALF  
NOVEMBER KINDEST REGARDS

WEIZMANN"

The following cables were sent after the last meeting:

"October 10, 1939

KAPLAN  
JEWISH AGENCY  
JERUSALEM

YOURS OCTOBER SIXTH COMMITTEE FEELS VIEW CHANGED CONDITIONS  
LEAVING JDC ALONE TO MEET TRANSPORTATION NEEDS WHICH  
INCREASING DUE WAR ZIONISTS HERE MUST HAVE FREEDOM ACTION  
MAKE COMMITMENTS HELP DEFRAY PARTIAL TRANSPORTATION STOP  
WHILE NO INTENTION RELIEVING JDC ITS OBLIGATION MUST URGE  
EXECUTIVE GIVE US DISCRETIONARY POWER THIS MATTER WHICH  
LACKING WOULD SERIOUSLY HANDICAP US NEGOTIATIONS FORTHCOMING  
UNITED APPEAL ALSO ALLOCATIONS PRESENT CAMPAIGN

EMERGENCY ZIONIST COMMITTEE"

"October 12, 1939

KAPLAN  
JEWISH AGENCY  
JERUSALEM

OWING EMERGENCY NEEDS LARGER RESPONSIBILITIES KERRIESOD ASK  
YOUR INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING NINETEEN FORTY UPA CONTRACT  
BETWEEN KH KK

EMERGENCY ZIONIST COMMITTEE"



With reference to the cable from Gruenbaum, it was suggested that he be advised that there was no possibility of undertaking independent campaign efforts and that he should address his appeal to the Executive.

With regard to the cable from Bucharest it was agreed to direct a request to the HIAS on behalf of the Emergency Committee.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON RE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING:

Mr. Caplan reported that in preparation for the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, certain activities were undertaken with a view to bringing before the Conference the availability of Palestine in the settlement of the refugee problem. Copies of memoranda covering the interviews and activities in Washington were circulated to all the parties represented on the Emergency Committee and they are attached to these minutes.

Mr. Caplan further reported that on the morning of October 24th, Dr. Goldman, Mr. Lipsky, Dr. Wise and he visited Sir Herbert Emerson by appointment. The conversations with Sir Herbert pointed to the omission of any public reference to Palestine either in the press communiques of the Committee or in the addresses by its members at the luncheon given by Mr. Taylor on Thursday, October 19th. Sir Herbert emphasized that the policy of the White Paper and the subsequent declaration of Mr. McDonald suspending the Palestine immigration quota was still the official position of the British Government and accordingly the Intergovernmental Committee could not refer to possible immigration into Palestine at the present time. Our members urged that it was an injustice to have completely omitted reference to the role of Palestine in the absorption of refugees in the past. Sir Herbert agreed to rectify the omission by means of a press interview which was to be arranged for him in Washington upon his return. Sir Herbert also expressed his desire to meet with Justice Brandeis upon his return to Washington and arrangements were made for such a meeting on October 25.

Mr. Caplan further reported that the Skipper had agreed to see Justice Brandeis in the afternoon of October 24th.

HADASSAH MEMORANDUM TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE: The secretary reported that in a telegram to Mrs. Epstein, Dr. Goldman had protested on behalf of the Emergency Committee at the action taken by Hadassah in presenting a separate memorandum to the Intergovernmental Committee, and in reply Mrs. Epstein declared that the UPA memorandum had not been discussed at the meeting of the Emergency Committee and Hadassah had not been requested to submit Youth Aliyah data for inclusion in the memorandum. Mrs. Epstein further stated that Dr. Wise had been asked on October 1st regarding the procedure of presenting a Youth Aliyah report to the Intergovernmental Committee and Dr. Wise had advised to correspond with Mr. Pell of the State Department if they wished to move in that direction.

Dr. Goldman emphasized that Hadassah should not have submitted an independent memorandum when it was generally known that the Zionist view was contained in the UPA memorandum which was also sponsored by the Emergency Committee. He recalled a similar instance in London last July,

following the McDonald announcement of restriction on immigration, when the Agency had met to prepare a memorandum to Mr. McDonald, and the women of Hadassah who were present also wanted to make a separate statement on Youth Aliyah. Whereupon they were told by Mr. Brodetsky not to submit such a memorandum.

Mrs. Schoolman emphasized that there had been no discussion at the meetings of the Emergency Committee on the memorandum to be presented and that the National Board of Hadassah felt it important to present a memorandum on Youth Aliyah which was prepared on Monday, October 16th and Mrs. Pool was sent to Washington to submit it to the Committee.

Mrs. Schoolman suggested that a committee be named to go into the entire matter. The meeting felt, however, that there had been a misunderstanding and it would serve no useful purpose to appoint such a committee. It was understood that all parties represented in the Emergency Committee would in the future abstain from any act which might be construed to be a breach of the discipline of the Committee.

VISIT OF DUFF COOPER: Dr. Wise reported that the former First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Duff Cooper, was in the United States for a lecture tour and suggested that a committee arrange to meet him. Dr. Goldman added that it might be advisable to arrange a luncheon for him. The meeting delegated Dr. Wise to communicate with Mr. Duff Cooper and to arrange for such a reception.

Mr. Lipsky reported that Kurt Blumenfeld, one of the managing directors of the Keren Hayesod, had arrived in the United States by direction of the Keren Hayesod in London.

MIZRACHI REQUEST: The secretary reported that the UPA had received the following cable from the chief rabbinate in Palestine:

"October 21, 1939

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL  
NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE REFUSED ANY FINANCIAL AID YESHIVOTH TALMUD TORAH  
WHILE SUPPORTING OTHER ORGANISATIONS STOP PRAY INDUCE  
EXECUTIVE CHANGE ATTITUDE OR FORWARD AID DIRECT

HERZOG UZIEL CHIEF RABBIS"

In this connection the secretary reported that Dr. Silver had received a cable on October 10 from Rabbi Moyer Berlin as follows:

"MAJORITY RESOLUTION EXECUTIVE CONCERNING OUR REQUEST MEANS  
NEGATIVE ATTITUDE DESTRUCTION RELIGIOUS PARTY YISHUV  
DISAPPOINTMENT MIZRACHI PART ZIONISM STOP APPEALING YOU  
OTHER RESPONSIBLE LEADERS AGAIN SAVE SITUATION HELP  
IMMEDIATE"



Dr. Silver was visited in Cleveland by Mr. Gellman and Rabbi Gold who asked for an immediate additional allocation of \$30,000 from the UPA. He made it clear to them that the UPA was in no position to allocate any additional funds without the consent of the KH and the KK and suggested to the Mizrahi the possibility of their making a loan for that amount to be paid out of the 1940 allocation.

Rabbi Gold and Mr. Sublick again urged that financial help be given for the relief of the Yishuv Hayashan, adding that if this were refused, a delegation would come from Palestine, headed by the Chief Rabbinate, to collect independent funds for this purpose. They felt that such a visit would cause a great deal of confusion here and react to the detriment of the UPA and the Zionist movement generally.

After some discussion the meeting decided to send another cable to the Executive urging most strongly, despite its previous decision, that it appropriate money for the needs of individuals and institutions of the Yishuv Hayashan.

AMERICAN EXPORT LINES: The secretary read the following cable received by the Zionist Organisation on October 20th:

AMERICAN EXPORT LINES ONLY COMPANY MAINTAINING DIRECT  
COMMUNICATIONS-PALESTINE USA REFUSES RECEIVE LOCAL INDUS-  
TRIAL PRODUCTS FOR USA GIVING PREFERENCE EGYPTIAN COTTON  
PLEASE CONSULT ROBERT SZOLD AND REQUEST ASSURANCE HEADQUAR-  
TERS EXPORT LINES INSTRUCTIONS BE ISSUED LOCAL AGENTS ACCEPT  
PALESTINE CARGO USA STOP CABLE

THISCHEY JEWISH AGENCY"

Mr. Szold upon being consulted, drafted the following cable in reply:

"October 25, 1939

THISCHEY  
JEWISH AGENCY -JERUSALEM

HEADQUARTERS EXPORT LINE INSISTS NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST  
PALESTINE STOP POLICY PRO-PALESTINE ALSO TO ASSIST SMALLER  
EXPORTERS THIS IS PEAK SEASON DEMANDS SPACE EXCEED SUPPLY

SZOLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION"

Mr. Szold felt that the Committee was handicapped in its operations for lack of essential facts and he proposed the advisability of the Committee establishing direct representatives in Palestine and in London.

STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE: It was suggested that instead of the Committee issuing a statement announcing its formation, that the matter be left to Dr. Weizmann who upon his arrival in the U.S. should be requested to make a formal announcement with regard to the Emergency Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL CAPLAN  
Secretary

M E M O R A N D U M

(STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL)

Dr. Solomon Goldman accompanied by Henry Montor, reached Washington early Thursday morning, October 12th, 1939.

He conferred with Mr. Justice Felix Frankfurter, Mr. Justice Brandeis, Lord Lothian, Brig. Gen'l Reid of the British Embassy, Mr. Robert Pell of the State Department, and Mr. Ben Cohen. There was also a late appointment with Mr. A.A. Berle, Jr. which had to be cancelled due to the fact that Dr. Goldman had to leave for Chicago on a late afternoon plane.

The conversation of Dr. Goldman with Professor Frankfurter lasted more than an hour and covered the following items:

1- He was glad to hear that an effort was made to arrange a meeting between Chatham and the Skipper in connection with the forthcoming Intergovernmental Committee Conference. He indicated that he would most likely have the President's ear on the same question sometime before next Tuesday.

2- He was ready to meet with either Earl Winterton or Sir Herbert Emerson, although he suggested that Chatham's passionate concentration on Palestine as the only solution, should strike more fire than he might from either Winterton or Emerson, or both.

3- Although he again expressed a willingness to see Sir Herbert whom he had occasion to meet in 1933, he was happy to learn that we were presenting a memorandum on Palestine to the Intergovernmental Committee. He assumed that the memorandum would be brief and factual, neither argumentative nor ideological.

4- He saw no need for Zionists to make a public statement either on Alaska or any other territorial scheme. We might have a form letter to send in case inquiries are made. That letter should indicate quite definitely that as a Zionist Organization our main interest is the upbuilding of Palestine in bringing refugees there. This was our primary task as Jews, as Americans and as human beings. We are not only not unfavorably disposed toward any colonization scheme but most anxious to find a place of rest and security wherever room could be found for the refugees.

5- He was opposed to any conversations with the U.S.S.R. or with any of its representatives on evacuation of stranded Palestinians, Zionist leaders and refugees generally from Russian occupied Poland. Moreover the difficulty of approaching anyone in the matter is too great. Thus for example, the Russian Ambassador to the United States has not been heard of for months. His wife is here but no one knows where her husband is. Maisky in London is approachable but uninformed.

6- He was of the opinion, if we could send an intelligent, cautious, "speechless" American Zionist to Poland, it might be helpful.



7- He viewed with special favor our interest in South America. He told me that the President was particularly interested; Archibald Macleish is particularly interested in the field of cultural relations. He suggested that our approach should be our interest in the cultural life of Jews in South America, as well as the cultural level of the South American countries as a whole.

I remained with FF longer than I had expected which made the meeting with LDB very brief. LDB appeared in good health and as usual alert and generally in fine form. He informed us that he had indicated to BVC that he would be glad to meet with the Skipper at his convenience in regard to the Intergovernmental Conference. He expressed readiness to meet either Sir Herbert Emerson or Earl Winterton or both if arrangements could be made.

Mr. Montor outlined the memorandum that we are to present to the Intergovernmental Committee and LDB seemed impressed with it. He suggested that there was no need to specify the number of refugees whom Palestine might absorb annually. Nor did he believe that this was the time to suggest government financial support. In this connection, he conveyed to us the information that the British had cancelled the loan which they had voluntarily offered last August for the development of the Kuleh basin. He too was of the opinion that conversation with Russia was inadvisable at this time. He dwelt at length on the colonization projects now being considered. He felt that there was no need to be concerned overmuch for "they cancelled themselves out." He referred thus to British Guiana. He had received private reports on Santo Domingo which had been referred to as the last place to go, Alaska and Cuba. He showed me a copy of the Cuba memorandum, which was from the highest authorities. It stated that they were considering a total of about 1500 refugees. Considering the pace with which visas are being issued, it does not seem unlikely that even the great grandsons of the refugees will be settlers in Cuba. With regard to Alaska, LDB deplored the raising of the issue and said that it might prove as much of a boomerang as the discussion on the Children's Bill. It will be understood that admitting refugees to Alaska means admitting them to the United States. We hurried our engagement and postponed further conversation to next Tuesday because of our appointment with Lord Lothian.

Lord Lothian we found as congenial as on our last meeting with him. We did not raise the question of Russia with him after we had had the opinion of LDB and FF. His first inquiry was about Dr. Weizmann's coming. He told us that he had had the information from London that he was due in the United States. I indicated that he was expected in late October or early November. We asked him whether he could help arrange a meeting between LDB and FF with Earl Winterton and Sir Herbert Emerson. He stated that he was to dine in the evening with FF and would take the matter up with him. He expressed his readiness to be helpful but he could not accept invitations on behalf of either Sir Herbert or Lord Winterton who were making their own plans. The conference, he stated, would last only two days, starting with luncheon Tuesday and Wednesday. He personally has nothing to do with it except that the British representatives will be the guests of the Embassy.

I asked whether he had any more information about the "oath



of allegiance" and at the close of the interview he introduced us to Brig. Gen'l Reid with whom we spent some 15 minutes. Gen'l Reid, the Embassy Military attache, informed us that the British were rich in man-power and that for the present they were relying on England. They are even discouraging British citizens in neutral countries from returning to England for the purpose of enlisting. It was evident that the problem of equipping the army is just now the major problem. This was a mechanized war and the preparations take considerable time, he said. It would not be wise, he felt, to encourage, even if it were permissible, non-British citizens to go to Canada for the purpose of enlisting. There were far more volunteers in Canada than they could possibly take care of for a long time to come. He was of the opinion that those who would go to Canada to enlist now might possibly never get into the war even if it were a long war and that they might spend years merely in training. They were extending aviation training in Canada and later on there might be an opportunity for the training of aviators and mechanics. But even that could not be considered at the present. His unofficial advice was to "hold off for the time being." He was evidently very much touched by the readiness of Jews to help the British and was deeply appreciative. He reminded us that he was under Col. Patterson with the "Mule Corps" in Palestine and saw the Jewish boys in action.

Mr. Montor and I then saw Mr. Robert Pell who, we understand is the person in charge of the Intergovernmental Committee conference. We found Mr. Pell most sympathetic. He did not wait for questions from us but was ready with his own most helpful suggestions. He welcomed the news that we had a memorandum, and suggested that we send 10 copies for the use of the conference, adding that it might be wise and courteous to send a special copy to Earl Winterton, c/o British Embassy. He said the conference would last two days; that it would be informal and private; that a wide range of speeches might be considered and that a communique would be issued to the press at the conclusion of the conference.

He regarded it as a service to the conference to have Earl Winterton or Sir Herbert or both meet with LDB or FF or with both. He was aware of the fact that Palestine had no chance at the previous meetings but that need not be considered a precedent for the present meeting. He would be happy to have the services of Mr. Montor in Washington during the two days of the conference and expressed the opinion that his presence and the material that he has available might constitute an excellent supplement to the memorandum and a genuine service to the conference. Mr. Pell was of course cautious enough to imply that he will not be master of the agenda and that the conference might not be in a position to examine all or any of the material that Mr. Montor would be prepared to present in our behalf. But it would be reassuring, he said, to know that Mr. Montor would be available if required. Mr. Pell assented most heartily to the assertion that Palestine was the only country to which the refugees could be directed on a large scale. When I reported that I was recently in Palestine, he responded enthusiastically. I said that from what I had seen in the country, I thought it would be much better for the refugees to be placed, if necessary, in concentration camps in Palestine than to have them in concentration camps in Nazi Germany or under the present conditions in Poland. Mr. Pell added, "or than in any other land of refuge."



MEMORANDUM

October 17th, 1939

TO Mr. Samuel Caplan  
FROM Rabbi Isadore Breslau

1 - Mr. Montor was in Washington and at once established contact with Mr. Pell of the State Department and submitted memorandum on the refugee problem in behalf of the American Emergency Committee for Palestine Affairs, to the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees.

2 - FF's secretary reports that he has taken the question of Emerson, Winterton appointments up with Lothian, but have not yet discovered when or under what circumstances meeting will take place.

3 - Mrs. De Sola Pool is in Washington, and on behalf of Hadassah, submitted to Myron C. Taylor a separate memorandum outlining Hadassah's program of Youth Aliyah, offering the committee its help, etc. At Mr. Taylor's suggestion, Mrs. Pool sent copies of the same memorandum to Winterton and Emerson. Mrs. Pool further asked Montor and myself to keep her advised of all negotiations, conversations, appointments, etc. She is also anxious to arrange personal interview Emerson, etc. I discussed with her at great length the overlapping of our respective efforts. Mrs. Pool is here of course, not in an independent capacity, but as representative of the Hadassah board.

MEMORANDUM

October 18th, 1939

TO        Mr. Samuel Caplan  
FROM      Rabbi Isadore Breslau

1 -        Visit with LDB evening of October 17th. He feels confident that meeting with the Skipper will take place as soon as time can be found. The Skipper as may be expected is quite busy now, but LDB feels sure that Miss Le Hand his secretary, can be relied upon to arrange the meeting at the first available opportunity.

LDB had not heard from FF with regard to a meeting with Sir Herbert Emerson and urged me not to press the matter further until I had heard exactly what FF had done in the matter.

2 -        Petitions arrived from Jewish Morning Journal. There were 238,199 names attached to the petitions. Mr. Lipsky who arrived from Baltimore, prepared a special statement with which we went to the Department at 1:00 P.M. (Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Montor, Mr. Morris Simon of Washington and I. Breslau). Mr. Pell had advised me in the morning that we were to present the petitions to Myron C. Taylor as the President's Representative. When we arrived at the State Department, the Intergovernmental Conference was just breaking up and Mr. Taylor left. Mr. Pell then asked Lord Winterton to receive us. Lord Winterton demurred and said that he could not act for the President, and so Mr. James G. McDonald acted in Mr. Taylor's place and received us. After some informal conversation and after we presented the formal statement of Mr. Lipsky for reference to the Committee and to the President, we left all petitions and documents in the office of Mr. Robert Pell.

3 -        Mrs. Pool had received from Mr. McDonald the assurance that the British members of the Committee would see that Hadassah's request for certificates would be met. Mr. McDonald later in the day, gave us the same information.

4 -        Mr. McDonald told Mr. Lipsky and the rest of us, that at tomorrow's luncheon in New York, an opportunity would be found for personal and intimate conversations between our people and members of the Committee.



*"Give Today --- Tomorrow May Be Too Late"*

—DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN

# UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (KEREN HAYESOD)  
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (KEREN KAYEMETH)  
For the Settlement in Palestine of Jews of Germany, Poland, Rumania and Other Lands

111 FIFTH AVE. CABLE ADDRESS—PALFUND NEW YORK CITY

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Henry Montor

October 25, 1939

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Attached herewith are copies of:

a) A communication from Eliezer Kaplan, dated Jerusalem, September 28, 1939, outlining the extraordinary emergency requirements of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Jewish National Fund within the next few months. These budgetary items are supplementary to the budget adopted at the Geneva Congress.

b) A letter from Mr. Kaplan to me dated October 1, 1939, summarizing the details presented in the letter of September 28th.

I am rushing this material to you so that you may have adequate opportunity to study it before our meeting of the Executive Committee of the UPA next Monday. It is obvious that the material is highly confidential in certain respects.

There are other tables, charts, and supplementary data brought by Kurt Blumenfeld from Messrs. Kaplan and Shertok. This material I am now working on to prepare a comprehensive memorandum that can be submitted to the Allocations Committee. I am hoping to have the memorandum completed in time for the meeting of the Executive Committee of the UPA on Monday for its consideration.

Cordially yours,

*Montor*

Henry Montor  
Executive Director

HM:BG  
Enclosures

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Alexander S. Wolf, *St. Louis*



C  
O  
P  
Y

Jerusalem, 28.9.39

Dear Leo Herrmann,

I am sending you hereby the material which Mr. Montor asked for in your telegram of the 21st September. Only yesterday afternoon, I received from the K.K.L., the K.H. and our treasury the tables enclosed herewith and I had no time to work them out properly. I therefore let you have this letter as a first draft. I avail myself of the opportunity of Shertok's departure and hurry to write you. I shall go over the material and let you have my explanation as soon as possible.

Enclosed herewith: 1) report of the Keren Hayesod and Executive of the Jewish Agency - on the revenue and expenditure for the period of the 1st October 1938 to 31st August 1939, i.e. for 11 months. I shall try to send you as soon as possible also the report for September 1939. The report for this month I consider as important as it contains various expenses resulting from the state of war. Thus, for instance, we have spent more than LP 10.000 for "Mishan", LP 5.000 for the initial settling of the "Naapilim" and several thousands of pounds in connection with securing supplies and the necessary material for the industry and for securing agricultural produce. In this letter I can only deal with the report regarding the previous 11 months.

From this report you may see that we have combined the revenue of the Keren Hayesod with those of the Jewish Agency and the German Department. We have accordingly assorted the various sources of revenue. We also enclose several tables showing the items of expenditure. I intended to add to the items of expenditure certain explanations showing that the amounts we invested in some item very often serve as an impetus to much larger sums derived from other sources. This applies not only to expenditure of the Labour Department and the Department for Commerce and Industry but often also to Agriculture.

2) Mr. Shertok has also taken with him the report of the K.K.L. drafted in a general form. The K.K.L. has included in this report as well as in the budget proposal large sums for debt repayment. The total amount of its turnover amounts to LP 1.100.000. As to the past year, I think, that the item "Debt repayment" includes mainly not actual payment of debts but conversion of debts. Also in this year's budget the K.K.L. included the amount of LP 520.000 for debt repayment exclusive of its obligations accruing from the acquired land. Accordingly its total budget, exclusive of the amounts earmarked for the acquisition of new land, will amount to more than LP 900.000. According to the opinion of the K.K.L. people the conversion of debts this year will be much more difficult and they feel great concern as to how to increase this year funds for the decrease of the general debt.

The table of the Jewish National Fund of the coming year's budget consists of a few items and there is no need, it seems to me, to add further explanations.

3) Attached herewith the budget proposal of the Jewish Agency which was adopted in Geneva.

Mr. Montor asks for detailed explanations regarding this budget. I think that the explanations are implied in the report of the Jewish Agency. However I shall add a few words for further allucidation of the budget. The item of revenue of the amount of LP 720.000 was based on the assumption that LP 460.000, we shall receive from the U.S.A., LP 240.000 from other countries, and a sum of LP 20.000 from immigration and from collection of debts.

The items of revenue of LP 460.000 from the U.S.A. we have based on two assumptions: First, that also this year the distribution of revenue as between K.H. and J.N.F. will be maintained as in the past year, namely that all funds will be divided in three parts between the J.N.F., K.H. and the Keren Habitzaron, that half of the Keren Habitzaron funds will be transferred through the J.N.F. and the second half through the Keren Hayesod, that 40% of the half of the J.N.F. will be allocated for special expenditure approved by the Jewish Agency; in other words that all the revenue from the U.S.A., will be divided per 42:58. However I must observe that we have not as yet come to an agreement with the J.N.F. regarding the distribution of the funds with regard to the next year. This question is still under consideration. I have explained this matter at length at the session of the Financial Committee in Geneva. The second assumption was that besides our share in the revenue of the K.H. and the J.N.F. we shall also receive from the Allocation Committee the amount of LP 100000 for the settlement of refugees.

Of the amount of LP 240.000 which we expected to receive from other countries, we have to deduct the amount of LP 100.000 which were to be collected in those countries where all work has ceased in consequence of the war. By this is meant funds coming from Poland, Germany, Czechoslovakia and practically the entire European Continent. Also in Palestine a decrease in the revenue will take place resulting on the general situation. We have also taken into the account that this year we shall not receive funds from Australia. It is not yet clear what the position would be in England.

Also the third item of revenue "Collecting of debts and revenue from immigrants" is uncertain. As to immigration, not only no revenue can be expected but, on the contrary, we are expected to cover the expenditure of immigrants of all categories.

As to the ~~expenditure~~ expenditure of the first item, namely the administrative expenditures of the K.H., we included in this item LP 30.000; KH asked for LP 40.000.

For agricultural settlement we earmarked the amount of LP 100.000. This amount includes LP 25.000 for administrative expenditure, instruction, investigations and various experiments; a sum of LP 15.000 - loans for



settlements obligations which we undertook in the past year -. Thus it follows that for distribution for settlement requirements there will be at our disposal only LP 60.000 inclusive of workmen settlement as well as middle class settlement. I should like to add that the Department for agricultural settlement has submitted budget proposals for the amount of more than half a million Pounds. In order to consolidate the settlements which we have already initiated, to complete the settlement of 2.300 families and to consolidate the new settlements which we set up during the riots we need, according to the calculations of Dr. Ruppin, the amount of LP 1.100.000, and according to my own calculations - the amount of LP 1.800.000 - 1.800.000. We have, however, earmarked only the amount of LP 100.000 not on the basis of the actual requirements, but because we have no alternative, as within the limits of a budget of LP 720.000 we could not allocate a larger sum for this item.

In this connection I see myself obliged to point out to you and to our friends in the U.S.A. that, generally speaking, the Financial Committee did not know how to arrange a budget of an amount of LP 700.000 and that the Committee passed two resolutions: a) to endeavour to increase the revenue of the K.H. to the amount of at least one Million Pounds, b) to carry out in addition, the resolution regarding the loan of a Million Pounds. As a matter of fact, already during the session of the Committee in Geneva, prior to the outbreak of war, a program of activities was outlined involving the amount of 2 Million Pounds. This program did not of course take into account the special requirements resulting from the war.

For the item of citrus industry the amount of LP 10000 was fixed. This item gave rise to discussions in the sessions of the Committee as well as in the sessions of the plenum of the Congress and also caused the intervention of Dr. Weizmann. The condition of the citrus industry was difficult already before the outbreak of war. After the outbreak of the war the position became even worse. Just these days a new Committee has been appointed dealing with questions connected with citrus industry, in view of the general conditions of that industry as well in connection arising from the war. The day before yesterday I had a talk with Mr. Viteles. He is confident of the future of the citrus industry (and I share his confidence.) However he sees but one way for improvement, namely, the consolidation of short-term debts which weigh heavily on the citrus industry. These debts amount to a very large sum. In the opinion of Mr. Viteles important work might be done in this direction if we could allocate for such work the amount of LP 400.000 - 500.000 be used for long-term loans at low interest.

Meanwhile even the ordinary credit facilities have decreased. Last month owners of orange groves have abandoned to a considerable extent the working of their groves, thus enhancing the threat of unemployment. The position of the groveowners themselves is very grave. Many of them are actually starving. The amount of LP 10.000 earmarked for the requirements of the citrus industry is to be considered rather as a symbolical act, as a gesture showing that we are beginning to deal with the matter. Indeed, we have already entered certain obligations in connection with this matter. Immediately after my return the grove owners received loans enabling them at least to irrigate the groves.

The item "experimental station" needs no explanations.



For the item "immigration and training" we have earmarked the amount of LP 60.000. This item included certain amounts provided for assistance of "Maapilim". This question is well-known to you and there is no need to dwell further on it. The expenditure for Maapilim has increased enormously. As to those still abroad I could not fix the required amount. At any rate Poland has created very grave problems. I shall return to this question.

Work, housing and maritime activities. The use made of this budget can be seen from last year's report. It was clear that the amount of LP 60.000 would not be sufficient to cover these requirements and we appropriated large sums from the big budget and from the loan. The condition of the work in the last few months has become very bad. We estimate the number of unemployed in the country at 18.000 to 20.000. To this should be added many thousands who are deprived of a livelihood belonging to other classes of the population. The rural committees have submitted to us a list showing that in their localities a loan there are 12.000 - 13.000 people, excluding workmen, needy of assistance.

For political activities, security, London office we have earmarked the amount of LP 95.000. For security alone we were asked the amount of LP 170.000 at least.

Education. In addition to the amount of LP 30.000 we were compelled to pledge ourselves to the Government for an additional sum of LP 10.000; otherwise it was impossible to balance the budget of the Waad Leumi for the requirements of education, and Government refuses its aid - in - grant unless budget is balanced. After outbreak of the war the position became much worse.

Commerce and industry, small industry and handicraft. Also this item gave rise to much discussion in the Committee and Congress. Details as to the use of this budget are contained in the report. The industry is now on the increase. However even under such circumstance it still requires our assistance. I shall come back to speak on this question.

In addition to these explanation I should like to add a few words regarding the first part of expenditure: repayment of debts. We have earmarked in this budget the amount of LP 57.000 on account of the loan of LP 175.000. This would enable us to propose to Lloyds Bank at the end of the budget year, i.e. at the beginning of October 1940, the amount of LP 75.000 on account of the amount of LP 175.000 due to the bank in that month. I do not know what Lloyds' attitude to this proposal would be. But I would still consider this as a "good bargain" for the bank. Larger sums for debt repayment I could not include in the budget proposal of the Congress.

One more observation regarding the deficit in the budget. During the congress we estimated this item at the amount of LP 46.000. As a matter of fact, by this is meant the overdraft of expenditure over revenue, in other words "deficit", although in the bookkeeping these amounts do not appear as a deficit. I could not say to-day how this item will undergo a change owing to our expenditure during September.



Meanwhile we must, in view of the war, examine our ordinary budget from the point of view of revenue as well as expenditure. Our budget at present is dependent on the U.S.A. more than ever. As has already been pointed out we are faced with the danger that a number of countries will not be able to send us any amounts. This alone will cause us a deficit of LP 100.000. True, the valuta rate of the dollar will in respect ease the position. However, for covering the ordinary budget it is necessary that the U.S.A. should cover in addition to our estimates in Geneva amounting to LP 460.000, also the deficit arising from the lack of some countries. Obviously, we are also dealing with the examination of expenditure. Unfortunately, however, that in the minimum budget we have curtailed various items to such an extent that there is no further possibility for additional curtailments without cancelling the items altogether. On the contrary, as result of the new condition additional requirements have arisen. These additional requirements we try to explain in the material we sent you on the 18th of September. On that occasion we pointed out that it is very difficult to fix at present a budget for the whole year, since we are unable to anticipate events. Thus, for instance, we thought at the beginning of this month that immigration would cease altogether. Now, however, we are witnessing the continuation of immigration. We are in a position to sum up the immigration during 5699. In that year 35.000 immigrants came to the country, majority of them were "Maapilim". The number of "Maapilim" during the last month was very large. In a conversation Mr. BenGurion and Mr. Shertok had recently with the High Commissioner, the High Commissioner pointed out that the Government would take all measures in order to stop illegal immigration. But he himself added that so far the Government has not succeeded in the purpose of these measures and that the pressure from other countries seems to be terrific. In addition to the problems of German Jews millions of Polish Jews whose existence has been destroyed are faced with the same problem. A part of them, about 2 million, came under the sway of Russia. After deliberation and talks with Dr. Magnus he applied to the Joint in the U.S.A. with the proposal that Mr. Rosen should visit Russia and investigate the possibilities of the refugees leaving Russia. Tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of refugees were at present in Roumania and Hungary. Their condition in these countries is terrible and they have no alternative but to try to leave these countries. We must therefore take into account the possibility of increased wave of immigration to Palestine. All come, women and children, young and old, variegated human material, good and bad. But our assistance we must extend to all of them. Government is of same opinion. It keeps the immigrants for a few days interned, for medical examination and perhaps also for the purpose of examining their fitness for war times. After this examination they are set free and handed over to us. Huge sums are required for their absorption. Previously we contributed the amount of LP 1,250 for each immigrant to provide himself with a bed, mattress, working clothes, etc. and LP 0,650 for his health insurance. This sum we spent in addition to the expenses for the maintenance of the immigrants in the immigrants house for a few days. On the average, we use to spend on each immigrant from the day of his landing till his leaving the immigrants house the amount of LP 3. - to LP 4.-approximately. These expenses have now increased manifold and for various reasons: 1) Owing to raise in prices the provisions for immigrants which we used to acquire for LP 1,250 cost at present a double price; 2) Our agricultural settlements are crowded to its utmost capacity and they demand that we should share in the expenditure of the maintenance of the immigrants. We have tried to set up camps. The setting up of tents alone, the maintenance of every immigrant would amount to LP 6½ approximately. As result of the grave condition the



settlements demand that we should ensure the maintenance of these people for at least one or two months. That means that the initial settlement of these people would require a sum of LP 10-15 approximately per capita. On the other hand it is obviously impossible to bring into the country innumerable people without providing somehow for their initial absorption. We are now dealing with the question of setting up working camps. The workmen will receive food and minimum sums for other expenses. We are also investigating the possibilities of public works in various parts of the countries, such as road building, irrigation, afforestation, etc., that should be carried out by these camps. But the setting up of working camps and the execution of the work will require huge sums. And if in my telegram I asked for the amount of LP 300,000 for the absorption of 10,000 immigrants at present their number has increased to 12,000, resulting from 3 months immigration, which renders the amount asked for, inadequate.

In addition to the above mentioned amount much bigger sums are required in connection with the Jews in Poland. News have reached us, and certainly also you, on the disaster that overwhelmed the Jews in Poland and their terrible plight. Indeed, there is hardly any hope to afford constructive assistance for the millions of Polish Jews who have been placed under Russian or German sway. The sheer sustenance of hundreds and thousands of orphans, widows and refugees, the mere salvation from starvation would require huge funds, which we cannot raise. Constructive assistance to thousands and thousands of people only Palestine has been the country which absorbed the greatest number of immigrants. The thousands of "Maapilim" weight heavily on the economic position arising from the war. On the whole I am confident and believe, that in another few months the economic structure of this country will adapt itself to the war conditions, and if certain resources of livelihood will disappear, new sources will certainly be opened up. Meanwhile, however, the economic structure of the country has been terribly shaken. I have already touched on the question of the citrus industry. The curtailment of credit, on the one hand, and the uncertainty as to the export possibilities on the other hand, have brought about an almost complete interruption of all work in the groves, and within a few days thousands of people remained without work. Similarly, building work has stopped; either owing to curtailment of credit or to insecurity; lack of building material has aggravated the position. The Government has placed an attachment on all iron and wood material which are required for military purposes. We are now deliberating as to how we could carry on building without import of building materials from abroad. Meanwhile thousands of workmen have been thrown out of their jobs. As stated before, I estimated the number of unemployed at 18,000 approximately. To these should be added an equal number of people deprived of their livelihood. The funds of the workmen's organizations are exhausted. Already during the first weeks of the war our contributions to the requirements of "Mish'an" through the workmen's organization, craftsmen's organization, shopkeepers, as well as through local councils amounted to LP 10,000. But this amount is only a small emergency taxation on the Jishuv. It is difficult to foresee what this taxation will yield. Local councils and municipalities have applied to the Government and have received small amounts which will enable some assistance. But, we ourselves carry a great responsibility. I think that we shall have to contribute on our part to the relief work, either in the form of assistance, or by way of loans, the amount of LP 15,000 per month at least. I have, therefore earmarked for this item for the next five, six months an amount of LP 100,000. I say 5 - 6 months as I hope that the



position will improve afterwards, although nobody could be certain as to the future. I can only point out that the department for social work of the Waad Leumi has worked out a budget fixing the required sums, excluding Tel-Aviv, at LP 18.000 per month.

Item 3. For the organisation of supply of food stuffs and raw materials - LP 100.000. As a matter of fact there is as yet no shortage of food stuffs in the country, except, perhaps, for one or two kinds such as: sugar and potatoes. But owing to the panic prices swelled up. The Government has taken measures in order to exercise strict control and to impose restrictions. But beyond this nothing has been done. In this country, large dependent on import, more control is of no avail. All our efforts in urging the Government to engage in more adequate activities in this directions, failed. This caused an enormous rise in the prices of food stuffs and of other requisites. Certain products went up as much as 100 - 150%. This, of course, weighs heavily on the economic position of the country, especially it affects sections of the population of no means or very restricted ones. The task with which we are faced, under the circumstances, is to enable the increase of import and to place it under public control, such as councils, municipalities and cooperative societies.

We are also endeavouring to obtain for this purpose credits from banks. However, under present conditions, banks ask for special guarantees for the credits to be granted. For instance, in order to facilitate the conditions of 6.000 supernumary police, who are working at low wages, we have decided to ask "Mashbir" to arrange for them cooperative shops; we have also asked to supply the unemployed with food stuffs instead of the "Mish'an" due to them. The Mashbir agreed, but informed us that they were unable to receive the products from abroad without further credit from the bank. Similarly, we asked of "Mashbir" to supply seeds, manure and other materials for our settlements. This order amounted to LP 25.000. We came to an agreement with the A.P.B. to give "Mashbir" an additional credit for the amount of LP 50.000.

But the bank would have consented to grant this credit only after our having furnished it with the guarantee to the amount of LP 37,000, and we would have had to place with the bank a considerable amount of that sum. We have set up various sub-committees to deal with the economic problems, such as a committee for apply, increase of production and for traffic requirements. Similarly we have set up a central economic council comprising, inter alia, Messrs. P. Rutenberg, Hofien, M. Smilansky, Simon, Shenkar, Shkolnik, etc. These committees are dealing with the problems, about which I am writing to you. According to figures handed to me only yesterday it would be necessary to invest a sum of over LP 600,000 in order to increase supply of food stuffs required in the country for the next three months, and the amount of about LP 400,000 for the acquisition of essential materials for industrial requirements for the next half year. In my proposals regarding this item I earmarked the amount of LP 100,000 which would enable us to set at work a fair number of these undertakings.

In the economic council we are dealing at present with the question of setting up an office for centralized purchasing, which would assist industrial undertakings, smaller and larger ones, in acquiring raw materials and which would assist us also in organizing the import of good stuffs. This plan is the more of vital importance in consequence of the great restrictions imposed by government on import in general and on valuta in particular. We have conducted negotiations with the government to grant recognition to our institution as a public institution, upon the recommendation of which the



government might issue the necessary valuta for orders abroad.

4) We have allocated the sum of LP 150,000 as a grant in aid for the citrus industry, in connection with the position arising from the war. In addition to previous troubles this branch of industry is experiencing new difficulties arising from the war. In a special committee and in the central economic council, the problems connected with the citrus industry have been mooted at length. Besides, the question of short-term and long-term credits, the question of marketing has been dealt with. According to information that reached us from abroad it would appear, that despite everything it might be possible, however, that we sell 50% of the fruit in England and at fairly good prices, provided however, that we are able to solve the shipping question. We are also looking for marketing possibilities in other countries. But, first of all, we have to solve the shipping problem. We dealt with this question together with the grove owners. Undoubtedly this problem is being dealt with also in London. However, it is clear, that millions of boxes will remain in the country and the question arises as to how this million of boxes could be utilized. There is hope, that a large proportion of the oranges could be utilized for good stuff and as fodder for cattle and for the development of by-products. The Zieff Institute and the Experimental Station are working at present feverishly in the direction of solving this problem. The government has set its experts at this work and evinces great interest in this question. But the adaption of the citrus industry to the war requirements and the organization of by-products require large sums of money. In normal times this money could be obtained from orange grove owners themselves, as well as from people not connected with citrus industry. But under present circumstances in the country this is impossible. We applied to the government. But the Government gave us the usual reply: All means are consecrated first and above all to the requirements of security and for war requirements, the yishuv has to find its own way with the means at its disposal, and if we wish to avoid being plunged in grave crisis it is incumbent upon us to mobilize large sums for economic purposes. The sums required for this item as well as for the item of supply and other items, will be granted as long-term loans and at a low rate of interest; there is also hope that a majority of these loans will be returned to us, so that it may be considered not as an expenditure without return, but as a single investment. It is, therefore, clear that we must obtain this money and from whatever source. The amount of LP 150,000 will be partially assigned to the assistance of the citrus industry by way of loans, through the setting of a guarantee funds, and partially for investments mentioned above.

5) After having dealt with the question of citrus industry, I should now like to dwell on the question of mixed farming in general. The state of war opens many possibilities for the mixed farming. The import to the country is on the decrease and this decrease will continue owing to the great restrictions on the valuta and as a result of transport difficulties. This, on the other hand, will increase the internal market for the existing agricultural products. It is, therefore, important in the interest of agriculture itself, as well as in the interest of the population, to enlarge the field of production. But during the transition period the condition of mixed farming is not favourable. First of all, a part of the settlements is at the beginning of their development. This is the case with the 50 new settlements we have set up during the riots. We have not as yet given them the budget, nor the loans required for their maintenance, and it is certainly premature to speak of their consolidation. But even the more consolidated settlements are not placed in a favourable condition owing to the curtailment of credit grants. True, all over the world



we have seen an increase of credit granted by the governments to agriculture in order to enable its existence and expansion. Here we are witnessing the opposite. We have overcome the rush on the banks. I say "overcome", as also in this direction the government confined itself to measures of restrictions, without giving any actual assistance. We were helped by the A.P.B. Although this fact deserves to be dealt with in detail, I shall confine myself to a few words. We were successful in this daring attempt, namely that the A.P.B. has taken upon itself without any assistance on the part of the government or Barclays Bank to give to all Jewish banks, with the exception of two banks and two small cooperatives, the required sums for meeting the demands of depositors. This experiment succeeded. On the very first day, when the banks were re-opened the depositors took out about LP 180,000 and on the following day LP 60,000 and on the third and fourth days the withdrawal of money ceased and a reversed movement started. Evidently, our prestige has gained very much, we saved the Jewish banks, a fact of immense value for the economic structure of the country. But it cannot be denied that the banks were very much weakened. According to my estimates, about 4 million LP were withdrawn during those three or four weeks. A portion of this money will return to the banks, but only a portion, as there are in the country misgivings as to the currency and people wish to invest the money in immovable property and, therefore, the capital of banks at the disposal of their activities has been decreased. The influx of capital from abroad has also ceased and, as a necessary result of this, the banks will not be able, not only to expand their credit activities, but on the contrary, they will have to curtail them. Thus, instead of enlarging credit facilities, as has been done in other countries we are faced with a curtailment of credit. This fact is a danger to our economic structure. We again apply to the government for help, but we know it reply beforehand. We must, therefore, mobilize large public sums, in order to avoid the curtailment of credit and enable its expansion. According to our own plans, and according to the conditions provided by the government, we shall be able to conduct planned activities in this field.

I am now coming back to the question of the expansion of agricultural products, both in the interests of agriculture and in the interests of the country as a whole. We have worked out a detailed program of utilizing the money provided for in this item. This program I attach separately. It shows how important it is also from the point of view of facilitating supplies and affording work to a large number of workmen.

6) LP 20,000 for Industry. Also for industrial activities large new possibilities could be opened up, owing to the diminishing competition from abroad and owing to the great opportunities offered by the military in the country and in the neighbouring countries. A series of demands have reached us from the neighbouring countries to supply them with various materials, such as medicaments. At present several factories are working in two and three shifts. It will be possible to enlarge the existing industry. There are prospects for setting up a series of new industries. In most cases it is not a question of new experiments; we have already reached a stage where previous experiments have brought the possibilities of production under profitable conditions. From this point of view we have to consider three questions: 1) supply of raw materials; 2) machinery; 3) frequently, the question of financing. Also in this respect we are placed in more favorable conditions than the neighbouring countries; as also in these countries valuta restrictions have been introduced, and while we are in a position to overcome these restrictions, to a certain extent, by utilizing for our requirements the valuta of our



funds, our friends in America, for instance, have suggested to us to acquire wheat in America. I thanked our friends for their readiness to assist us, but calculation has shown that these suggestions are not worthwhile. Even at present wheat in America would cost us 1 pound of a pound and a half per ton more, than we pay in this country or in the neighbouring countries. But it is quite possible that we shall need to import from America all kinds of raw materials and machinery.

For the regulation of these purchases we intend to set up a company for centralized purchasing. According to calculations we have received from our people, there are great possibilities for the extension of the textile, clothing, leather, shoes, metals, wood, glass, foodstuff supplies and chemical industries. Several have been worked out for the extension of existing undertakings and for setting up new ones that require an investment of over LP one million. For several of these undertakings there are in this country funds, of these, perhaps a large proportion of the money which was withdrawn from the banks. But frequently, our assistance will be required, the assistance of public funds, which will have to take upon themselves the initiative in ordering raw materials, encouraging new industries and facilitating credits. Had we availed ourselves of all these opportunities, we might have been able to absorb thousands of people. As an impetus to these activities, based on various calculations, we have included in this item the amount of LP 200,000.

7.) The amount of LP 200,000 for Public Works. The task of public works is twofold: On the one hand to combat unemployment and on the other hand to enhance our position in various undertakings. According to one plan of public works, involving a sum of LP 600,000 approximately, which would provide work for about 8,000 workmen almost for a whole year. This plan comprises a complete road system in the new settlements and in the orange grove districts, buildings in the settlements, agricultural training, rural and urban housing, extension of Tel-Aviv harbour, public works and building in Tel-Aviv, Haifa and in Jerusalem. Part of these works should be carried out by workmen's camps. According to estimates we would have to invest ~~LP~~ 200-250 mils per day for the employment of every workman; this expenditure comprises both, the maintenance of the workmen and expenditure on materials. The workmen camps we should like to set up for the building of roads in the new settlements, for drainage works in the settlements of the Keren Hayesod and in the Eneq and in the Beisan district, and for agricultural training on Keren Kayemet lands. All these works should be carried out by the National Funds. A part of these works we should like to be executed by municipalities and by municipal bodies. But here, again, we are faced with a difficult question of means. I have fixed the sum of LP200,000 in order to enable these works to be initiated.

8.) LP one million for the acquisition of land and for settlement. In the material of the K.K.L. you will find a long list regarding lands, for which obligations have already been undertaken, or for which negotiations are possible. I shall not repeat this list. I should only like to point out, that at this moment, possibilities of acquisition of land are in view; on the other hand, however, we are still faced with a certain danger in this respect, and every day that passes by is of importance. I refer to the acquisition of new lands and not to the ordinary budget of the K.K.L. Nowadays no acquisition of land is possible without settling on it. In the tables the K.K.L. has listed a number of families that can be settled on the land. It is very difficult to discuss these figures at this moment as in many cases only experience could prove what would be the best form of settlement in that area. But it is clear that in



order to settle people on the land large sums are required. The list of the K.K.L. contains an area of 100,000 dunums, approximately on which, it is stated 2,700 people could be settled. For the settlement of these people an amount of LP 2½ million is required, besides the amount of LP 800,000 - 900,000 required for the acquisition of the land itself. I do not refer to intensive settlement at this moment but to the establishing of a nucleus which may cultivate the land extensively only that they should settle on the land and the ownership of that land should remain in our hands. Indeed, the K.K.L. informs us that without securing the settlement on the land it is difficult to acquire land at present. Even the amount of LP one million does not cover all the expenses involved; it only secures us certain initial steps without fixing the time when we shall be able to acquire the land or settle on it the people for intensive cultivation.

9.) Finally, two more items connected with the political activities. First, the question of mobilization: In the material which has already been sent to you we mentioned LP 100,000 volunteers. As a matter of fact the results surpassed our hopes and 135,000 people registered, 80% men and 20% women. Mr. Shertok will give you details on our plans in connection with this matter. But we have the possibility and are faced with the necessity of preparing military units, "units of the people's army." This plan requires huge sums. At present we will confine ourselves to preparatory work. These preparations require the setting up of cadres for a number of units, from 20-40. The preparation of these cadres require the engagement of a number of people, arrangements for instruction, the establishing of technical training camps, engineers, organization and training of the volunteers one or twice a week. This plan requires an expenditure of LP20,000 per month. For the training of the volunteers we intend to utilize the above mentioned work camps. The other activities require special camps. For the time being, we have fixed a period of four months, as we do not know what turns matters may take after this time. It is impossible to anticipate the developments. But we have to be prepared for every contingency that may arise in the country. You certainly know the negotiations conducted with the government in this respect. But we have to be ready irrespective of the results of these negotiations.

10.) The strengthening of activities of security and activities among Arabs. For these activities we have earmarked certain amounts also in the ordinary budget. I have pointed out that the entire ordinary budget for political activities in the country amounts to LP 80,000 as against the amount of LP 170,000 demanded of us for security purposes alone. As to security matters have somewhat questioned down. But it is impossible to know how things may develop and we must utilize the quiet period for organization purposes, etc. Also in respect of Arab activities new important possibilities are opened up. We have earmarked for these activities the amount of LP 10,000 for a period of several months.

Thus we arrived in all items of special requirements at the amount of LP 2,340,000. A portion of these sums constitutes a single investment, which will yield results and the greater part of the money will return to us. Part of the money is assigned for activities which can be carried out during a period of a few months and we do not know what turn things might take.

We have not taken into account ordinary matters which may sometimes require greater attention than previously. Thus, for instance, we have not touched on the question of education and assistance to institutions, our concern about the extension of systematic settlement, etc. etc.

The Yishuv too, makes supreme efforts for mobilizing means in order to ease the condition of the needy ones, for consolidation of our economic positions and for security services. But the Yishuv itself cannot carry the brunt of all this, especially when our task is not merely the maintaining of what already exists but to extend positions, absorb new immigrants and to prepare ourselves for events that may occur. Palestine is the centre of our national activities. This is perhaps the only spot where independent national activities are possible and here we can and should be active as the nucleus of the entire Jewish nation. This enjoins on the Yishuv but also makes it incumbent on those parts of the nation that are still in a position to come to the rescue of the entire nation both to lighten the burden of today and to secure the triumph in its struggle for its future.

Sincerely yours,



(sgd) Eliezer Kaplan





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THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

BY TRANSATLANTIC AIRMAIL

*Strictly Confidential*

1st October, 1939

PERSONAL

Mr. H. Montor  
United Palestine Appeal  
111 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Montor:

Although I returned to Palestine about a month ago, it was difficult for me to find a free minute to sit down and write to you.

Through Leo Herrmann I received your cables and wonder whether my answers reached you.

The situation here is more than difficult, but I believe that the difficulties are of a transitory nature and that in a few months we may adapt ourselves to the new conditions. The interim period, however, will be very hard.

I prepared the first draft of the memorandum to the Allocation Committee and sent it to Leo Herrmann. In the memorandum I tried to give a detailed explanation of our needs and expectations. I had the document translated into English. As the translation was only delivered to me last night, there was no time to have it corrected and I am sending it to you as it stands. I want to emphasize that it is only a first draft and is to serve as material for you and Herrmann. You may, however, use it as you think best. I am also sending you copy of my letter to Mr. Istoriak, which will give you more information on the situation here.

I am summarising again our immediate extraordinary requirements for the next few months, explanation of which you will find in the enclosed memorandum.

1. 34,000 immigrants entered Palestine till the end of the Jewish year. 10,000 of whom came during the last quarter. Negotiations are proceeding regarding the admission of further refugees from Germany and Poland if Italy maintains her neutrality several thousand more refugees are certain to arrive within the next quarter. The absorption of 10,000 plus the newcomers will require an immediate initial expenditure of LP.300,000.

brought forward..- LP300,000

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 2. Owing to the general economic dislocation, due in the first instance to the impact of the war on Palestine, tens of thousands of persons are now in need of temporary relief estimated minimum expenditure until February   | 100,000       |
| 3. The organisation and provision of supplies, foodstuffs and raw materials  | 100,000       |
| 4. Loans to pardessanim  | 150,000       |
| 5. The extension of existing farms for increased food production   | 150,000       |
| 6. The extension of industry and handicrafts which would enable the absorption of considerable numbers of workers  | 200,000       |
| 7. Public works necessary in themselves but which would also provide urgent relief for the unemployed  | 200,000       |
| Item 3-7 consist of credits and guarantee funds.   |               |
| 8. Land acquisition and occupation   | 1,000,000     |
| 9. 130,000 persons, one third of whom are women, registered for national service, comprising the defence of the Yishuv and the formation of Jewish units to be incorporated into the British Army. In order to be prepared for emergency purposes it is proposed to form immediately 20-40 battalions whose training, partial maintenance and equipment would cost LP 20,000 monthly, or a total for four months | 80,000        |
| 10. For the maintenance of existing defence, for fostering Arab relations and other special political requirements LP.10,000 monthly, for the next six months.   | <u>60,000</u> |

Total

LP.2,340,000



I generally doubt whether it is possible in writing to give a vivid picture of the happenings here. I have therefore proposed to the Executive that we should send a representative to the United States. The Executive was considering sending a delegation, but in the meantime I obtained the consent of Georg Landauer to go to the States, and I am pinning great hopes on his going. I cannot tell you the exact date of his departure. I hope, however, that it will be very soon.

From London I received the information that Dr. Weizmann intends to go to America, but I am not sure whether he will be able to do so. In any case, Shertok who left yesterday will give Dr. Weizmann all the material and detailed explanations.

At first, I intended to go to America myself, but gave up the idea because it is impossible for me to leave the country now, not because I can be of great help, but I felt that I who have been dealing with these problems all along ought to be on the spot.

In order to give you an idea of our financial expectations, I may tell you that a meeting of our Finance Committee took place on Friday, where we examined the prospects of income from all countries and our various obligations. We came to the conclusion that in the next three months we shall get from all over the world, apart from the United States, and after deducting the expenses of the Keren Hayesod and fulfilling our obligation to Lloyd's Bank and other creditors, a sum of LP3000 a month. Now, how can I get along with LP.3000 a month? The demand for relief is growing daily - it requires tens of thousands of pounds. It is not merely a phrase when I say that the only hope is the United States. What can you do? and what shall we do in this direction? At the same time I am receiving cables from various countries, asking for help from us: from London for political work; from Geneva for help to prospective immigrants to Palestine; from Bucarest and Kaunas for Polish refugees. Thousands of old Zionists, who have been left penniless and starving, are begging us to save their lives and that of their families.

I hope to write to you again soon.

With kindest regards to yourself and all our friends,

Sincerely yours,

sgd. Eliezer Kaplan

C  
O  
P  
Y

From: Dr. Arthur Hantke, Keren Hayesod Jerusalem to

Leo Herrmann, Esq.,  
Keren Hayesod Committee,  
75, Great Russell Street  
London, W.C.1.

Dear Mr. Herrmann:

Mr. Kaplan dictated the enclosed copy of a letter to Mr. Montor on October 1st, but the letter was not mailed to him because we were informed that the "Atlantic Clipper" airmail service to America, as well as that of the "North Atlantic", which took off from Lydda every Sunday, was discontinued that very day until further notice. Nevertheless, I think it advisable to let you have a copy for your own information.

You will see from the contents of Mr. Kaplan's letter that our extraordinary requirements for the next few months call for a sum of not less than LP2,340,000, in addition to our regular budget.

Mr. Shertok has reached London in the meantime and has no doubt given you all the details of Mr. Kaplan's memorandum with regard to our present financial requirements, and we hope that you have already managed to forward them to Mr. Montor in New York.

Yours faithfully,

Enc.

(sgd.) ARTHUR HANTKE.



UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL  
111 FIFTH AVENUE

## MEMORANDUM

*Date* October 26, 1939

*To* Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

*From* Mr. Henry Montor

*Subject*

Attached herewith is a draft of the agenda for the meeting of the Executive Committee of the United Palestine Appeal to be held on Monday, October 30th.

Although the agenda may seem long, it represents an accumulation of problems with which we have not dealt within the United Palestine Appeal.

Do you not think it would be wise, in view of the pressing issues that are constantly arising, to arrange for regular meetings of the Executive Committee of the United Palestine Appeal, especially in view of the fact that the Emergency Committee, which originally was to have had some powers, has none?

HM. SB

*HM*

*"Give Today --- Tomorrow May Be Too Late"*

—DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN

# UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (KEREN HAYESOD)  
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (KEREN KAYEMETH)  
For the Settlement in Palestine of Jews of Germany, Poland, Rumania and Other Lands

111 FIFTH AVE. CABLE ADDRESS—PALFUND NEW YORK CITY

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

### Honorary Chairmen

Cyrus Adler  
Albert Einstein  
Herbert H. Lehman  
Julian W. Mack  
Henry Monsky  
Nathan Straus  
Henrietta Szold

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

### National Chairman

Abba Hillel Silver

### National Co-Chairmen

Stephen S. Wise

### Chairman, Executive Committee

Louis Lipsky

### Chairman, Administrative Committee

Solomon Goldman  
Israel Goldstein  
Morris Rothenberg

### Treasurer

Arthur M. Lamport

### Associate Treasurers

Abraham L. Liebovitz  
Louis Rimsky

### Vice-Chairmen

Barnett R. Brickner  
Leon Gellman  
James G. Heller  
Edward L. Israel  
Elihu D. Stone  
Joe Weingarten  
David Wertheim

### Secretary, Administrative Committee

Charles Ress

### Executive Director

Henry Montor

On Wednesday afternoon, October 25th, at 3 P.M. there was a meeting at the Federation Building in New York convened by officers of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds in order to explore the question of a unified overseas fund-raising effort for 1940.

Among those present were Ira M. Younker who presided; Sidney Hollander, President of the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds; Harry L. Lurie, its Director; Edward M. Warburg and Joseph C. Hyman, representing the Joint Distribution Committee; William Rosenwald, representing the National Refugee Service; John L. Bernstein and Isaac L. Asofsky, representing the Hias; Dr. David Lvovitch and Harold Altschul, its American Executive Director, representing the Ort; Kurt Peiser, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Allied Jewish Appeal, representing Welfare Fund cities; and Mr. Louis Lipsky and myself, representing the United Palestine Appeal.

A general statement on the purposes of the meeting was made by Mr. Younker who said that the Council, symbolizing the Welfare Funds of the country, was anxious that problems abroad and the responsibilities of fund-raising should be met in a Jewish spirit that is concerned not so much with vested rights and interests but with what is best for the majority of the Jews in America and for the causes benefitting from the fund-raising efforts.

At first there was a great deal of unwillingness on the part of any of the representatives to discuss the issues involved. It was made clear, however, by all who spoke subsequently that whatever was being said was expressed solely in an individual capacity and not in a representative role, and that nothing that was said by any of those present was binding upon or reflected the sentiment of his organization.

Mr. Hollander stated that the Welfare Funds were weary of competitiveness in overseas fund-raising, and they were concerned with the problem not in terms of individual organizations but in terms of the problems that had to be solved. Thus they could not understand the overlapping and competition between the Joint Distribution Committee and other agencies operating in the European field, nor could they understand the duplication and competition between the United Palestine Appeal and other agencies operating in that field.



# HONORARY VICE-CHAIRMEN

George Backer, *New York*  
Joseph Bank, *Phoenix*  
Solomon N. Bazell, *Louisville*  
Oscar Berman, *Cincinnati*  
Joseph M. Betne, *Cleveland*  
Philip S. Bernstein, *Rochester*  
Robert M. Bernstein, *Philadelphia*  
Louis J. Borinstein, *Indianapolis*  
Alex Brest, *Jacksonville*  
Charles Brown, *Los Angeles*  
Gedalia Bublick, *New York*  
Fred Butzel, *Detroit*  
Alfred M. Cohen, *Cincinnati*  
Henry Cohen, *Gulveston*  
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Harry Friedberg, *Kansas City*  
Harry Friedenwald, *Baltimore*  
Daniel Fuchs, *Indianapolis*  
Herman Gestner, *Escauba*  
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Mrs. M. L. Goldman, *San Francisco*  
Simon M. Goldsmith, *New York*  
Abraham Goldstein, *Hartford*  
Arthur Goodman, *Charlotte*  
Joseph Goodman, *Troy*  
Julius Gordon, *St. Louis*  
Haylen Greenberg, *New York*  
Simon Greenberg, *Philadelphia*  
Joseph E. Grosberg, *Schenectady*  
Dave Grundfest, *Little Rock*  
L. Manuel Hendler, *Baltimore*  
Sidney L. Herold, *Shreveport*  
Isidore Hershfield, *Washington*  
Sidney Hillman, *New York*  
Harold Hirsch, *Atlanta*  
Michael Hollander, *Newark*  
Harry A. Hollzer, *Los Angeles*  
Jacob J. Kaplan, *Boston*  
E. I. Kaufmann, *Washington*  
Louis E. Kirstein, *Boston*  
Gustave Klauster, *St. Louis*  
Joseph Kraemer, *Newark*

Sidney G. Kusworm, *Dayton*  
Sidney Laasburgh, *Baltimore*  
Monte M. Lemann, *New Orleans*  
Benjamin Lencher, *Pittsburgh*  
Joseph Leonard, *Allentown*  
Louis Levine, *New York*  
B. L. Levinthal, *Philadelphia*  
Israel H. Levinthal, *New York*  
Louis E. Levinthal, *Philadelphia*  
Felix A. Levy, *Chicago*  
Julius Livingston, *Tulsa*  
Edgar F. Magnin, *Los Angeles*  
Julius Mark, *Nashville*  
Israel Matz, *New York*  
Mortimer May, *Nashville*  
Louis B. Mayer, *Canton City*  
Mallard Mayer, *Kansas City*  
George Z. Mudali, *New York*  
Irving Miller, *Far Rockaway*  
Charles W. Morris, *Louisville*  
Mortis Neuman, *Pittsburgh*  
Kurt Paizer, *Philadelphia*  
Hedwig Peters, *Memphis*  
Joseph B. Perkiy, *Atlantic City*  
Abe Plough, *Memphis*  
Nathan Ratnoff, *New York*  
Albert H. Rosenberg, *Chicago*  
Charles J. Rosenbloom, *Pittsburgh*  
Edwin J. Schanfarber, *Columbus*  
Max J. Schneider, *New York*  
W. H. Schwarzschild, *Richmond*  
Simon Shetzer, *Detroit*  
Mrs. A. Silverman, *Providence*  
Max Silverstein, *New York*  
Morris Simon, *Washington*  
Harry Simonhoff, *Miami*  
Eugene M. Solow, *Dallas*  
Ferdinand Soonsborn, *New York*  
Michael A. Scavitzky, *Newark*  
Horace Stern, *Philadelphia*  
J. David Stern, *New York*  
Mrs. Joseph Stroock, *New York*  
Leon C. Sunstein, *Philadelphia*  
Morris D. Waldman, *New York*  
Lionel Weil, *Goldboro*  
William Weiss, *New York*  
David T. Wilentz, *Perth-Amboy*  
Henry Wineman, *Detroit*  
Mrs. Stephen S. Wise, *New York*  
Samuel Wohl, *Cincinnati*  
Alexander S. Wolf, *St. Louis*

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

As a necessary guide to budget committees of Welfare Funds and as an easement of the friction that is growing in many of the communities because of competition and as an inducement for better fund-raising through unification, Mr. Hollander urged that especially those agencies which were represented at the meeting should somehow be able to arrive at an understanding to make possible their inclusion in a unified campaign in 1940.

It seemed to Mr. Bernstein that the discussion was somewhat premature unless an understanding had already been arrived at between the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal which were the bulwark of the United Jewish Appeal. If these two bodies had not yet come to an agreement it was obviously impossible for smaller organizations to become part of a United Jewish Appeal.

I said that I did not think I was breaching any confidence in reporting that the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal had not yet had negotiations with respect to the 1940 United Jewish Appeal. Mr. Younker greeted this statement with impatience, saying that that sort of comment had been heard from the UPA and JDC for many years in the past.

Mr. Lipsky presented the broad issue involved in unified fund-raising. He paid tribute to the contribution which the Welfare Fund movement had made to more orderly and responsible fund-raising, and agreed that communities had the right to expect a unification of forces from the bodies engaged in dealing with these problems, in which all Jews - and not merely those connected with a particular organization - have an interest. It was his belief that with the needs mounting steadily and with American Jewry willing to be generous in proportion to its conviction of the reality of the needs, it was imperative that there be established an organization which would concern itself with the distribution of funds on the basis of the needs of the Jewish people and not on the basis of the ability of specific organizations to present their claims.

He pointed out that several years ago Mr. Felix Warburg had suggested the establishment of an Allocations Committee for the purpose of considering, with the cooperation of neutral parties, the distribution of funds raised for overseas purposes. At that time the suggestions was not acted upon. He felt, however, that conditions had so changed during the intervening years as to make possible the initiation of such a scheme. It would have the effect of bringing about the end that seemed to be desired by the officers of the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds.

Later on Mr. Lipsky indicated his personal sympathy with the establishment of an Allocations Committee which would be composed not alone of individuals representing special interests but of such neutral persons who could add to the picture the weight of the public opinion that they represented rather than the influence of a specific organization.

A view along these lines was also expressed by Mr. Edward M. Warburg. He did not think that the allocations and budget committees of the average Welfare Funds were adequately equipped to deal with the problems of allocations and to determine for themselves what were the proper proportions in budget distribution. It was helpful, therefore, if not



Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

essential that representatives of specific organizations, who were acting as trustees in fields of activity in which they had special experience, should have a channel in which they could press the claims of their organizations. He could see the wisdom, however, of having a national body which would be dependent not only upon the evaluation of local Welfare Funds but of the national agencies which were particularly concerned with the problems and had special knowledge of them.

Mr. Hyman felt that there were two aspects to the problems raised by the Council. One had to do with competitiveness in fund-raising and with the friction arising therefrom with the consequent harm to the community; and the other had to do with the larger aspect of allocations and determination of the respective merits of causes and movements. He could see the wisdom of creating an organization similar in character to the personnel gathered around the meeting table which would concern itself with ironing out the irritations over competitiveness. There would be a forum for the weeding out, for example, of the claims as between the Joint Distribution Committee, the Hias and Ort as to the payment for transportation, the maintenance of manual training schools, etc. The forum would be a place in which confusing and conflicting claims could be ironed out so that exaggerated claims for merit or expenditure might be revealed in their true light by a combined judgment as to the facts.

It was his feeling that one of the major defects of the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds was that it was not applying any gauge as between organizations. He had expressed himself at frequent intervals in fear of the possibility of the creation of a super-body in the Council of Federations, and did not think that such a super-body would be helpful to Jewish life. But at the same time the Council, he believed, was not performing certain essential functions which were within its province.

As a further illustration of the problems that such a forum might consider would be whether the Jewish National Fund was conducting a campaign when it said that it was merely asking ten thousand individuals to buy debentures.

Mr. Hyman admitted that it was the right and the obligation of individual Welfare Funds to concern themselves with the income and expenditures of the various national agencies, but he believed that the obligation was a reciprocal one, and the agencies had just as much right to share in moulding the decisions of the Welfare Funds individually and through the Council. He felt, therefore, that the Council ought to invite into its leadership and into its counsels representatives of the various national agencies primarily concerned with the problems touched upon by the Council. Mr. Hyman believed that it was possible to take action with respect to the first matter even though ultimately action in the second might be possible and wise. For the time being, however, he did not see that there was any agreement as to what constituted the most democratic method of governing organizations or of judging the respective merits, for example, of assistance to Jews in Europe and the constructive upbuilding of the Jewish National Home. Disposition of this question in the broad field did not seem to him, for the time being at least, susceptible of quick action.

After long and various discussion which lasted for more than two

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver


hours I made the following proposal, not in a representative capacity for the United Palestine Appeal and not as binding upon any organization but solely as a suggestion which might be considered by the organizations represented at the meeting: (1) that the officers of the Council express to the JDC and to the UPA their hope that negotiations will be quickly launched for the purpose of considering the possibility of a United Jewish Appeal for 1940; (2) that the JDC on its part undertake to confer with representatives of organizations operating in the same field to determine whether there is not a possibility of unification with them; and that the United Palestine Appeal on its part undertake similar discussions with representatives of groups operating in the Palestine field; (3) that the representatives of the JDC and the UPA keep in mind the results and possibilities of the discussions with other organizations in their own negotiations with respect to a 1940 agreement; (4) that the hope be expressed by the Council to the JDC and the UPA that they will be sufficiently advanced in their discussions to be able to offer a report or at least the basis of a report in time for the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Council of Federations to be held on November 11th.

Mr. Younker asked Mr. Lipsky whether he approved of such a procedure, and Mr. Lipsky responded affirmatively. Mr. Younker then asked Mr. Warburg whether for the JDC he would be interested. Mr. Warburg assented.

I believe that Mr. Lurie is planning either verbally or in writing to communicate these suggestions, which are purely exploratory in character, to the respective organizations involved.

I assume that we shall be able to discuss this problem at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the United Palestine Appeal on Monday.

Cordially yours,

  
Henry Montor  
Executive Director

HM:FE



UNITED JEWISH APPEAL, INC.

342 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 27, 1939

Mr. Henry Ittleson  
1 Park Avenue  
New York City

Dear Mr. Ittleson:

In accordance with my conversation with you in your office on Friday, October 20th, there has been prepared in our office a statistical statement showing (a) the total pledges recorded at this moment on the books of the United Jewish Appeal; (b) the cash that has thus far been received on account of those pledges; and (c) estimates of the additional amount which the United Jewish Appeal may expect as a result of campaigns to be held during the remainder of the calendar year 1939. There is also included an estimate of when and to what extent payments in cash during the balance of the year may be expected.

It is hazardous to make predictions with regard to campaigns that have not yet been concluded, but in view of your request that an estimate be available for the action of the Allocations Committee when its members meet on Monday afternoon, Mr. Coons and I have had figures prepared which show that a minimum of \$15,275,000 may be expected as the net sum resulting from campaigns on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal in the calendar year 1939. Of that amount \$9,500,000 is to be distributed by agreement between the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Jewish Appeal. The balance is at the disposal of the Allocations Committee.

May I emphasize that extreme caution and conservatism has entered into the manner in which estimates have been made by the United Jewish Appeal throughout the period of its campaign. It is our belief that it is better to underestimate the possible income than to run the risk of overestimating.

The members of the Allocations Committee are Albert D. Lasker and Henry Ittleson for the Joint Distribution Committee, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and Rabbi Solomon Goldman for the United Palestine Appeal and Louis Kirstein as the fifth member. I understand that Mr. James H. Becker will attend in the absence of Mr. Albert D. Lasker.

I am at your disposal if you or other members of the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal at your meeting on Monday afternoon feel that there is any technical information or other assistance that can be provided. Mr. Coons, I am sure, is equally at your disposal. May I take the liberty of suggesting the possibility of Mr. Coons

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL, INC.

342 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Mr. Henry Littleton

- 2 -

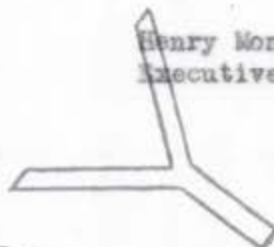
October 27, 1939

and myself being present at the meeting of the Allocations Committee  
in view of our intimate knowledge of campaign conditions and prospects.

Sincerely yours,

Henry Montor  
Executive Vice-Chairman

HM:EH  
Encl.



WRHS

UNITED JEWISH  
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1 9 3 9 UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

PLEDGES

	Total Pledges Reported Oct. 26, 1939	Estimated Addi- tional Pledges by Dec. 31, 1939	Gross Estima- ted Minimum Pledges for 1939	Local Campaign Expenses and Nat'l Adminis- trative Expenses Estimated for 1939	Allowance for Shrinkage in Collections	Net Estimated Available
National	\$ 8,048,613.42	\$ 2,430,010.53	\$10,478,623.95	\$ 412,000.00	\$ 313,000.00	\$ 9,753,623.95
New York City	<u>6,621,376.05</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,621,376.05</u>	<u>600,000.00</u>	<u>500,000.00</u>	<u>5,521,376.05</u>
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>\$14,669,989.47</u>	<u>\$ 2,430,010.53</u>	<u>\$17,100,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,012,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 813,000.00</u>	<u>\$15,275,000.00</u>

COLLECTIONS

	Gross Estima- ted Pledges for 1939	Local Campaign Expenses Estima- ted for 1939	Net Estimated Pledges	Paid to Date to National Headquarters*	Balance Outstanding
National	\$10,478,623.95	\$ 7,000.00	\$10,471,623.95	\$5,140,289.63	\$5,331,334.32
New York City	<u>6,621,376.05</u>	<u>600,000.00</u>	<u>6,021,376.05</u>	<u>4,345,000.00</u>	<u>1,676,376.05</u>
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>\$17,100,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 607,000.00</u>	<u>\$16,493,000.00</u>	<u>\$9,485,289.63</u>	<u>\$7,007,710.37</u>

ESTIMATED FURTHER COLLECTIONS

	Balance Outstanding	Allowance for Shrinkage in Collections	Net Estimated Collectible	Expected Cash by Nov. 30, 1939	Expected Cash December, 1939	Expected Cash in 1940
National	\$ 5,331,334.32	\$ 313,000.00	\$ 5,018,334.32	\$ 478,833.00	\$1,449,483.00	\$ 3,090,018.32
New York City	<u>1,676,376.05</u>	<u>500,000.00</u>	<u>1,176,376.05</u>	<u>150,000.00</u>	<u>150,000.00</u>	<u>876,376.05</u>
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>\$ 7,007,710.37</u>	<u>\$ 813,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,194,710.37</u>	<u>\$ 628,833.00</u>	<u>\$1,599,483.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,966,394.37</u>

\*National administration expenses for 1939 to be deducted - estimated \$405,000.00.

DISTRIBUTION OF COLLECTIONS

Received at national headquarters October 26, 1939		\$9,485,289.63
Deducted for administration		<u>346,155.43</u>
Available for Distribution		\$9,139,134.20
 Distributions		
Joint Distribution Committee	\$4,750,000.00	
United Palestine Appeal	2,375,000.00	
National Coordinating Committee Fund, Inc.	<u>1,940,000.00</u>	9,065,000.00
Bank Balance		<u>\$ 74,134.20</u>
 Anticipated additional collections		
November	\$ 628,833.00	
December	1,599,483.00	
1940	<u>3,966,394.37</u>	\$6,194,710.37
		<u>\$6,268,844.57</u>
Less estimated additional administration expenses 1939		58,844.57
Estimated balance available for distribution		<u>\$6,210,000.00</u>
 Required to complete first \$9,500,000 allocation		
Minimum anticipated for consideration of Allocations Committee		<u>435,000.00</u>
		\$5,775,000.00





RECAPITULATION

Gross estimated pledges	\$17,100,000.
Less estimated shrinkage	<u>813,000.</u>
	\$16,287,000.
Less local campaign expenses	<u>607,000.</u>
	\$15,680,000.
Less national administration expenses	<u>405,000.</u>
	\$15,275,000.
Allocations paid to date on agreed first \$9,500,000.	<u>9,065,000.</u>
	\$ 6,210,000.
Balance of initial \$9,500,000 to be paid Minimum estimated for consideration of Allocations Committee	<u>435,000.</u>
	\$ 5,775,000.

WRHS



EXTRACT FROM AUDITORS' REPORT OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL, INC.  
as at  
SEPTEMBER 30, 1939  
submitted by  
KLEIN, HINDS & FINKEL  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

"Letters were sent to contributing communities and to organizations (except those which had not yet started or had just begun their 1939 campaign and which will be circularized at a later date), requesting confirmation of their pledges and payments to United Jewish Appeal, Inc., as at July 31, 1939. The replies indicated the correctness of the recorded cash and the substantial accuracy of the pledge records.

"The responses received to October 24, 1939, are summarized as follows:

	Confirmation requests sent	Replies received	% of response
Number of confirmations . . . . .	558	448	80.1
Amount of pledges . . . . .	\$12,808,464.66	\$12,373,047.20	96.6
Cash contributions. . . . .	6,241,866.58	6,040,913.82	96.8



[Oct. 30, 1939]

AGENDA FOR MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

Aldine Club, Monday, October 30 - 12:30 P.M.

- (1) EXCUSES FOR ABSENCE:  
From Rabbi James G. Heller, Rabbi Barnett Brickner
- (2) FINANCIAL REPORT - United Palestine Appeal for 1939  
FINANCIAL REPORT - United Jewish Appeal for 1939
- (3) PLANS FOR 1940 CAMPAIGN
  - (a) Arrangements for United Palestine Appeal for 1940;  
Terms of agreement between Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth;  
Allotment to Mizrahi Palestine Fund
  - (b) Status of relations with Joint Distribution Committee
  - (c) Report on meeting convened by Council of Federations and  
Welfare Funds. Suggestions adopted.
  - (d) Appoint representatives officially to attend Board of  
Directors of Council meeting November 11
  - (e) Participation by Aguda
  - (f) Cable from Kaplan
- (4) SEPARATE FUND TO BE DISTRIBUTED UNDER U.P.A. AUTHORITY  
Should UPA ask authority to retain certain funds for distribution  
under its own authority or that of the Emergency Committee without  
reference to London and Jerusalem?
- (5) APPEAL BY CHIEF RABBIS HERZOG AND UZIEL FOR YESHIVOTH IN PALESTINE
  - (a) Cable from Herzog and Uziel
- (6) APPEAL FROM MEYER BERLIN FOR MIZRACHI
  - (a) Cable from Meyer Berlin
  - (b) Cable from Kaplan in reply
- (7) FURTHER SUBSIDIES TO PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES
  - (a) Report on preparation of Memorandum to Intergovernmental  
Committee
- (8) APPLICATION FROM M. OSTROVSKY, FOR THE VAAD LEUMI, FOR GRANT FROM  
"NIGHT OF STARS" RECEIPTS
- (9) SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE OF UNITED JEWISH APPEAL  
Memorandum of Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth Needs
- (10) LETTER FROM LEO ISTORIK OF ANGLO-PALESTINE BANK IN REGARD TO EXCHANGE  
CLEARING OFFICE IN LONDON
- (11) APPLICATION FOR FUNDS BY JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY  
Letter from Jacob Landau to Dr. Silver
- (12) SUGGESTION THAT HADASSAH UNDERTAKE SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECT
- (13) ARRIVAL OF DR. GEORG LANDAUER

October 30, 1939

- 9 -

It was finally agreed that no action be taken at this time with respect to the request from the Chief Rabbis and that word be awaited from the Executive in response to the cable sent by the Emergency Committee urging favorable action on the Chief Rabbis' appeal. It was felt by some that the action with regard to the Mizrahi Palestine Fund did not represent a departure from the principle laid down by Mr. Lamport but was merely an advance by the United Palestine Appeal to an organization which would eventually participate in the 1940 United Palestine Appeal and which had the right to determine its budget.

Dr. Goldstein also urged that no departures could be made from the agreement constituting the 1939 United Palestine Appeal, which provided that all sums be divided between the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth and that no disposition of funds could be made without the specific agreement of each of these bodies. To indicate the point of view of the Keren Kayemeth in Jerusalem toward the various requests that had been addressed to the United Palestine Appeal, Dr. Goldstein cited a cable received from Mr. Ussishkin (Appendix G).

#### MEETING OF ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE -

Dr. Silver, who, with Dr. Goldman, was to attend the first meeting of the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal in the afternoon, was inclined to think that there would be an effort to rush through a quick allocation to the National Refugee Service. He said that he and Dr. Goldman would try to urge that no special allocations be made, as the emergency situation applies to all three organizations. He asked whether it should be agreed in principle that the Allocations Committee meet from time to time to pass upon specific applications for funds that will come in from the United Palestine Appeal and the Joint Distribution Committee as the need arises; or whether, especially in view of the fact that regardless of how much money is available, neither the needs of the Joint Distribution Committee nor the United Palestine Appeal can be met, it would be more advisable to suggest a certain key or ratio distribution of the remaining funds? Perhaps we should agree that whatever money will come in should be distributed X percentage for the Joint Distribution Committee, X for the United Palestine Appeal and X for the National Refugees Service.

Dr. Goldman felt that the latter proposition would be more advantageous to the United Palestine Appeal -- that is to have a key arrangement. Just now we are in a more favorable position to make an agreement on a formula basis, and we should work for it.

Mr. Lipsky did not believe that the door should be closed against a statement in advance of the facts with regard to Palestine, because the Joint Distribution Committee are at the present time in a very disadvantageous position, and the United Palestine Appeal is in a very good one. If we concentrate on a key distribution they will immediately try to base it on what has already taken place.

Mr. Lamport advised that, due to its very urgent needs, he felt that the National Refugee Service would ask the Allocations Committee to disregard the limitation of \$500,000. If an arrangement could be made now on the basis of distribution of all the funds received for 1939, that would be the best arrangement, but he did not feel that that could be done. If



an arrangement were made for meeting specific needs, he urged that a recommendation be made for a provision covering the specific needs for the next 25 units of money, (\$95,000 per unit covering Joint Distribution Committee, United Palestine Appeal, National Refugee Service) which means \$4,750,000, which covers the \$500,000 for the National Refugee Service. Mr. Lamport said that there was no money in the treasury at the present time.

Dr. Silver asked whether, if the National Refugee Service asked for more than \$500,000 -- which in all likelihood they would-- and assuming that the Allocations Committee would assent, the United Palestine Appeal could persuade the Joint Distribution Committee to divide the balance of the money on a 40/60 basis.

Mr. Lamport replied that the United Palestine Appeal could ask for such an arrangement, but he believed that it would not be accepted.

#### FURTHER SUBSIDIES TO PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES

Dr. Wise called attention to Dr. Silver's letter suggesting that no further sums be allotted to the President's Advisory Committee for Refugees. He advised that the United Palestine Appeal has paid out \$4,500 to that committee during 1939. He felt that the statement on Palestine of Sir Herbert Emerson last week was alone worth \$4,500. It would be of immense value from the viewpoint of the Allocations Committee, the members of which will now understand that we can do things for the refugees, and at this moment no one else can. If he had not been a member of the President's Committee, Dr. Wise said, Dr. Goldman, Mr. Lipsky and he would not have had access to Emerson and the latter's statement would never have been made.

#### MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Montor declared that there are a great many matters that come up constantly which require the immediate attention of the Executive Committee, and therefore he suggested more frequent meetings. It was agreed that more frequent meetings should be held at the discretion of Dr. Wise.

#### \$5,000,000 APPLICATION

Mr. Montor referred to the preparation of a Memorandum for the Allocations Committee on the basis of material prepared by Eliezer Kaplan and Dr. Abraham Granovsky.

Motion was made and carried expressing approval of an application for \$5,000,000 submitted to the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal by the United Palestine Appeal.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 P.M.

Respectful submitted,

FLORENCE EITELBERG

Copy for Dr. Silver

November 1, 1939

Mr. Henry Montor

Mr. Mendel N. Fisher

Let me make a few comments about your letter of October 31st addressed to Dr. Silver. I make these observations because of the implications involved in the request made to us by Mr. James Becker.

When we agreed to the formation of an Allocations Committee, it was understood that this committee would deal with the question of distributing the balance of the funds over and above the amounts agreed, in advance, to be given to the two major partners of the agreement. We all agreed with Dr. Silver when he proposed a certain formula in the negotiations with the Allocations Committee. It is apparent now, by the appointment of an additional member to the Allocations Committee - I refer to the Secretary, who is personally a very high-class gentleman -- that this ~~is~~ bound to have a very important effect on the whole business of the allocation of funds. The very idea that a member of the Allocations Committee has even asked for audits, not alone for this year but for previous years, clearly indicates the many dangers involved, in what the members of the Allocations Committee are undertaking to do. If we were making a survey of organizing Jewish life in America, the request made by Mr. Becker might be in order, but the thought of submitting detailed financial statements of our operations, including the operations of the Zionist Organization of America, involves a complete departure from what many of us thought the function of the Allocations Committee would be.

You can just imagine a group of people, not altogether friendly to a cause, sitting down and analyzing any statement. It is not a question of getting a statement of income and expenses, but it involves a complete analysis of all organizations. The minute we agree to submitting such an audit, we will create a precedent that is bound to plague us. It is not that we are afraid of our reports; I think that they will stand up as well as those of any other organization, but why should we turn over material to people, some of whom are not even in sympathy with our cause? The best financial statements need interpretation, and it depends upon who sits on the other side and interprets the figures.

I see from the copy of the cable you have sent to Mr. Kaplan that you have already asked him to forward all of these reports. I believe that all of us ought to get together very quickly and give this matter our most serious thought. You can just imagine what some of the experts take hold of the various statements, analyze them and subject them to further microscopic analyses, just what benefits we can hope to derive from our friends on the Allocations Committee who do not represent the Palestine point of view.



November 1, 1939

Mr. Henry Montor

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The reason why I am taking the liberty of making these observations is that we have got to know in advance that danger is ahead, and it is best that before we agree to comply with the wishes of Mr. Becker or with the wishes of others, we must fully understand what is involved; at least we ought to be informed for what purposes these statements are to be used. The statements submitted by Dr. Granovsky for the Jewish National Fund and by Mr. Kaplan for the Keren Hayesod, together with the memorandum you have prepared are so comprehensive that certainly the committee can have some idea of our needs. If the information given them is not enough, they can get more, but why is it that we should be asked to give, so to speak, an itemized statement of our operations? We have certainly never asked that of any of our other agencies, not even of the partners to the agreement, and when the request comes from those who have not always been our champions, we ought to ponder very seriously and very carefully before we agree to comply.

WRHS



MEMORANDUM

DATE November 1st, 1939

TO Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

FROM Rabbi Isadore Breslau

OCTOBER 26th, 1939

Visited LDB this afternoon. He was very much pleased with Sir Herbert's visit yesterday which lasted for 45 minutes. He found Sir Herbert willing to be helpful and understanding. Apparently, LDB gave him an intimate talk on Palestine and its accomplishments, and stressed particularly, its past and present absorptive capacity. Sir Herbert told him, that while they discussed Palestine at their meetings, their failure to mention it in the report was simply an oversight. It wasn't intentional. He said that this Friday afternoon, in a statement to the press, while speaking of other things, he would include favorable mention of Palestine. LDB was given to understand that Sir Herbert himself was arranging for this press conference and would prepare the statement himself. (This seems to be contrary to my advices from New York where it was believed that we should submit statement for Sir Herbert to release. I shall try to see Pell and get his advice, and possibly through him, arrange the kind of statement he would like to have issued).

Sir Herbert spoke highly of Hadassah. He was pleased with the manner in which Hadassah presented its memorandum and request.

OCTOBER 27th, 1939

- 1- On press interview for Sir Herbert: Received from Caplan, memorandum on suggested statement Sir Herbert was to give to the press.
- 2- LDB's understanding was, after his conversation with Sir Herbert, that Sir Herbert would make specific mention of Palestine in a general statement he himself would issue to the press.
- 3- Called on Mr. Robert Pell for clarification. He told me that in conversation last night, Sir Herbert informed him of the proposed press meeting and that he was waiting to receive some members of the press who were to interview him, in particular, on the position of Palestine in the present Intergovernmental Committee discussion.
- 4- By 11:15, Mr. Bromwell of the Embassy, acting as liaison officer for the Committee, was as yet unable to reach Sir Herbert. I proposed to him that sometime this afternoon, meeting between Sir Herbert and members of the press could be arranged through the State Department. He seemed to have no knowledge of the projected interview, but would try to reach Sir Herbert in time.
- 5- Called Pell with respect to the Caplan draft for Sir Herbert's release, and he advised strongly against presenting it to him. He thought it would be very impolitic. Sir Herbert would prefer to be governed by his own thinking and might be offended if we asked him to accept our own draft of statement.



AMERICAN ZIONIST BUREAU

625 WOODWARD BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

-2-

DATE November 1st, 1939

TO Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

FROM Rabbi Isadore Breslau

6- At noon, I talked with Sir Herbert personally. He spoke of his conversation with Dr. Wise, and said that at Dr. Wise's request, he was preparing a statement on immigration figures for Palestine, which statement he would distribute to press representatives this afternoon. He would also be glad to answer questions put to him by the press. We arranged for such a meeting at 4:30 this afternoon at the State Department, in Mr. Pell's office. He hoped that there would not be too many men present and he would give them about half an hour.

7- Completed arrangements with Mr. McDermott of the press division for such an interview.

8- At 4:30, Sir Herbert met the press and read his statement. He explained that he was doing it particularly at the request of Dr. Wise and of the Zionists. While he read the whole statement, he spent the greater portion of his time on Palestine, and asked the reporters to give special attention to that portion of it that referred to Palestine, "please do it, it will help the Zionists." On several points, he stressed the important role Palestine had played in absorbing at least one-third of all the refugees from greater Germany as well as many others from other countries. In response to a question, he said, that while America since Hitler had received almost as large a number of immigrants from greater Germany, they were not all Jews, nor were they all refugees. A good number were simply immigrants, but the 70,000 that came from greater Germany to Palestine during this period were all Jews and all refugees. He spoke with great earnestness and showed great sympathy for the aspirations of the Zionists and for Palestine as a refuge. He of course side-tracked all questions of a political character. He was speaking not as a representative of England, but as a representative of the Intergovernmental Committee. (I only hope the 'goyishe' reporters understood him and give the story a good break. Certainly Sir Herbert did his best). There were others present during the interview, particularly Pell and McDonald to whom Sir Herbert often turned for confirmation of some statement. McDonald helped.

There were not sufficient statements prepared for those present, so I am making copies and at the same time sending it to our whole press list (about 100). Copy enclosed.

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V

*Intergovernmental (British American)  
Committee on refugees*

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON POLITICAL REFUGEES  
122 East 22nd Street  
New York, N. Y.

November 6, 1939.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Mr. McDonald and I attended the meeting of the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee recently in Washington, the essential news of which you have already had in the newspapers. This report delayed by the pressure at the office since our return may be added to your file of the minutes of our meetings for the sake of completeness.

The President entertained the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee including Mr. Myron C. Taylor as American Vice Chairman, Secretary of State Hull, and Mr. James G. McDonald at luncheon at the White House on October 17th. Mr. Paul van Zeeland, Director of the Coordinating Foundation, was delayed in arrival and was not present. At the White House luncheon President Roosevelt presented his statement opening the Conference.

In brief he suggested the division of the total problem of refugees into the short-range and the long-range problem. The short-range problem was described as that of the German refugees to which the Intergovernmental Committee has to date given its attention. The long-range problem was identified as embracing the much larger group of refugees, even ten to twenty millions whom the President envisaged as emerging from the war. The President noted with pleasure the progress of the Dominican Republic and Philippine projects but as to the long-range problem suggested that more imaginative engineering studies be pressed vigorously in larger areas.

After the White House luncheon the first meeting of the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee took place at the State Department at 3:30 P.M. on October 17th. At this meeting Sir Herbert Emerson presented a verbal report to the effect that emigration from Germany was still encouraged by German authorities but might be limited by war conditions and that the situation of refugees in some of the transit countries, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, and Switzerland, had become more acute. He urged renewed efforts to assist the re-emigration of refugees from these countries. He reported that most of the refugees present in England would probably find employment under the war conditions prevailing and that the situation of refugees in France would be approximately similar to those in England.

Lord Winterton reported that because of the war the British Government would not be able to make suggestions with respect to the financing of settlement by public funds as had been suggested at the July meeting in London and further that private groups



in London had reported that they were not in a position to proceed with settlement plans in British Guiana. Lord Winterton also reported that the British Government would not be in a position to assist settlement in British Guiana financially, but would be pleased to consider plans of any of the private groups in other countries, such as America, which might desire to initiate settlement in that country.

At the second meeting at the State Department on October 18th the Swiss Ambassador presented a special plea that refugees in Switzerland be assisted to re-emigrate. Those present at the meeting ~~recognized~~ recognized that the situation described by the Swiss Ambassador applied equally to Sweden, Belgium, and Holland.

At this meeting there was a general discussion of the problem of finances. It was recognized that private groups in England and France are no longer able to do more than care for the refugees already in their countries and that general ~~bx~~ relief requirements have increased enormously and will have to be met by larger contributions from the neutral countries. It was recognized further that the prospects of securing public funds for settlement at this time are not favorable. Mr. McDonald in reporting on the present status of the Dominican Republic and Philippine projects suggested that private funds were available solely for the purposes of initial trial settlement and that thereafter certain refugees might be settled whose relatives in neutral countries were prepared to supply ~~xxx~~ capital for them but that a point would very soon be reached at which further progress of the settlement projects would depend on the emergence of substantial public funds.

The officers of the Intergovernmental Committee felt the necessity of consulting their respective governments with reference to the President's proposals and therefore it was decided to adjourn the meeting until October 26th at 3 P.M.

At this later meeting Sir Herbert Emerson reported that he would continue as Director of the Intergovernmental Committee and as High Commissioner for Refugees of the League of Nations, that sufficient funds were in hand to function during the coming year, and that it might prove desirable later for the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee to appoint a Vice Director from one of the transit countries to assist him. Mr. Stephen V. C. Morris of the Department of State was elected as Secretary of the Intergovernmental Committee.

Mr. Paul van Zeeland was in attendance and made a statement reviewing the recent history of the movement of refugees and offering the cooperation of the Coordinating Foundation to the Intergovernmental Committee.

Sir Herbert Emerson reported that some 250,000 refugees had already left Germany, that some 70,000 had been absorbed in Palestine and some 60,000 remained in Western European transit countries awaiting re-emigration to overseas countries. The following communique was adopted as the final action of the meeting:

The officers of the Intergovernmental Committee at their Fourth meeting at Washington on October 26, 1939, recognized that there was an urgent need for further openings for the permanent settlement of refugees included within the present mandate of the Committee, and further recognized that, as the President of the United States of America pointed out in his inspiring statement of October 17, the problem of involuntary migration might be greatly increased.

They considered it necessary that surveys should continue of all possible openings for the permanent settlement of ~~the~~ involuntary migrants in various parts of the world, special regard being paid to the scope for the development of natural resources by engineering, irrigation and similar schemes.

While such surveys would have reference to the existing mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee, the meeting observed that the collection of material of this character would be of general value in contributing toward the solution of the refugee problem in its wider aspects and would be of particular value to the Committee should it at any time wish to increase the categories of involuntary migrants within its mandate.

The meeting considered that the results of all surveys made either under the aegis of the Coordinating Foundation or by private organizations should be communicated to the Director, and, at his discretion, to the participating governments.

On Friday, October 27th, President Roosevelt entertained the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee and the advisers at tea at the White House.

Lord Wintertown and Sir Herbert Emerson returned to England on Saturday, October 28th, but Mr. Paul Van Zeeland will remain in this country for the time being. It is expected that he may establish an office of the Coordinating Foundation here in New York.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE L. WARREN.

GLW:J



1939

MINUTES OF A.C.A. EXECUTIVE MEETING, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 4 P. M.,  
AT THE ASTOR HOTEL, BROADWAY AND 44TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

PRESENT: Dr. Solomon Goldman (in the Chair), Messrs. David Berenstein, Robert M. Bernstein, Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner, Charles A. Cowen, Judge Henry Ellenbogen, Dr. A. K. Epstein, Abraham Goldberg, Rabbi Israel Goldstein, Murray I. Gurfein, Rabbi James G. Heller, Hon. Mordecai Konowitz, Dr. Harris J. Levine, Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Louis Lipsky, Morris Margulies, Rabbi Irving Miller, Charles Ress, Louis P. Rocker, William I. Siegel, Robert Szold, Morris Weinberg, Dr. Stephen S. Wise; by invitation: Dr. Joseph Cohen; Eleazer Lipsky (representing Masada), Alfred J. Kahn (representing Avukah) Samuel Caplan and Meyer W. Weisgal.

Excuses for Absence: Dr. Harry Friedenwald, Meyer Levy, Judge Julian W. Mack, Aaron Riche, Ezra Z. Shapiro, Simon Shetzer, Elihu D. Stone.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1) Organization and Membership:

The Secretary reported that the membership and other activities of the Organization are progressing at a tempo usually evident three months hence, and expressed the belief that by December 1, 1939, last year's membership for the same period will have been exceeded. A number of Regional Conferences and District meetings have been arranged reflecting a greater interest in organization and membership work than ever before; also, many new people have come into the District leadership. The Secretary felt that this augurs well for future Zionist work, as a change in District leadership is invariably followed by an appreciable increase in membership. He called attention to the dearth of speakers at this time to meet the numerous requests from all over the country.

2) Emergency Committee:

Since the last meeting of the Executive there have been two meetings of the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs. The Emergency Committee continues to function as the representative agency of all Zionist bodies in the United States dealing with all political matters, as well as the emergency needs that arise from time to time. Since the last meeting of the Executive, the Emergency Committee gave its attention to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees in Washington, with a view to bringing before it the availability of Palestine as a place of settlement for refugees. It presented an official memorandum on this subject to the Intergovernmental Committee, and also had a number of individual conferences with members of the Intergovernmental Committee. As a result of its efforts, Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee made a public statement in the press pointing out the pre-eminent role which Palestine had played in the absorption of refugees for the past six years. Private assurances were made that the Intergovernmental Committee continued to consider Palestine in its plans for refugee settlement. The sub-committee of the Emergency Committee dealing with economic matters, headed by Mr. Robert Szold, is giving special attention to requests from Palestine, having to do with shipping supplies, etc. The Committee is still in the process of organizing its efforts with a view to adequate preparation in meeting any demands that may be made upon it by the Jewish Agency in Palestine.

The Emergency Committee is preparing for the visit of Dr. Chaim Weizmann who is expected here towards the end of this month. To enable it to function both in the political field, as well as to meet emergency needs, the Committee has applied to the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish National Fund to make available to it a sum of money out of the 1940 United Palestine Appeal Campaign.



Referring to the Secretary's latter remarks, the Chairman stated that the application is not actually directed to the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth; it is an application asking that the Emergency Committee become a third or fourth partner in the United Palestine Appeal.

#### POLITICAL SITUATION:

The Chairman reported that an effort had been made to have the Intergovernmental Committee nullify the precedent established last year at Evian, of having no reference to Palestine. A number of interviews had been arranged, therefore, with Sir Herbert Emerson, with Mr. Pell (member of the State Department staff in charge of the Conference); a meeting between the President and Mr. Justice Brandeis; also a visit to Lord Lothian. As a result of all the pressure coupled with the presentation of a petition of over 400,000 signatures secured by the Morning Journal, Sir Herbert issued his statement to the press, -- a statement which was not entirely satisfactory to Zionists.

Dr. Wise called attention to a report he had received as a member of the President's Committee, containing a statement made by Mr. MacDonald (Chairman of the President's Committee) quoting Sir Herbert, to the effect that "70,000 Jews have been welcomed into Palestine", etc. It was a good reference, Dr. Wise felt, and is important for the record.

As a result of a detailed report he had received on Palestine, given by Mr. Shertok in London, the Chairman expressed the opinion that very serious thought must be given to the question of revising our approach to the British Government for he assumed that neither the Colonial Office nor the British Administration in Palestine is ready to abandon one iota of the White Paper; the Government is proceeding as if the White Paper were the law of the land, and is making every effort to implement it. The Emergency Committee decided, therefore, at its meeting on November 7, to prepare a Memorandum (informing the British Government that American Zionists are aware of what is happening in Palestine) to be presented to Ambassador Lothian for transmission to the British Government.

Dr. Wise suggested the advisability of withholding the proposed Memorandum until after Dr. Weizmann's arrival in this country.

Rabbi Brickner pointed out that although the status quo ante exists in Palestine, the British Government has permitted the entry of 5,000 people or more a month, under Aliyah Beth.

Mr. Lipsky declared that certain facts as disclosed in Mr. Shertok's report can be objected to, and he felt that a statement should be filed with the British Ambassador in Washington, finding fault with certain things which are happening in Palestine, stating that we are aware of these facts and are greatly concerned over them.

Dr. Wise withdrew his objection.

The Chairman felt that we should confine ourselves for the present to this Memorandum, which will be transmitted to London. He preferred to have the Memorandum handed in to the British Ambassador before Dr. Weizmann arrives here and hoped that by the time of his arrival, an answer will have been received from London.

Rabbi Heller called attention to the fact that the statement had been made on previous occasions that the White Paper is not de facto, and urged that this impression be corrected. In answer to Rabbi Heller's inquiry as to whether



*"Give Today --- Tomorrow May Be Too Late"*

—DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN

# UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (KEREN HAYESOD)  
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (KEREN KAYEMETH)  
For the Settlement in Palestine of Jews of Germany, Poland, Rumania and Other Lands

111 FIFTH AVE. CABLE ADDRESS—PALFUND NEW YORK CITY

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Albert Einstein  
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Nathan Straus  
Henrietta Szold

November 9th, 1939

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

### National Chairman

Abba Hillel Silver

Dear Dr. Silver:

### National Co-Chairmen

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Chairman,  
Executive Committee

Louis Lipsky  
Chairman, Administrative  
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Solomon Goldman  
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### Secretary, Administrative Committee

Charles Ress

### Executive Director

Henry Montor

May I put in writing the substance of a conference which I had on Thursday, November 2nd, with Isaac Hamlin, Secretary of the Gewerkschaften campaign for the purpose of exploring the possibility of including the Gewerkschaften campaign in the United Jewish Appeal campaign for 1940?

In brief, Mr. Hamlin stated that there was no possibility of the inclusion of the Gewerkschaften in such a unified drive for the year 1940 and that his statement represented the conviction of 95% of the leadership of the Poale Zion and Gewerkschaften, which had discussed the problem from various aspects on various occasions and reached this final decision.

Mr. Hamlin said that during the period from October 1938 through September 1939 the Gewerkschaften campaign had raised \$387,000 which included the receipts of the Pioneer Women's Organization and the men's division of the Gewerkschaften campaign. The receipts included some \$60,000 which had been allotted by some of the welfare funds. The balance represented income obtained from independent campaigns, from unions and other sources.

Mr. Hamlin further said that the reasons behind the decision of the Gewerkschaften not to affiliate itself with a United Jewish Appeal drive were as follows:

A. The Gewerkschaften at the present time raises its money independently, and except for a small part of its income obtains funds from sources aside from those which ordinarily would be tapped by the unified appeal. In that sense, he continued, the Gewerkschaften raises money that would not otherwise be available for Palestine. The elimination of the Gewerkschaften would not enlarge the amount of money which the United Jewish Appeal could count upon, and would merely dry up a source of income from among people otherwise not reached:

B. The Gewerkschaften and the Poale Zion regard the Gewerkschaften not only as a fund-raising institution but as a valuable propaganda and educational instrument, especially among friends of labor. If the ideas represented in the Gewerkschaften were to be merged into a general drive, this educational activity

# HONORARY VICE-CHAIRMEN

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Jacob J. Kaplan, *Boston*  
E. I. Kaufmann, *Washington*  
Louis E. Kirnstein, *Boston*  
Gustave Klanner, *St. Louis*  
Joseph Kraemer, *Newark*

Sidney G. Kuswoim, *Dayton*  
Sidney Lansburgh, *Baltimore*  
Monte M. Lemano, *New Orleans*  
Benjamin Lenchner, *Pittsburgh*  
Joseph Leonard, *Allentown*  
Louis Levine, *New York*  
B. L. Levithal, *Philadelphia*  
Israel H. Levinthal, *New York*  
Louis E. Levinthal, *Philadelphia*  
Felix A. Levy, *Chicago*  
Julius Livingston, *Tulsa*  
Edgar F. Magnin, *Los Angeles*  
Julius Mark, *Nashville*  
Israel Matz, *New York*  
Mortimer May, *Nashville*  
Louis B. Mayer, *Cadiz City*  
Millard Mayer, *Kansas City*  
George Z. Medalie, *New York*  
Irving Miller, *For Rockaway*  
Charles W. Morris, *Louisville*  
Morris Neuman, *Pittsburgh*  
Eun Peiser, *Philadelphia*  
Hardwig Petes, *Memphis*  
Joseph H. Perskin, *Atlantic City*  
Abe Plough, *Minneapolis*  
Nathan Ratnoff, *New York*  
Albert H. Rosenberg, *Chicago*  
Charles J. Rosenthal, *Pittsburgh*  
Edwin J. Schatzel, *Columbus*  
Max J. Schelder, *New York*  
W. H. Schwartzchild, *Richmond*  
Simon Shetzer, *Detroit*  
Mrs. A. Silverman, *Providence*  
Max Silverstein, *New York*  
Morris Simon, *Washington*  
Harry Simonhoff, *Miami*  
Eugene M. Solow, *Dallas*  
Ferdinand Sponsborn, *New York*  
Michael A. Stavinsky, *Newark*  
Hocare Stern, *Philadelphia*  
J. David Stern, *New York*  
Mrs. Joseph Stroock, *New York*  
Leon C. Sunstein, *Philadelphia*  
Morris D. Waldman, *New York*  
Lionel Weil, *Goldboro*  
William Weiss, *New York*  
David T. Wilentz, *Perth Amboy*  
Henry Wineman, *Detroit*  
Mrs. Stephen S. Wise, *New York*  
Samuel Wohl, *Cincinnati*  
Alexander S. Wolf, *St. Louis*



would be completely lost, for in the nature of a vast unified campaign, individual ideas, and particularly when they are bound up with ideologies other than mere relief, must suffer in emphasis;

C. If the propaganda on behalf of Palestine and of Palestine labor now conducted by Gewerkschaften were to cease, Mr. Hamlin contended, other elements not friendly to Zionism would gain control of Jewish labor unions and of Jewish distribution of funds. As a result of the fund-raising activities of the Gewerkschaften, it is possible to keep up a constant flow of propaganda among the labor elements that ensure friendliness to Palestine labor and ultimately to Palestine and Zionism.

D. The Gewerkschaften campaign has a policy to avoid, as much as possible, entering into Welfare Funds. This is due to the fact that it wants to keep intact its propaganda activities and also because it feels that it can raise much more money through independent, separate collections than is possible through allotments for Welfare Funds.

E. The Gewerkschaften feels that if it were to be merged into a unified drive, the money it is now capable of raising would be entirely lost. This is particularly true in connection with unions, which now give certain amounts to the Gewerkschaften campaign above and beyond the sums that are made available to the United Jewish Appeal or to similar agencies. These unions would not continue to give money to the Gewerkschaften, if it were merged into a United Jewish Appeal and would not increase their total allotment to a combined organization. Moreover, the sums that Palestine would receive out of such increase would not be at all commensurate with the amounts now received directly by the Gewerkschaften from the labor unions. And, too, the Welfare Funds would drop the Gewerkschaften from their system of allocations, if there were to be a pooling of resources within the United Jewish Appeal.

F. Mr. Hamlin contended that the supreme service and power of the Gewerkschaften is to win masses of people over to Palestine, not through Zionism directly, but through the Histadruth and through the idea of a labor commonwealth.

I have tried most earnestly to give you an undistorted picture of the case as presented by Hamlin so that you can judge the merits of the arguments for yourself. But whatever merit there be in the arguments, the fact is that there seems to be no possibility at this time of a unification with the Gewerkschaften.

Mr. Hamlin intimated that if there were no United Jewish Appeal, but there were an independent United Palestine Appeal campaign, the Gewerkschaften leadership might then be prepared to consider the possibility of joining in a common front for Palestine fund-raising purposes.

- - - - -

I tried to have a meeting for similar exploratory purposes with Hadassah and after several days of unsuccessful attempts to reach Mrs. Pool, the new President of Hadassah, I finally spoke to her on the telephone. I indicated what the subject was that I would like to see her about and pointed out that I had no authority to conduct an official conversation,

but merely to explore the ground as to the possibility of including Hadassah in a unified Jewish appeal in 1940. Mrs. Pool then asked me to write a memorandum setting forth our suggestion. I pointed out that under the circumstances there was nothing I could write about, since all I could do was to have a discussion in which points of view could be exchanged and that the United Palestine Appeal as such had no suggestion to make. Mrs. Pool felt that no subject could be considered by Hadassah or its leadership, without having a written memorandum before it. After a lengthy discussion on this theme, Mrs. Pool said that she would consult with her Executive Committee and then inform me as to what date I could meet with the Executive Committee for this discussion. I asked whether I could meet with her personally, or with one or two others, just for the sake of some "off the record" observations that could be exchanged. But Mrs. Pool took the position that neither she nor anyone else in Hadassah was authorized to meet with me or anyone else without the official authorization of Hadassah. That is how it remains at this date, since I have not heard any further from Mrs. Pool.

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,



*Henry Montor*  
Henry Montor  
Executive Director

HM. SB



C O P Y

November 11th, 1939

Dr. Abba H. Silver  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Doctor:

Because of recent developments, this communication is being sent under instructions unanimously agreed upon at the Executive Committee meeting of the Council held on November 8, 1939.

On September 17, you will recall, at the conference it was agreed that we would support a thirteen week program of radio talks. The necessity for highly effective technical advice was urged by us at the time. We pointed out the value of such technical assistance, and suggested the advisability of obtaining the same once again. (Before the American Jewish Committee group in New York you referred to it as "moral and financial support"). We were also to meet periodically to discuss direction of program.

We confess we were somewhat surprised at the time that the director of the League for Human Rights was to serve in the capacity of critic. What seemed of grave importance to us turned out to be a matter of but casual reference. However, we hoped that this situation would very likely adjust itself as soon as the problem is fully understood.

Since then members of our Council who had listened to these talks became perturbed. Many of us felt that a number of these talks were ineffective and in some respects objectionable. We also realized that no outsider, however earnest, could devote sufficient time in planning and writing of the material at this time when the war situation made direction of program considerably more difficult. It became, in our opinion, far more a question of greater craftsmanship just because of the narrower limits of possible approaches. We therefore felt particularly that any one who had the handling of church work, correspondence, telephone calls, public relation activities, etc. would not have left sufficient energy to write dynamic and effective weekly talks on a long range basis -- talks which had to meet even censorship complications. This certainly was not intended as a reflection upon the capacity of this speaker or his advisors.

Some three weeks ago, after hearing one of these talks which we felt was particularly weak, we called Mr. Morris to point out to him that the program did not justify the great trouble and expense invested. He suggested that we have a meeting to "lay down the law to them". We pointed out that it would be inadvisable to express criticism before the party to be discussed.

We met in Akron for that purpose. We did not want to express at that time the instructions received, namely, that unless these talks

C O P Y

-2-

would be improved greatly, we would not have sufficient interest in their continuation, but we did express definite fears about the effectiveness and direction of the program. We were thereupon told by one of the gentlemen present that "we were presumptuous", and later on were personally insulted by the director of the League. We confess we were taken aback a little bit by the fact that employees of the community should be so lacking in good taste as to take an inexcusable view of disputed matters which laymen were asked to discuss freely and fully.

You are aware that Detroit has been exceedingly anxious to obtain the support of the American Jewish Committee. After all, we recognize the fact that if the work is satisfactory and effective and the need therefor continues, it will have to go on almost indefinitely. For that reason we sought to improve the sharp feeling which has existed between Cleveland and New York regarding the wisdom of the program. We in Detroit, as "middle of the roaders", have been seeking to get the Committee's technical support even if we could not obtain their complete approval. There are few, if any, other agencies so well equipped for the purpose. That is why we told Mr. Morris that we do not like to abandon the hope of bringing about a more friendly relationship through further meetings and discussions.

If we are going to continue to build up the speaker as a radio personality, it is particularly urgent that he be provided, not only with ordinary assistance, but with extraordinary skill. Our earlier experiences indicate that one program required practically an entire week of Mr. Bernstein's time in which he gave ten to fifteen hours per day. We do not like to see the feeling develop that anything will do. The speaker himself should be dissatisfied with anything less than perfection.

Every possible avenue should, in our judgment, be exhausted to reach an amicable understanding with the Committee by further conferences with them at New York, Cleveland or Detroit. It does not present an insurmountable difficulty. If we could settle our relations fully, or even half way, technical help would undoubtedly be forthcoming. Our whole interest in the program must inevitably subside unless such a situation could be brought about.

Let us have your views, please.

Cordially,

(Signed) James I. Ellman

Chairman, Public Relations  
Committee, Jewish Community Council



November 13, 1939

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Officers of the United Jewish Appeal  
FROM: Messrs. Isidor Coons and Henry Montor  
SUBJECT: MONTHLY PLEDGE AND PAYMENT REPORT

At the meeting of the Executive Committee held on October 30th, a report was submitted by us on the status of the 1939 campaign, with detailed information regarding gross pledges and cash received at national headquarters, estimated pledges to be received by the end of the year, the progress of the Fall campaign, etc. The campaigns in the larger cities, which we advised on October 30th were being initiated, are now intensively under way.

The pledge and payment report as of October 31st, indicating the community by community participation to date in the United Jewish Appeal shows total gross pledges of \$14,691,598.98, and total cash remitted to national headquarters in the sum of \$9,554,401.47. As of today, the gross pledges amount to \$14,832,910.03, including New York City for \$6,608,433.01. Total cash in the sum of \$9,826,648.94 has reached national headquarters, including a transfer of \$4,470,000.00 from New York City.

The following disbursements have to date been made to the constituent agencies of the United Jewish Appeal:

Joint Distribution Committee	\$4,900,000
United Palestine Appeal	2,450,000
National Refugee Service, Inc.	1,960,000

Special emphasis is now being given to the collection phase of our program in the hope of bringing in the largest possible sum of cash before the end of the year.

JR:GG

November 14, 1939

Mr. James I. Ellmann  
Penobscot Building  
Detroit, Michigan

My dear Mr. Ellman:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of November 11. Frankly, I am at a complete loss to understand what is in your mind. You seemingly seem to have forgotten that it was Detroit that urged upon Cleveland to join with it in a radio broadcast series to counteract Coughlin, and not vice versa; also that it was Detroit that first put on the Cole broadcasts and then suggested that Cleveland help to finance them.

You write in your letter that you in Detroit "sought to improve the sharp feeling which has existed between Cleveland and New York regarding the wisdom of the program" and that you have been acting as the "middle of the roaders" in an effort to iron out difficulties between us and the American Jewish Committee. That, to me, is absolutely incomprehensible. We have no more reason to fight the American Jewish Committee than you have, we are engaged in no war with it, and we do not require any adjustors or pacifiers. We never opposed any technical help which the American Jewish Committee could give to Rev. Cole. In fact, we urged it, and are still urging it.

I went down to New York with you in order to persuade the leaders of the American Jewish Committee to help finance the Cole broadcasts, just as I urged at a recent meeting of the Board of the Anti-defamation League to do the same. The American Jewish Committee has refused to give any financial support. And that is how the matter stands today.

You and we felt that we could go ahead without the A.J.C. and an attempt was made to organize the communities in the Middlewest to support a new series of thirteen broadcasts. Cleveland offered Seventy-five Hundred Dollars toward the fund, and so did your community. Cleveland is ready to go through with its obligation. If Detroit does not wish to, and desires



November 14, 1939

to drop the broadcast, it is all right with us. But please do not put the responsibility at our doorstep.

You came to Cleveland and suggested that you would like the Cleveland Office of the League for Human Rights to handle the details, thus absolving you of much of the work. We agreed to it. Miss Meyette, an exceptionally capable woman who has worked in many important fields of social activities, has given much valuable time and thought without extra compensation to these broadcasts. If you would like to relieve the Cleveland Office of the responsibility and resume it yourself, we shall be very happy to agree to that arrangement.

If you have any way of persuading the American Jewish Committee to give Reverend Cole the benefit of Mr. Bernstein's help, please proceed. We have been unable to impress the A.J.C. with the importance of this project.

I do not at all share your judgment about the quality of Reverend Cole's broadcasts. I like them and I assume that I know something about public speaking and how audiences are to be reached. Many other people have spoken to me in most favorable terms of Cole's broadcasts. Some have not liked them. There can never be unanimity of opinion about such matters - certainly not among Jews, each one of whom regards himself as an authority on such matters.

I have written to you thus frankly and fully because I am afraid that you are not clear in your own mind about what you want, and that your vacillation is contributing to considerable chaos in this matter. If the Detroit community wishes to drop these broadcasts, please say so. I rather think that it would be an unfair thing to interrupt this announced series of broadcasts and thereby discredit Dr. Cole, and in a way, make something of a laughing stock of ourselves. The least that should be done, is to complete this series of thirteen broadcasts.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

# THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

100 EAST 42nd STREET  
ROOM 514  
NEW YORK CITY

MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG  
*Hungary Chairman*  
PAUL BAERWALD  
*Chairman*  
HERBERT H. LEHMAN  
JAMES N. ROSENBERG  
*Vice-Chairmen*

GEORGE BACKER  
JAMES H. BECKER  
DAVID M. BRESSLER  
ALEXANDER KAHN  
WILLIAM ROSENWALD  
EDWARD M. M. WARBURG  
JONAH B. WISE  
*Vice-Chairmen*

MARCO F. HELLMAN  
I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER  
*Treasurers*  
WILLIAM A. KOSHLAND  
*Associate Treasurer*  
EVELYN M. MORRISSEY  
*Assistant Treasurer*

MRS. H. B. L. GOLDSTEIN  
*Comptroller*  
JOSEPH C. HYMAN  
*Secretary and  
Executive Director*  
JOSEPH J. SCHWARTZ  
*Assistant Secretary*  
ISIDOR COONS  
*Campaign Director*

November 14th, 1939

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE:

Messrs. Solomon Goldman  
Henry Ittleson  
Louis E. Kirstein  
Albert D. Lasker  
Abba Hillel Silver

Gentlemen:

We enclose herein for your information the following financial statements:

- I. Statement of Monthly Appropriations for the period January through December, 1939.
- II. Statement of Cash Expenditures for the period January 1 through October 31, 1939 and Additional Cash Requirements to complete Budgetary Commitments incurred during 1939.

It will be noted that the total budgetary commitments incurred in 1939 (as of November 13th) amount to .....	\$10,973,629.
Against these commitments there was expended as of October 31, 1939 approximately .....	5,150,087.
(The \$5,150,087 represents an excess of \$150,087 over \$5,000,000. voted to the J.D.C. thus far by the United Jewish Appeal.)	
Leaving a balance unexpended as of October 31, 1939, of .....	<u>\$ 5,823,542.</u>

Of this balance of 1939 commitments there will be required:

For cash expenditure in November and December 1939..	\$4,095,465.
For cash expenditure during the early weeks of 1940 .	528,077.
To meet the balance due on the underwriting of the Coordinating Foundation (after making provision for payment this year of \$200,000.) .....	800,000.
For guarantees to the governments of France, England, Belgium and Holland in behalf of former passengers on the SS St. Louis (after allowing \$100,000 which we estimate may be subject to call this year) .....	<u>400,000.</u>
	<u>\$5,823,542.</u>



In order to meet the total commitments incurred to date in 1939, the Joint Distribution Committee will require the sum of \$5,973,829 over and above the \$5,000,000 already voted to the J.D.C. under the 1939 United Jewish Appeal agreement.

From the point of view of immediate cash requirements as of December 31, 1939, the J.D.C. will need the sum of \$4,245,552 over and above the \$5,000,000 thus far allocated by the United Jewish Appeal. This represents the aforementioned sum of \$4,095,465 required during the remainder of 1939, plus an excess of \$150,087 of expenditures over receipts from the United Jewish Appeal as of October 31, 1939.

IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE AFOREMENTIONED STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS, A RESERVE OF \$750,000 HAS BEEN INCLUDED TO MEET SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS ARISING OUT OF THE WAR CONDITIONS IN POLAND. To what extent this sum will be applied and to what extent it will cover the needs of the situation until the end of this year, it is impossible to estimate at this time. We have only to mention two situations that have arisen within the last few days:

1. The request received from the Commission for Polish Relief, Inc. to make available the sum of \$200,000 to take up the option on the purchase of 150,000 blankets at a total cost of \$400,000 for distribution in Poland on a non-sectarian basis.
2. The increased requirements in Vilna not only in behalf of the Polish refugees now in that country, but to assist the local Jewish population, half of whom, it is estimated, are in critical need. For these purposes alone a minimum of an equivalent of \$275,000 will be needed for the remainder of this year. This is \$175,000 in excess of amounts previously estimated of \$100,000 which is included in our statement of commitments for emergency needs in that section.

We are in daily receipt of messages from Mr. Troper, our European Chairman, and from committees and organizations in different parts of the world indicating the urgency of the situation in many quarters. In the abnormal conditions prevailing in Poland especially it is obviously impossible at this moment to calculate with any degree of exactness what funds must be made additionally available between now and the end of the year. That the need is enormous may be evidenced by the fact that in Warsaw alone the normal Jewish population of 300,000 has been swollen to 500,000 of an influx of Jews from the interior communities, and that according to the reports submitted to us by the J.D.C. office in Warsaw, which is still maintaining services and extending relief, 80% of the entire Jewish population required immediate help.

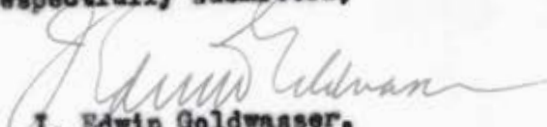
The budgetary requirements of the J.D.C. during the last quarter of this year for the programs in the refugee countries, within Germany and Austria, and more particularly for transportation expenses, have increased considerably by reason of the inability of the Council for German Jewry to meet their previous allotments for these purposes. Furthermore, the burden on the J.D.C. has become greater not only because of the sharp falling off of contributions heretofore received from local sources by refugee aid committees in the various countries of Europe, but also by reason of the rising costs of maintenance of these refugees.

The J.D.C. is in frequent receipt of pressing requests for assistance, for relief and institutional aid on a large scale in Palestine, for substantial amounts for the purpose of effecting transportation for persons still in a position to leave Central Europe to proceed to Palestine and other countries (this over and above the sums already allotted and included within the above statements of obligations), for

grants to the British Committee for assistance in England, and for special allotments to enable thousands of refugees now in Great Britain to leave that country.

Accordingly, the J.D.C. respectfully requests that there be made available to it, out of the results of the United Jewish Appeal for 1939, the sum of \$6,000,000. over and above the \$5,000,000. previously allocated to it under the United Jewish Appeal Agreement for 1939, so as to enable the J.D.C. to complete the commitments incurred to date during 1939 totalling \$11,000,000, which does not include any extraordinary grants for which appeals have been and are being received.

Respectfully submitted,

  
I. Edwin Goldwasser,  
Treasurer.

IEG:RG  
Encls.





MEMORANDUM

November 15, 1939

TO: DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

FROM: SAMUEL CAPLAN

In connection with the proposed memorandum to Lord Lothian decided upon at the last meeting of the Emergency Committee, it was the advice of Justice Brandeis that, instead of a memorandum, a cablegram be sent direct to Prime Minister Chamberlain, Colonial Secretary MacDonald and Winston Churchill.

Accordingly the following cable was sent to the three named above. The text of the cable had the approval of Justice Brandeis.

CONVEY TO YOU OUR ANXIOUS CONCERN AT REPORTED INTENTION PALESTINE GOVERNMENT PROCEED IMPLEMENTATION WHITE PAPER POLICY DESPITE WAR SITUATION. AMERICAN JEWRY HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IN THIS CRITICAL HOUR HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW MEASURES TENDING TO INTENSIFY CONFLICT IN PALESTINE AND AGGRAVATE POSITION OF WORLD JEWRY. SUCH ACTION WOULD BE CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DECLARATION IN COMMONS IN VIEW POSTPONEMENT CONSIDERATION BY LEAGUE COUNCIL OF WHITE PAPER POLICY. WE DESIRE NOT TO ADD TO BURDENS OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT BUT WE OWE A DUTY TO AMERICAN JEWRY WHICH RELYING UPON THE BALFOUR DECLARATION HAS INVESTED VAST FORTUNES IN THE UPBUILDING OF PALESTINE AND IS CALLED UPON THIS YEAR FOR EVEN LARGER SUMS AS A RESULT OF WAR SITUATION. EARNESTLY PLEAD FOR REASSURANCE TO ALLAY OUR APPREHENSIONS AND EASE BURDEN OF JEWISH PEOPLE VICTIMIZED BY NAZI BARBARISM AND WHOSE ONLY HOPE OF HEALING AND RESTORATION LIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME IN PALESTINE.

Louis D. Brandeis, Julian W. Mack, Solomon Goldman,  
Stephen S. Wise, Louis Lipsky, Abba Hillel Silver,  
Robert Szold, Tamar de Sola Pool, David Wertheim,  
Leon Gellman.

[Nov. 15, 1939]

1939  
M I N U T E S  
OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

Held at the Offices of Mr. Henry Ittleson

No. 1 Park Avenue, New York City

- - - -

A meeting of the Allocations Committee which was held at the offices of Mr. Henry Ittleson, 1 Park Avenue, New York City, began at 1 P.M. on November 15, 1939, and was adjourned at 6 P.M. All members of the committee were present, namely, Dr. Solomon Goldman, Henry Ittleson, Louis E. Kirstein, Chairman, Albert D. Lasker, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. Mr. Samuel A. Goldsmith, Secretary, performed the duties of that office.

\* \* \* \* \*

(NOTE: The members of the Committee, acting as individuals, held an informal hearing with Mr. Ben Cohen of Washington prior to the formal meeting of the Committee. Mr. Cohen presented a request that the Allocations Committee make a gift which might be used for refugees, irrespective of their religion. The members of the Committee indicated to Mr. Cohen that it was not within the province of the Committee to make allocations of this type. They agreed, however, that Dr. Silver, as a member of the Negotiating Committee, should present this request to the Committee at its next meeting, which was likely to be held within a period of two to three weeks; that Mr. Cohen might be asked to appear before the Committee to present the matter in detail; and that the Negotiating Committee be urged to make such a gift or gifts to non-sectarian organizations in order that Protestants and Catholics shall share equally in the sum allotted to such purposes.)

\* \* \* \* \*

The Secretary presented a formal report which he had prepared as a result of an exploratory investigation of the work and the financial operations of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and



its constituent organizations, as well as the National Refugee Service,

Following the reading of this report it was suggested that those portions of pages 15, 16 and 17 in the report which concerned themselves with the New York City operations of the National Refugee Service should be deleted. The Committee also unanimously agreed that the general suggestion made by the Secretary to the effect that the operations of the various agencies be considered on a calendar year and cash basis could not at this time be considered.

The Committee thereupon immediately turned to a consideration of the best methods to govern a reasonable division of the \$6,000,000 which would in all probability be raised and paid into the treasury of the United Jewish Appeal in addition to the \$9,500,000 which had already been distributed among the participating organizations, - such division to be achieved on the basis of the needs presented by these organizations and in relation to the total amount to be distributed.

The Committee considered the emergency needs of the National Refugee Service and of the United Palestine Appeal.

2 Discussion indicated that though the Joint Distribution Committee had undertaken various underwritings and guarantees with respect to refugees, notably in connection with the Coordinating Foundation and with refugees who had to be disembarked from the SS. St. Louis, the United Palestine Appeal, according to Dr. Silver and Dr. Goldman, had recognized the Coordinating Foundation and the SS. St. Louis incident as a responsibility of the United Jewish Appeal and, therefore, of the United Palestine Appeal as well as of the Joint Distribution Committee. In all these connections the possibility of relative responsibility of all participating organizations in all such underwritings was explored.

As a result of all these discussions and of a discussion of the general budgets presented by the participating organizations, the following resolution

was adopted by unanimous vote:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allocations Committee, in accordance with the powers vested in it by the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal under an agreement dated December 9, 1938, hereby instructs the officers of the United Jewish Appeal to distribute funds collected beyond the \$9,500,000 covered in such agreement and up to a grand total of \$15,500,000 estimated to be collected and available for distribution after deduction for campaign costs:

- (1) \$600,000 to the National Refugee Service, Inc.

\$250,000 to be held in reserve pending a report by the Negotiating Committee with respect to a gift or gifts to be made by the United Jewish Appeal to non-sectarian organizations dealing with Christian refugees, with the understanding that Protestant and Catholic refugees shall share and share alike in the distribution of such funds. In the event that the Negotiating Committee does not approve such a grant, this sum shall be divided between the United Palestine Appeal and the Joint Distribution Committee in the ratio of 15 parts to the former and 36 parts to the latter, except for the condition indicated in Item (4) below.

- (2) With respect to the remainder \$5,150,000, the following distribution is to be made: \$1,500,000 to the United Palestine Appeal  
3,650,000 to the American Jewish Joint Distribution

Committee, which includes:

- (A) \$500,000 in obligations assumed toward the refugees disembarked from the SS. St. Louis;



- (B) \$500,000 for the Coordinating  
Foundation for Refugees.

*new*  
While the United Palestine Appeal joins with the Joint Distribution Committee in recognizing the obligations involved in Items A and B, it is agreed that these sums are voted with the understanding that any sums remaining after necessary expenditures are made out of 1939 funds for these items are to be at the disposal solely of the Joint Distribution Committee. *to be added to the above committee funds*

- (3) If more than a total of \$15,500,000 is collected in cash the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal are to share in such additional amounts on the basis of 70% of such additional amounts being paid to the Joint Distribution Committee and 30% to the United Palestine Appeal.
- (4) If the total amount available for distribution is less than \$15,500,000, the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal shall share in such amount up to \$5,150,000 (eliminating \$9,500,000 already distributed, \$600,000 National Refugee Service, \$250,000 Negotiating Committee), in the ratio of two-thirds for the Joint Distribution Committee and one-third for the United Palestine Appeal, - provided that the total amount distributed to either the Joint Distribution Committee or the United Palestine Appeal, under such conditions, does not exceed the amounts stated in Section (2) of this resolution, namely, \$1,500,000 to the United Palestine Appeal and \$3,650,000 to the Joint Distribution Committee.

In view of the facts presented to the Allocations Committee with respect to the financial emergency existing in the National Refugee Service and with respect to an emergency relief situation in Palestine, the Allocations Committee also -

RESOLVED that the officers of the United Jewish Appeal be instructed to distribute as soon as possible from funds now available or shortly to be made available the sum of \$500,000 to the National Refugee Service and \$250,000 to the United Palestine Appeal.

This resolution was also adopted unanimously,

Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN, Chairman  
SOLOMON GOLDMAN  
HENRY ITTLESON  
ALBERT D. LASKER  
ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH, Secretary





[Nov. 15, 1939]

(APPENDIX E)

M I N U T E S

OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL  
Held at the Offices of Mr. Henry Ittleson  
No. 1 Park Avenue, New York City  
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A meeting of the Allocations Committee which was held at the offices of Mr. Henry Ittleson, 1 Park Avenue, New York City, began at 1 P.M. on November 15, 1939, and was adjourned at 6 P.M. All members of the committee were present, namely, Dr. Solomon Goldman, Henry Ittleson, Louis E. Kirstein, Chairman, Albert D. Lasker, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Mr. Samuel A. Goldsmith, Secretary, performed the duties of that office.

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(NOTE: The members of the Committee, acting as individuals, held an informal hearing with Mr. Ben Cohen of Washington prior to the formal meeting of the Committee. Mr. Cohen presented a request that the Allocations Committee make a gift which might be used for refugees, irrespective of their religion. The members of the Committee indicated to Mr. Cohen that it was not within the province of the Committee to make allocations of this type. They agreed, however, that Dr. Silver, as a member of the negotiating Committee, should present this request to the Committee at its next meeting, which was likely to be held within a period of two to three weeks; that Mr. Cohen might be asked to appear before the Committee to present the matter in detail; and that the Negotiating Committee be urged to make such a gift or gifts to non-sectarian organizations in order that Protestants and Catholics shall share equally in the sum allotted to such purposes.)

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The Secretary presented a formal report which he had prepared as a result of an exploratory investigation of the work and the financial operations of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and its constituent organizations, as well as the National Refugee Service.

Following the reading of this report it was suggested that those portions of page 15, 16, and 17 in the report which concerned themselves with the New York City operations of the National Refugee Service should be deleted. The Committee also unanimously agreed that the general suggestion made by the Secretary to the effect that the operations of the various agencies be considered on a calendar year and cash basis could not at this time be considered.

The Committee thereupon immediately turned to a consideration of the best methods to govern a reasonable division of the \$6,000,000 which would in all probability be raised and paid into the treasury of the United Jewish Appeal in addition to the \$9,500,000 which had already been distributed among the participating organizations, - such division to be achieved on the basis of the needs presented by these organizations and in relation to the total amount to be distributed.

The Committee considered the emergency needs of the National Refugee Service and of the United Palestine Appeal.

Discussion indicated that though the Joint Distribution Committee had undertaken various underwritings and guarantees with respect to refugees, notably in connection with the Coordinating Foundation and with refugees who had to be disembarked from the SS. St. Louis, the United Palestine Appeal, according to Dr. Silver and Dr. Goldman, had recognized the Coordinating Foundation and the SS. St. Louis incident as a responsibility of the United Jewish Appeal and, therefore, of the United Palestine Appeal as well as of the Joint Distribution Committee. In all these connections the possibility of relative responsibility of all participating organizations in all such underwritings was explored.

As a result of all these discussions and of a discussion of the general budgets presented by the participating organizations, the following resolution was adopted by unanimous vote:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allocations Committee, in accordance with the powers vested in it by the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal under an agreement dated December 9, 1938, hereby instructs the officers of the United Jewish Appeal to distribute funds collected beyond the \$9,500,000 covered in such agreement and up to a grand total of \$15,500,000 estimated to be collected and available for distribution after deduction for campaign costs:

- (1) \$600,000 to the National Refugee Service, Inc.

\$250,000 to be held in reserve pending a report by the Negotiating Committee with respect to a gift or gifts to be made by the United Jewish Appeal to non-sectarian organizations dealing with Christian refugees, with the understanding that Protestant and Catholic refugees shall share and share alike in the distribution of such funds. In the event that the Negotiating Committee does not approve such a grant, this sum shall be divided between the United Palestine Appeal and the Joint Distribution Committee in the ratio of 15 parts to the former and 36 parts to the latter, except for the condition indicated in Item (4) below.

- (2) With respect to the remainder \$5,150,000, the following distribution is to be made: \$1,500,000 to the United Palestine Appeal  
3,650,000 to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which includes:

- (A) \$500,000 in obligations assumed toward the refugees disembarked from the SS. St. Louis;
- (B) \$500,000 for the Coordinating Foundation for Refugees.

While the United Palestine Appeal joins with the Joint Distribution Committee in recognizing the obligations involved in Items A and B, it is agreed that these sums are voted with the understanding that any sums remaining after



necessary expenditures are made out of 1939 funds for these items are to be at the disposal solely of the Joint Distribution Committee.

(3) If more than a total of \$15,500,000 is collected in cash the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal are to share in such additional amounts on the basis of 70% of such additional amounts being paid to the Joint Distribution Committee and 30% to the United Palestine Appeal.

(4) If the total amount available for distribution is less than \$15,500,000, the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal shall share in such amount up to \$5,150,000 (eliminating \$9,500,000 already distributed, \$600,000 National Refugee Service, \$250,000 Negotiating Committee), in the ratio of two-thirds for the Joint Distribution Committee and one-third for the United Palestine Appeal, - provided that the total amount distributed to either the Joint Distribution Committee or the United Palestine Appeal, under such conditions, does not exceed the amounts stated in Section (2) of this resolution, namely, \$1,500,000 to the United Palestine Appeal and \$3,650,000 to the Joint Distribution Committee.

In view of the facts presented to the Allocations Committee with respect to the financial emergency existing in the National Refugee Service and with respect to an emergency relief situation in Palestine, the Allocations Committee also -

RESOLVED that the officers of the United Jewish Appeal be instructed to distribute as soon as possible from funds now available or shortly to be made available  
the sum of \$500,000 to the National  
Refugee Service and \$250,000 to the United Palestine Appeal.

This resolution was also adopted unanimously,

Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN, Chairman  
SOLOMON GOLIMAN  
HENRY ITTLESON  
ALBERT D. LASKER  
ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH, Secretary