

Tuesday, May 31, 1949

JTA Daily News Bulletin

THREE-DAY ZOA CONVENTION CLOSES; INSISTS ON AUTONOMY; FRISCH ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, May 30. (JTA) -- The three-day 52nd annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America concluded here tonight following the election of Daniel Frisch as president and the adoption of a resolution insisting upon the administrative autonomy of the American Zionist movement in its relationship with the Jewish Agency executive. The 2,000 delegates at the parley also adopted a resolution referring to the incoming administration for study the Rifkind report which recommends basic structural changes in the World Zionist Organization.

The resolution on autonomy, which expressed approval of the resignations of Drs. Abba Hillel Silver and Emanuel Neumann from the Agency executive over the issue, stated "that it is in the interest of the World Zionist Movement and of Israel that the influence of the Zionist Organization of America in all fund-raising activities and institutions in the United States shall be preserved and its representation on the governing bodies of American Zionist funds shall be unimpaired." It also demanded "that the administrative autonomy heretofore enjoyed by American Zionist bodies within the framework of the World Zionist Movement and its constitutional provisions, shall be vigorously asserted and fully preserved and safeguarded in the future."

In referring the Rifkind report to the Administrative Council of the new administration, the convention said that since it contains "so many far-reaching recommendations" it requires further study and should therefore be widely circulated as "material for study and public discussion." A third political resolution expressed approval and "full confidence" in the leadership of the administration headed by Dr. Neumann, the outgoing president.

Tribute Paid to Dr. Neumann at Testimonial Banquet

The convention closed with a testimonial banquet for Dr. Neumann. Among the many Zionist leaders who paid tribute to the calibre of leadership provided by Dr. Neumann during his two years as head of the largest Zionist body in this country were Dr. Silver, Mr. Frisch and Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli delegate to the United Nations. Particularly singled out for praise was his role in the upsurge in the Zionist movement in this country since the beginning of the war and his Jordan Valley Authority plan for the development of hydroelectric power and irrigation in Israel.

In his speech of acceptance of the presidency of the organization, Mr. Frisch placed special emphasis on the United Jewish Appeal, declaring that the "heroic, willing self-sacrificing Yishuv" will not be in a position to continue its open-door policy, "unless we provide the means." The time has passed "when we could afford to indulge in mere sympathetic lip service or contributions to general funds, however important. This is the hour of deeds and more deeds, and we shall accomplish them not in anonymity, but in our own name, in the name of the Z.O.A., as well," Mr. Frisch stated. He announced that the organization would establish in Israel a Z.O.A. House to serve both as headquarters of activities stemming from the movement in America, and as a hospice and guide for American Jews coming to Israel as visitors or as permanent residents.

Other officials elected included Rudolph G. Sonneborn, chairman of the National Administrative Council, and Mortimer May, chairman of the National Executive Com-

nittee. The election of a coalition leadership once again brought peace to the organization, which had been split between administration supporters and members of the Committee for Progressive Zionism.

Ambassador Elath Says Zionism Still Necessary, Calls for Pioneering

Ambassador Elisha Elath, a featured speaker at the parley, in his analysis of the future role of the Zionist movement, insisted that "Zionism today is as necessary as it was in 1897." Only with a strong Zionist movement, he continued, "can Israel expect to receive immigrants who will continue the noble traditions of the Binyamin of Hebron, Benjamin, Ein Harod and Ein Hashofet, and keep alive the pioneer spirit." The Ambassador pointed out that there is still a great necessity for such pioneers to turn the deserts of the Negev into flourishing areas, to restore the fertility of Galilee which sustained several million people in the old days, and to make the best of Israel's opportunities on the seas and in the air.

"Israel is the only country in Asia with direct outlets to both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans," he said. "Her place on the crossroads of the world's communications makes her one of the most important air traffic centers. Here lies one of the greatest tasks that any Zionist organization and your distinguished organization in particular is called upon to perform: to assist Israel in realizing these great opportunities. Israel needs not only American money, American 'know-how,' but also pioneers from this country, who should come to settle in Israel and join us in the building of our new State. While the State of Israel will remain the responsibility of its citizens, and its citizens alone," he stressed, "the Zionist movement must continue to be the property of the Zionists everywhere."

Appealing for the aid of American Jewry in the form of investments, as well as contributions, Ambassador Elath said that the immigration tide "imposes a tremendous responsibility and a great economic problem on Israel." He declared that "nothing would be more dangerous than to assume that our present day victories on the battlefields and in the diplomatic chambers mean the conclusion of our tasks. History merely opens possibilities to be grasped, and indicates the opportunities available to people. It does not make a present of statehood nor does it insure the continuation of that statehood. These possibilities and these opportunities must be utilized and expanded for they may never repeat themselves again."

Dr. Silver Says All ZOA Members Must Become Investors in Israel

Dr. Silver, outlining the future function of the Z.O.A. in relation to the state of Israel, asserted that "it is essential to sustain the long-range interest of American Jewry in the economic needs of Israel to insure that in the coming years, when the Israeli honeymoon period is over, the needs of Israel will not be pushed aside." He added that "now is the time to make every Z.O.A. member a shareholder, an investor -- large or small -- in Israel."

Declaring that he does not favor setting up a "monolithic global organization possessing such unlimited and unqualified authority as to undermine the autonomy of existing Zionist bodies in the countries of the world," Dr. Silver stated: "I do not believe in a type of organization which permits the executive of the Jewish Agency, sitting in New York or Tel Aviv, to dictate to the Jewish community of the United States or of Canada or of Mexico, whom they must appoint as chairman or executive director of a U.P.A. campaign. I believe that this is unwarranted and impertinent

intrusion, and I am persuaded that it will ultimately disrupt and disintegrate the world Zionist movement as well as the local Zionist bodies."

Pointing out that the Z.O.A. will cooperate with the present coalition Government of Israel and with any future government of the Jewish state, Dr. Silver criticized the present government because of the attitude of some of its officials toward private investment capital. "Private capital which is so desperately needed in Israel today will not be coaxed into the country when one set of government officials promises it security in law and welcome concessions, while at the same time another set of government officials of equal or greater authority speaks of establishing Socialism in Israel in our time," he said. "A strong General Zionist Party in Israel would heighten the confidence of those who are being invited to invest their money in the economic life of the country."

Dr. Neumann Calls for Establishment of Special Fund by ZOA

In his opening address to the convention, Dr. Neumann called for a halt to the growing centralization of power in the World Zionist Organization and increasing the autonomy and authority of territorial Zionist bodies. He urged the delegates not to relinquish the "administration and management of American Zionist funds."

Calling for Zionist participation in general fund-raising on community and national levels and in the management of the funds in this country, the retiring president declared: "The time has come for us to develop our own special activities and projects in Israel under our own management and control. For us this may be a radical departure, but there is ample precedent for such a policy." He said that the Labor Zionists "have long been raising millions for the Histadrut, a commendable objective, but these millions are not remitted to the Jewish Agency." He also pointed to the varied projects conducted by Hadassah.

"I recommend," he said, "that the convention authorize and instruct the incoming administration to develop a Z.O.A. program of activities in Israel, with due regard to the paramount responsibility which we share in common with the whole of American Jewry for the general fund-raising effort of the United Jewish Appeal." Dr. Neumann also recommended that the organization, in company with other Zionist bodies, "take the initiative to establish a consultative body representing the largest possible number of Jewish groups and organizations to explore all possibilities for mutual cooperation on behalf of Israel and to promote maximum coordination of effort."

Judge Rothenberg Announces U.J.A. Has Already Raised \$61,000,000

Judge Morris Rothenberg, acting national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, issued an earnest plea to counteract the attitude existing in some quarters that since Israel is now a state, it is or should be self-sufficient and can handle its own problems. A co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, he announced that as of May 25 the U.J.A. had received in cash approximately \$61,000,000, as compared to the \$62,000,000 received at the same time last year. An income of \$39,000,000 for the year ending September, 1948, for the Jewish National Fund, an increase of more than \$21,000,000 over the preceding year, was reported by Mendel N. Fisher, its executive director. Of this sum, over \$35,000,000 was its share from the U.P.A.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, told the delegates that "there are 60,000 people in the reception camps in Israel who are waiting for housing, and that number will be doubled by the end of September." The cost of absorbing 250,000 immigrants a year into Israel, which is the present rate, involves an amount of \$250,000,000 in gift capital, he stated. Seventy percent of these gift funds must be furnished by the U.J.A., he added.

YEMEN RULER AGREES TO PERMIT EMIGRATION OF JEWS TO ISRAEL IF THEY FORFEIT PROPERTY

LONDON, May 30. (JTA) -- Officials of the World Jewish Congress in London today received a cable from their Tel Aviv office stating that the Imam of Yemen had just authorized the emigration of Jews to Israel on condition that their property is forfeited to the state.

ANGLO-ISRAELI FINANCIAL TALKS END; \$28,000,000 OF ISRAELI FUNDS TO BE UNFROZEN

LONDON, May 30. (JTA) -- The Anglo-Israeli financial talks here ended last Friday, it was learned today, with the agreement on the part of Britain to release nearly \$28,000,000 in Israeli blocked sterling balances. Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, today received David Horowitz, Israeli economic and financial expert and head of the Israeli delegation to the parley.

Specifically, the agreement provides for the release of \$2,800,000 in currency to Israel each month for the six-month period between May and October, 1949. In addition, \$7,000,000 is set aside for the payment for oil to be purchased by Israel up to October, 1949. Another \$4,000,000 will be made available to pay for Israeli sterling commitments dating from April, 1945, when it was still part of the Palestine Mandate. The sum of \$800,000 per month will be set aside for transfers of sterling to areas outside of the sterling bloc, but not to hard currency countries.

The repatriation of funds in Israel belonging to former British residents was also provided for in the pact. The return of these funds will be allowed "within a reasonable time" and special sterling releases will be made for these transfers. The total amount of Israeli sterling funds frozen by the British when the Palestine Mandate was terminated was in the neighborhood of \$160,000,000.

The fact that most of the sterling releases must be spent in the sterling area does not particularly trouble the Israeli Government, it is learned here. The major purchases to be made by Israel, apart from raw materials and food, from the British commonwealth, will be spare parts for British-made machines now in Israel, railway equipment, certain heavy machines, chemical products and materials for prefabricated housing. In exchange, Britain would purchase oranges, potash, olive oil and chemicals. Discussions on prices and delivery dates will begin almost at once with individual companies. The underlying thought on both sides during the talks was understood to be that it is to the interest of both Britain and Israel that trade should be fostered.

TWO ARABS KILLED WHEN BAND OF INFILTRATORS APPROACHES ISRAELI COLONY; INFILTRATION RISING

JERUSALEM, May 30. (JTA) -- Two Arabs were killed today when a party of Arabs who infiltrated Israeli lines approached the Neveh Ilan settlement, five miles north of Jerusalem. The colony's look-out, who challenged a suspicious-looking group approaching the settlement, opened fire after the group refused to heed a command to halt. Two were killed and the rest fled.

This is only one instance in a series of widespread Arab attempts to infiltrate Israel via the Jerusalem area. Not all of the Arabs are refugees and Israeli border patrols are having considerable difficulty with the infiltrators, who are also attempting to cross the new state's frontiers from neighboring Arab countries. Although no exact count of the number of Arabs who have surreptitiously entered Israel exists, many abandoned Arab villages have been filled by their former inhabitants.

HISTADRUT 7TH CONVENTION CONCLUDES WITH CALL TO ARAB LABOR TO PROMOTE FIRM PEACE

TEL AVIV, May 30. (JTA) -- The Histadrut today called on Arab labor in the countries surrounding Israel to join the Israeli labor federation in establishing a firm peace. At the same time, the closing session of the seventh convention of the Histadrut reaffirmed the full equality of Arab labor in Israel.

By a vote of 254 to 162, the body decided to send delegates to both the World Federation of Trade Unions and World Labor Federation conferences to be held in Milan and Geneva, respectively. The Mapam and Communist members of the Histadrut voted against the motion, insisting that the organization continue its affiliation with the W.F.T.U. The conference also demanded the stepping-up of large-scale absorption and housing schemes for new immigrants and provision of maximum employment -- including public works if necessary -- for the new arrivals.

The convention elected a governing body of 201 members, a council of 51 members and an executive committee. On the executive the Mapai has 29 seats, the Mapam has 18 and the Communists one, with several other seats for other minorities. This is the first time that the Communists gained a seat on the executive.

MIZRACHI CONVENTION IN JERUSALEM SPLITS; RABBI FISHMAN AND SUPPORTERS WALK OUT

JERUSALEM, May 30. (JTA) -- The three-day national Mizrahi conference broke up this week-end, with groups headed by Rabbi Judah L. Fishman and Rabbi M. Freedman, and part of a rural group leaving the session.

The crisis developed after a night-long meeting on the question of representation in local institutions. Chairman David Pincus announced that since the steering committee had not succeeded in composing the dispute, a plenum should carry out the election. The praesidium did not agree to postpone the conference for a month, and at this point the three factions listed above walked out.

Pincus continued the conference with almost half the delegates present. These unanimously elected representatives to the institutions. The plenum decided to elect a council of 71 and an executive board of 23, plus a representative of Mizrahi women and youth. The plenum also decided to elect a national executive.

The crisis came to a head allegedly over divergences between Rabbi Fishman and Pincus on organizational problems, as well as local politics connected with Mizrahi participation in the Knesset and the Government. Informed quarters say that Pincus contemplated the severance of Mizrahi from Poale Mizrahi and other moves opposed by Rabbi Fishman and his supporters.

WORLDWIDE PARLEY OF JEWISH WOMEN OPENS IN PARIS; DELEGATES FROM NINE COUNTRIES ATTEND

PARIS, May 30. (JTA) -- The first meeting of the International Council of Jewish Women to be held in 20 years opened here this week-end with representatives of Jewish women's organizations in nine countries in attendance.

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, president of the U.S. National Council of Jewish Women, who convened the parley, said the world-wide Council's program was "non-political in nature and was designed to unite the efforts of Jewish women in all nations in behalf of the urgent needs of their own countries and world Jewry." Delegates participating in the Conference come from the U.S., Canada, Britain, France, Italy, Greece, South Africa, Switzerland and Holland.

BERLIN JEWISH LEADER ARRIVES IN U.S.; SAYS GERMANS ARE STILL NAZIS AT HEART

NEW YORK, May 30. (JTA) -- Dr. Hans Erich Fabian, former president of the Berlin Jewish community, who arrived here during the week-end with his family under the Displaced Persons Act, declared that the Germans are still Nazis at heart and that the 7,500 Jews still in Berlin are in desperate straits. He asserted that most of Berlin's Jews are 50 years of age or older and that all of them wish to get out of Germany.

Dr. Fabian, member of the Supreme Court of Western Bavaria who was a Berlin magistrate for several years before Hitler seized power, said that he came to the U.S. to interest welfare agencies in the plight of the German Jews and to help bring them to Israel or other countries. He maintained that the treatment now accorded Berlin's Jews by the Germans was no different from what they received under the Nazis.

JEWISH EDUCATORS PARLEY HEARS ATTACK ON "RELEASED TIME" SYSTEM BY DR. LOOKSTEIN

ATLANTIC CITY, May 30. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph H. Lookstein, of Yeshivah University, addressing the annual meeting of the American Association for Jewish Education being held here, declared that compulsory public school education "would force upon every American child a common form of secular education exclusively." He said that such a procedure, though democratic in its intent, would be totalitarian in its effect. Rabbi Lookstein attacked "released time" as a threat to separation of church and state and as an ineffective means of promoting religious interest and cultural values. He defended the development of parochial schools, citing all-day Jewish schools as "a veritable sanctuary in which democratic ideals are treated as divine sacraments."

Dr. Israel Chipkin, executive director of the Association, revealed that the proportion of Jewish students now attending Jewish schools has risen from 28 to 40 percent. He also noted that educational facilities had expanded and now range from pre-school classes to graduate institutions for professional training. Dr. John L. Childs, of Columbia University's Teachers College, was one of the principal speakers at the conference.

ASSOCIATION OF HEBREW DAY SCHOOLS HOLDS FIRST NATIONAL PARLEY; REVIEW FUND PROBLEMS

HARTFORD, Conn., May 30. (JTA) -- Delegates representing parent-teachers' associations affiliated with Jewish parochial schools throughout the U.S. met here yesterday at the first national conference arranged by the Association of Hebrew Day Schools. The Association, affiliated with the Torah U'Mesorah Society, heard a keynote address on problems facing Yeshivoth today delivered by Mrs. Ruth Waldman, president of the group.

Strongly criticizing Jewish communal federations and welfare funds for declining to extend financial aid to Yeshivoth, Mrs. Waldman said: "If the federations persist in this attitude, then many of our people feel that the Yeshivoth will have to go out in favor of Federal aid to parochial schools." Other speakers stressed the importance of the role which parents must play in the program of day school education.

128 JEWISH DISPLACED PERSONS FROM SHANGHAI ARRIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO BY BOAT AND PLANE

SAN FRANCISCO, May 30. (JTA) -- About 128 Jewish displaced persons from Shanghai arrived here during the week-end aboard the General Gordon and a special plane from Hong Kong. Nearly 1,500 Jewish refugees are still in Shanghai but all measures have been taken to provide food, medical supplies and quarters for them, the newcomers said.

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