

Annual Report

60th

JUBILEE CONVENTION

60 FIGHTING YEARS!

WE'VE JUST BEGUN



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

SIXTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 12th-15th, 1957

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New York City

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Officers of the Zionist Organization of America are members of the National Executive Council.

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ההסתדרות הציונית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

To The Sixtieth Jubilee Convention of the Zionist Organization of America

Dear Fellow Zionist:

Nineteen Fifty Six - Nineteen Fifty Seven was another year of growth and progress for our Organization. Important advances were made by us, with perhaps the most significant results in our Sixty years of service to Israel and Jewry.

Of great significance from the long-range point of view is the fact that we are creating new facilities and expanding our Israel and American Jewish Community work at a rate above that of any previous period in our history. We secured a charter from the Regents of the University of the State of New York for Agricultural Training Institute Kfar Silver, thereby making it the only American-chartered School in Israel and the ninth American-chartered School located on foreign soil; we increased our school building program and more than doubled our enrollment. We went forward with our Young Zionist program, increasing our staff and activities, creating a vigorous and dedicated Young Zionist movement. As further steps in the acceleration of our activities, we added additional Hebrew activities, maintained strong Tourist promotion despite the troublesome period in Israel, strengthened our Information and Educational arms, and enlarged our program at the ZOA-Daniel Frisch House in Israel.

Our Public Relations and Press Services, our Publications, our Fund-Raising, both internal and for Israel through the United Jewish Appeal, the Israel Bond Campaign, the Jewish National Fund and the American Zionist Fund - showed a remarkable increase of most productive activity. Our Membership showed progressive increase. In the field of World Zionist Affairs, the Congress at Jerusalem and its aftermath fully justified the role and position we took at the sessions in Jerusalem. Our work for youth through the American Zionist Youth Commission showed the impact of our concern and the strength of support also given so generously by our Regions and Districts.

Our work at the United Nations, as an affiliated non-governmental body, made considerable impression upon the international community. Our efforts through our Department of Public Information, the American Zionist Council and the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs indicated the effectiveness of our Districts and Regions in mobilizing favorable public opinion.

Our fraternal affiliate, B'nai Zion, moved forward in activity, membership and insurance underwritten. B'rith Abraham resolved to provide the fullest cooperation with us.

The results for 1956-1957 again demonstrate the value of our fundamental philosophy of interest in every aspect of Jewish life both here and abroad, which has been basic to our organization since its inception sixty years ago. The overall

Celebrating ZOA's 60 Years of American Zionism

Annual CONVENTION

SEPT. 12-15, 1957

PLAN TO BE THERE!

WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL,
NEW YORK CITY

results achieved continue to justify our confidence in the soundness and future of our Organization and of our growing stake in the life of American and Israel Jewry.

In the pages which follow we provide more detailed information about the various phases of our Organization's activities, both as to 1956-57 results and as to plans for the future.

At this Sixtieth Jubilee Convention, we need to re-examine thoroughly the functions and responsibilities of our Zionist enterprise, to clarify the specific objectives and operating philosophy of our Organization, to reappraise the basis of our work. Above all, we must gain a sound view of the goals of our Organization and the values upon which we will build our relations with our membership, the American community in which we reside, and Jewry both here, in Israel and wherever Jews may be located. This is necessary to get the Zionist job done more efficiently. We can no longer operate successfully with the values and interpretation of our function as a Zionist constituency even a generation ago. Revision of our operating philosophy has become a necessity.

The year 1957 will see new major changes and activities coming into existence. Looking to the future, planning is proceeding and internal structure is being provided for such programs. The costs of these new developments and for the maintenance of our present program will necessarily affect results for the year. The measure of our financial support from our Regions and Districts and from Big Gifts will be the deciding factor. Increased membership and American Zionist Funds are the vehicles for this support.

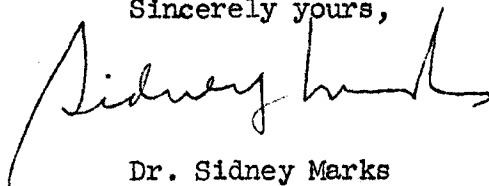
In closing, I must say a word of thanks to our President, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, his administration and our staff. They are loyal and dedicated and have provided wholehearted cooperation which makes possible the growth and effectiveness of the Zionist Organization of America. To the officers and governing bodies of our Regions and Districts, I should like to extend my sincere thanks for the many accomplishments of the year.

It is not particularly easy to get the American Community to wish to work for Israel and Jewry but in my opinion it is the one thing that is worth everything else put together. I think that the average American is usually ready to put his heart into the support of our Zionist Cause if he broadly agrees with the Zionist aims and objects that we surround him with in his community. If that is true, it implies that our Organization's principles, targets and efforts must be worth support and that the American citizen himself must not be ignorant of the work of our National Organization, our Regions and Districts nor of their qualities. Therefore it is no bad thing for this Sixtieth Jubilee Convention to think out what its real aims and objects are and what types of Zionist conditions and programs will be enjoyed by those who help further the programs of the Zionist Organization of America.

In this spirit, this report is respectfully submitted.

My kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Sidney Marks
National Secretary
and
Executive Director

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

The current fiscal year which will close on August 31st, 1957 has seen no letting up of the demands made upon the Organization. Its accomplishments and achievements are determined by the finances at its disposal.

The Officers and Staff administer the funds to the best of their ability, trying to economize and keep all expenditures within means. This is no easy task when the demands both here and abroad are increasing under the pressures of emergencies and through expansion in activities.

The Accounting Department keeps accurate records of all receipts and disbursements, seeing to it that all funds due the Organization are collected, that all disbursements are in payment of obligations duly incurred for the benefit of the Organization, that they pay fair, competitive-bid prices for services rendered and merchandise received.

Our books are under periodic examination and strict audit of the firm of Muhlstock, Elowitz & Company, Certified Public Accountants. The accompanying Financial Report shows the fiscal position of the Organization as of June 30th, 1957 and Income and Expenses for the ten months period from September 1st, 1956 to June 30th, 1957. The figures for the months of July and August have been estimated to reflect the operations for the full fiscal year -- September 1st, 1956 to August 31st, 1957.

AMERICAN ZIONIST FUND

The year 1956/57 has distinguished itself on several scores:

"Large generous contributions" was no longer a dream but has actually become a reality and 25 men and women have contributed a total of \$113,303.76 in individual donations, ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000. We like to feel that we have barely begun!

Many are the members who would gladly join this level of giving, if only they were approached by their local or regional leadership and made aware of our needs and the opportunities for giving. Every phase of our work requires expansion of our income and the incorporation of Kfar Silver Institute opens new vistas for individual, corporate and foundation giving.

As far as our Districts and Regions are concerned, they have again this year maintained their record of increased giving. It was particularly helpful that the bulk of AZF campaigns took place in the Fall, thus giving us the much-needed funds early in our fiscal year. We hope this trend will continue.

Fifteen Regions have gone ahead of last year. Several AZF dinners again highlighted local efforts and wherever they were run they enhanced our income and prestige. Distinguished personalities such as Senator Jacob K. Javits, Senator Clifford P. Case, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Senator Claude Pepper, Governor Frank G. Clement, Mayor Robert F. Wagner, and Dublin Mayor Briscoe, have graced our platform together with our own leadership and have helped to make these affairs memorable.

However, it should also be recorded that the number of Districts that do not contribute, or make only token "allocations" to the American Zionist Fund, are still too many.

In an effort to reach every member and to receive from him that added income which is a must to the Organization's proper functioning, we have this summer sent out a mass mailing of 60th anniversary stamps with a request for contributions. By the time this report goes to print, it is too early to assess the value of this campaign.

We are also embarking on a National 60th Anniversary Journal to augment our income in the Summer and to be completed in time for the National Convention.

We have produced new fund-raising materials and we have increased assistance to Districts in their AZF campaigns.

This year has marked an increase in the number of active AZF leaders and workers and to them goes the credit for succeeding once again to increase the income of the American Zionist Fund by a considerable margin. Indeed, their enthusiasm and readiness to work even in the heat of summer gives us every confidence for the coming year. Our thanks and best wishes to every one of them.

BOOK & GIFT SHOP

The Z.O.A. Book & Gift Shop has continued its basic function during the past year, realizing more and more the fundamental importance of bringing Zionism and Israel to the American community, Jewish and non-Jewish, on a national scale. Constantly promoting books and records in this particular field, there is a noticeable increase in the number of schools, libraries, centers and sisterhoods that utilize our service.

We have accelerated our personal contact in the setting-up of special exhibits of PRODUCTS FROM ISRAEL at district and regional conventions, bazaars, meetings, etc.; these include a variety of giftware for the home, holiday and everyday greeting cards, religious articles and a miscellany of other artistic items. Our regular mail-order campaigns publicizing this merchandise, as well as books and records, continue, bearing in mind gift recommendations during holiday time.

Our goal is to "strengthen the link between the communities of America and Israel" culturally and economically -- by stimulating the reading of books, building personal and local libraries, encouraging the listening of Israeli music and the purchasing of Products from Israel. Our work will go on in this direction.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Middle East developments during the past year -- particularly the Sinai campaign and its aftermath -- confronted the Department of Public Information with great challenges and responsibilities, requiring extraordinary efforts on all fronts. The Department successfully carried out a vigorous public relations campaign which proved to be a major factor in rallying support for Israel on the American scene. By mobilizing all available resources in the various departments it encompasses -- Press and Publicity, The American Zionist, U.N. Affairs, and Program and Education -- it provided vital information and stimulated appropriate action on the part of ZOA Regions and Districts throughout the country. At the same time, it worked in close cooperation with the American Zionist Council and the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs.

The Z.O.A.'s response to the Middle East crisis which exploded on October 29 was immediate and decisive. Within a few hours after the movement of Israeli troops

into the Sinai peninsula, ZOA District leaders were in possession of the essential facts, transmitted by telegrams from the President of the organization, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, and subsequently by Rabbi Leon I. Feuer, Chairman, and Harold P. Manson, Executive Vice-Chairman, of the Department of Public Information. Thereafter, a steady stream of directives, press statements by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Neumann and other Zionist leaders, background material, pamphlets, reprints of pro-Israel editorial comment and articles emanated almost daily from the Department, with each new twist and turn in the complicated situation fully explained and evaluated, and with specific recommendations for local action.

One of the most effective features of this emergency campaign was the series of coast-to-coast radio broadcasts which the ZOA sponsored in November and December, 1956. Speaking to the American people over the NBC and ABC networks, Dr. Silver and Dr. Neumann upheld Israel's actions in defense of her citizens and of the interests of the Free World, scathingly criticized the shortsighted policies of the State Department, and warned of the consequences of a return to the status quo ante in the Middle East. The response to these broadcasts in all sections of the country was enthusiastic. They were prominently reported in the nation's press and evoked much favorable comment, and were widely distributed by the Public Information department particularly to molders of opinion.

Numerous public meetings, such as the New York rally of November 13 and similar events in other cities, were sponsored by the ZOA. Many thousands of telegrams and letters were sent to the White House, the State Department and Members of both Houses of Congress in protest against the attempts to impose sanctions on Israel. Resolutions of the ZOA's deliberative bodies, as well as numerous letters to newspapers, were published throughout America. ZOA speakers were briefed and brought their message of support for Israel to hundreds of platforms and forums.

Each new development was dealt with in the various ways indicated -- the issue of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Sharm el Sheikh and the related questions of the U.N. and U.S. roles in the great sanctions debate; Israel's "act of faith" in America's moral commitments which induced the withdrawal of Israeli troops in March 1957; the Eisenhower Doctrine; Nasser's defiance of the U.S. and the U.N. on Gaza, the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba, and the issue of freedom of navigation.

In connection with Israel Independence Day, the Department of Public Information stimulated numerous celebrations, not only in order to review Israel's progress during the first eight years of her existence, but also to marshal support for Israel's just cause in the present struggle to safeguard her hard-won independence. Community leaders of all faiths and walks of life participated in these events, thereby demonstrating the abiding friendship for Israel on the part of the American people. A particularly impressive celebration took place on May 6 at Independence Hall in Philadelphia with the participation of Israel's Ambassador Abba Eban and Dr. Neumann.

Additional information and guidance on all vital aspects of the ZOA's program and policies was provided through editorial comment in The American Zionist, as well as literature prepared to deal with inquiries about the so-called "Independents" or "League," and a variety of other questions.

THE AMERICAN ZIONIST

With its views and news widely quoted, The American Zionist has come to be recognized as the foremost authoritative organ of Zionist thought and public opinion in this country. Such recognition is reinforced by the fact that its subscription lists include diverse elements ranging from large numbers of non-Jewish friends of

our movement to members of the Arab League and a Soviet Governmental office in Moscow.

Within its 20 pages once a month are combined, in balanced form, feature sections devoted to reviews and analyses of the current political scene, book reviews, articles on various aspects of life in Israel, human interest features as well as The News Reporter section devoted to house organ material.

With the expansion of ZOA activities, the volume of house organ material highlighting the activities of our ZOA departments and the efforts of our Regions and Districts, is progressively increasing. It is a matter of regret that within the limited space at its disposal, our publication cannot do justice to these items. It is, therefore, again earnestly suggested that serious consideration be given to the separation of the house organ section from the main publication and the issuance of a strictly house organ bulletin for limited distribution to key workers and leaders throughout the country.

PRESS AND PUBLICITY

The news columns of the metropolitan newspapers, the daily Yiddish press and Anglo Jewish publications during the year under review bear testimony to the wide coverage which has been accorded to the activities and major policy statements of the ZOA and its top leadership. Particularly wide publicity has been secured by this department for the position taken by American Zionist leadership to the threatened sanctions against Israel during the Sinai campaign, and the U.S. State Department's appeasement policy toward Nasser. Through the courtesy of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and such feature services as World Wide News Service, Seven Arts Feature Syndicate and American Jewish Press Service, special feature items and news dispatches covering important ZOA events as well as the growth of our projects in Israel, have been released to the Anglo-Jewish Press and also transmitted to the Hebrew papers in Israel.

The Press and Publicity Department in the past year has continued its services of furnishing photographs on Israel and Zionist events to newspapers together with background material to columnists and feature writers. Through our Yiddish section, special articles and front page features on the ZOA have also been placed frequently in the Yiddish dailies. ZOA news items of major import are being relayed to the general press throughout the country by the wire services of Associated Press and United Press. The director of the Department also maintains close contact with members of the editorial and reportorial staffs of many daily and weekly publications.

UNITED NATIONS

ZOA's Role: Our participation, as a Non-Governmental Organization, accredited to the U.N., "has helped clarify" for other N.G.O.'s some of the issues in the Middle East. Moses Schonfeld, our representative and National Chairman for U.N. affairs, was also informed, that our "enlightened interest and activity in the workings of all phases of U.N.," has won our cause a host of influential sympathizers at world headquarters. The N.G.O.'s represent many millions of people, who, through their representation, contribute nationally and internationally to the formation of public opinion. Conferences, briefing sessions and luncheons with U.N. officials, and delegations providing documents and tickets to meetings, tours through the buildings for Zionist v.i.p.'s constitute some of our services, all arranged, at no extra expense, or budget. Highlighting this program were 2 Conferences, one with the Israel Delegation, and later with the Delegation of France.

On December 17th, ZOA leaders from New York and adjacent states, listened at U.N. to off-the-record reports from Israel's Arthur Lourie, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry; Michael Comay, Ambassador to Canada; and David Hacohen, M.K. "Valuable and intimate information was gained from this conference", said Jacques Torczyner, at the luncheon which followed in the Delegate Dining Room. Moses Schonfeld, who arranged and presided at this affair, maintains regular contacts with Permanent Delegates, Mordecai Kidron, Arthur Liveran, Mrs. Tamar Shoham, Dr. Yapou, Raphael Medin, Ovidia Gondi, and with members of Israel press.

France: Ministers - out of office - are often glad to meet us; but it's rare for a Foreign Minister - in office - one of the 5 great powers, to publicly proclaim identity with Zionists. February 13th was the day of the U.N. crucial vote on Algeria; and precisely at the noon hour Foreign Minister M. Christian Pineau, and Ambassador M. G. Georges-Picot met ZOA leaders for a conference-luncheon. The Trusteeship Council Chamber was the setting for the Briefing Session, at which M. Barthelemy Epinat, secretary general of the Delegation, and delegate Henry Hauck, gave the large ZOA group an up-to-the-minute account on the international situation. Questions on the Middle East and France's relationship to Israel were frankly answered. At the luncheon which followed, top leaders of the French Delegation, and a capacity ZOA guest list filled the Delegates Private Dining Room. ZOA President Emanuel Neumann, welcomed the French diplomats on this "historic" occasion. M. Pineau responded warmly to this ZOA "demonstration of solidarity." France's previous associations with the people of Israel was reviewed by Harry Torczyner, speaking in French. Abraham Goodman, N.E.C. Chairman spoke of the new "alliance", and Ambassador Georges-Picot thanked Moses Schonfeld, who presided for giving his colleagues this opportunity for "exchanging views" with American Zionists. Both in French and Israel governmental circles favorable comments were made on the significance of this meeting, at which the Secretary of State for Algeria, M. Champeix, was also among the distinguished French officials present. Our very friendly relations continue.

U.S. Mission: Our official contacts are maintained regularly by our representative, who attends private briefing sessions arranged by the U.S. Mission to the U.N. At these background conferences for N.G.O.'s accredited to the Mission, we have discussed Disarmament with the Hon. Harold E. Stassen; the need for adequate control and inspection of the recipient states, participating in the International program for Atomic Energy, with Ambassador James J. Wadsworth; and Discrimination in Education with Judge Halpern. We have been invited to submit information and material to the U.N. subcommission studying Discrimination based on Religion and Political beliefs. We conferred with Senator Humphrey in regard to Egypt's expulsion of Jews, and have presented our views by question and consultation with other U.S. delegates. We have observed how the U.S. Mission enlists support and votes of members nations. Based on the over-riding policy of opposition to the use of force, particularly in the Middle East, the U.S. has tried to win the support of the new members nations of Asia and Africa. "Most of the world is with us," comments a spokesman for the U.S.

Secretariat: Links with the international staff, carrying out the decisions of the U.N. are maintained by regular international conferences held at headquarters in New York, and through documentation. Consultation with officials have included, Dr. Ralph Bunche in respect to U.N.E.F., with Colonel Katzin on Clearance of the Suez Canal, and with heads of Specialized Agencies, UNICEF, World Health, World Bank and the U.N. Relief Work Administration for Arab refugees. A Study of the latter in relation to the number of refugees in other parts of the world was undertaken by our representative, and an extract appeared in The American Zionist (June). Forced Labour, Slavery, Human Rights, World Calendar Reform, Narcotics were among the problems reviewed.

Summary: Our friendly contacts with other N.G.O. representatives at the U.N. have been maintained with among others: Hadassah, Mizrachi, American Jewish Committee, American Civil Liberties Union, AMVETS, Boy Scouts of America, Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., National Federations of Republican Women, and of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., Post War World Council, International Conference of Catholic Charities, Islamic Mission of America, and the Salvation Army etc. Our U.N. activities are reported to sessions of the N.E.C., and our U.N. representative addressed meetings in various parts, including the Convention of the New England Region, gatherings in Philadelphia, Pa., New Jersey, Albany, N.Y. and the Metropolitan area. Individual and group visits to observe the workings of the U.N. "from inside," and private talks with delegates by ZOA leaders have been frequently arranged.

We are cooperating with, and making program material available to the World Affairs Center for the United States, which was founded by the Foreign Policy Association in cooperation with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. By resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, we have been invited to promote the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1958.

A new dimension to ZOA's international program, has been attained by "work in close association with the United Nations and help spread knowledge of its aims and activities."

MEMBERSHIP

From all indications, we shall end the year with a gain in membership - - the first time since the establishment of the State that our Organization has shown a steady rise after many years of shrinkage in membership.

We have succeeded in the past year in organizing a number of communities through a continuation of a technique which had begun in 1955-56. This technique calls for meetings of community leaders brought together in a central place within a radius of 40 to 50 miles, where they were briefed on the international situation and told how a strong ZOA membership would be of inestimable aid to Israel.

Those districts and regions which began membership work early in the year are finishing with splendid results. It is my opinion that if we can have every district concentrate on membership between September and January, we could substantially increase our enrollment.

This year, our Rosh Hashanah billing will go out earlier. Schedule calls for bills being received by members immediately after Labor Day. It is the intention to follow up with a second billing to reach recipients right before Yom Kippur. The new bill, which will be much simpler for processing and is most effective, will result in saving of approximately 20%, which we are passing on to the districts. If results on this new type of billing warrant, we will use it for standard billings as well.

In June, we issued a leaflet designed to bring in more volunteers for membership work in which we offered a particularly handsome award of an address book and notation pad for anyone bringing in a new member. This was done on an experimental basis. We are checking results and expect to expand this operation during the ensuing year.

Life membership campaign which was launched in the late Spring under the chairmanship of Abraham A. Redelheim has made encouraging progress. The aim of this campaign is to substantially enlarge our life membership rolls so as to once again

give the Organization sufficient funds and a cushion for its program here and in Israel. The chairman of the department, Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum has been most active in addressing meetings through the East as well as through an extended tour in the Central and Western States.

Our Western Pennsylvania Region, principally through the splendid efforts of the Pittsburgh District, under the presidency of David Lowenthal and the membership chairmanship of M. A. Golomb, is leading the country. New York State and Michigan come next. Westchester Region is leading in life membership enrollment.

Success of the membership campaign rests almost entirely on a drive for new members. Those districts which went into the practice of throwing all efforts into new membership enrollment early in the year had shown gains. Those that stressed re-enrollment had lagged behind.

PROGRAM AND EDUCATION

Program and Education activities were intensified and enlarged this season.

A departmental Bulletin was issued regularly to Region and District committees, National leaders, and many others. It provided guidance and source materials for program chairmen, study groups, and speakers. The various issues featured holidays, anniversaries, and special Zionist events such as the Brandeis Centennial and the Yom Haatzmaut. Included also were discussion outlines, a page of Hebrew, a news round-up, dramatic readings, songs, and a District "exchange."

A Seminar Series for leaders and speakers in the Greater New York area was conducted over a six-week period at the Herzl Institute. The success of the Series urgently suggests its extension to other sections of the country.

A pilot plan for programming and educational activity was begun, with the cooperation of the Connecticut Region. The experience gained with this plan holds promise of great benefits for all our Regions.

The Department handled the showings of our film, "The ZOA in Israel." Nearly 300 bookings were arranged, in all parts of the country. The film was most favorably received, both as a meeting feature and as a means of building good-will for ZOA.

Many hundreds of calls for materials and assistance in programming and education were serviced. The requests came not only from Regions and Districts but also from many outside groups and individuals, in connection with meetings, lectures, discussions, and research. In addition to the routine District needs, the requests dealt with political developments, current issues, Zionist history and biography, life in Israel, and American Jewish affairs.

Special acknowledgment is owed to Mr. Jacques Torczyner and Dr. Emil Lehman for their able services as leaders in the Seminar Series, and to the staff of the Herzl Institute for invaluable and always cordial cooperation throughout the year.

SPEAKERS' AND ARTISTS' BUREAU

Coincidental with the invasion of the Sinai Peninsula by Israel, the Speakers' Bureau was literally overwhelmed by affiliated and non-affiliated organizations requesting speakers to analyze the ramifications of the Anglo-French-Israel

invasion of Egypt. Groups as diverse as B'nai Brith, JWV, Brith Abraham, JWB, Hadassah, Community Centers, Synagogues, Men's Clubs, Sisterhoods, Civic Organizations, Church groups, etc. enlisted our cooperation in disseminating information clarifying the reasons for the crisis in the Middle East. The pressure began on October 29th and continued through the months of November, December and January. The peak demand concentrated around November and December when several hundred meetings were serviced. In all, over 900 meetings were covered by speakers presenting our point of view and under our sponsorship during the past fiscal year. Of the 900 some odd meetings for which we supplied our spokesmen, well over one-third of them were requests from non-affiliated groups.

During the latter part of the Spring Season, just prior to the summer months, when many of the Zionist Regions hold their Annual Conventions, the Organization enjoyed the warm support and cooperation of leading spokesmen of France, who gave expression to their traditional friendship for the Zionist Movement, as well as their staunch support of the State of Israel. During that period, several officials of the Embassy of France and the French Consulates appeared as guest speakers at various Regional Conventions. Of course, the Staffs of the Embassy of Israel and the Consulate General of Israel have been most cooperative in acceding to our requests for speakers, especially during the period of the Ninth Anniversary Celebrations which were held in the early part of May.

During the peak of the activity season in December when we enlisted many new personalities, we held our first Speakers' Conference in the form of an all day session in which several outstanding Zionists and community leaders participated and were briefed by key ZOA spokesmen, headed by the President of the Organization.

As in past years, the majority of the engagements were filled by our devoted corps of volunteer speakers. A debt of gratitude is due them for their service which is so vital and so irreplaceable. While they were on tour, they addressed themselves not only to the problems of reactivating and stimulating existing Zionist Districts, but they also made themselves available for engagements in each community on college campuses, before civic clubs and on radio and TV. The Bureau is indebted to staff members who responded when called upon to fill the need for speakers and discussants during the critical periods. Their responsiveness was spontaneous and heart-warming, far beyond the demands of their Departmental scope and normal demands of duty.

A new Speakers' Catalogue, listing over 150 people, both Jews and non-Jews, is now being collated and will be mailed out during the summer months for utilization during the 1957-8 season.

ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT

The Economic Department has been actively engaged in trade promotion.

A good number of our Districts have been supplied with Israel products for exhibition and sale and wherever such an event has taken place, it has met with enthusiastic response, not only in the sale of merchandise at the affair, but in the follow-up, where members have approached retailers to handle Israel products.

Regional annual conventions also featured exhibitions and sale of Israel products.

It is planned to service all Districts and Regions with similar exhibitions and on a much wider basis than held hitherto, on the theory that our membership can act as a concerted force in creating a consumer demand for Israel products.

On the investment front, many of our Regions and Districts have applied themselves to the encouragement of private investment in Israel.

FOOD FOR ISRAEL

The ZOA has a long record in the field of activities of sending food for Israel. From its inception as "Feed A Family" project this field represented a very important sector.

The Food for Israel Department, reorganized in 1953, has two main avenues of approach: 1) Putting before the eyes of the general public the need for supplying Israel with extra food. 2) Supervising the appropriate organization of the flow of food scrips and certificates.

Many, many thousands of scrips have been sent during the past years to Israel. Food donations have been almost evenly divided between donations to families and friends of our members and donations which were given to the ZOA with the express wish to use them for needy families, a roster of whose names is in our files.

Not one of these donations has been used for administrative purposes. Every dollar and cent donated has been used for buying scrip and food packages. In this respect we are coordinating our activities very closely with the Social Welfare Department of the General Zionists Organization in Israel and with the Welfare Departments of the Mayors' offices of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nathanya, etc.

Our activities in this field have been gratefully acknowledged by the above mentioned social agencies and the name of the ZOA and the names of the individual donors have been widely acclaimed throughout the State of Israel. Expressions of gratitude and appreciation came pouring into our offices and the Israeli press was full of praise for the ZOA and the fine manner in which it executes this noble project.

ISRAEL BONDS

Total Bond sales for the year 1956 amounted to \$54,100,000 in cash and represents an increase of 29% over the total raised in 1955. The number of Bond purchasers was increased by 50%, mostly in the lower brackets.

The Israel Bond campaign for the year 1956-57 was launched at the Fall Inaugural Conference for Israel Bonds, September 22-23, 1956, in Washington, D.C. The ZOA held a special meeting during the Bond Conference which was attended by some 200 delegates from all over the country. Mr. William H. Sylk, the then National ZOA Bond Chairman, was in the chair and gave the report. Mr. Mortimer May, the President of the ZOA, and Dr. Emanuel Neumann were present. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver was the speaker. He encouraged the guests not only on the sale of Bonds but also emphasized the importance of the Zionist Organization of America. Dr. Joseph Schwartz, Vice-President of the Bond Corporation, expressed his deep gratitude for the contribution of the ZOA to the Bond effort.

At our ZOA Convention in Washington, D.C., October 4-7, 1956, a committee headed by Mr. Max Bressler made recommendations to increase ZOA work for Israel Bonds in 1957.

Our leadership and membership all over the country took an active part in the High Holiday Appeals, which yielded outstanding results.

With the assumption of the National Chairmanship for Israel Funds by Mr. Max Bressler, ZOA Bond activity took a marked upswing all over the country. A National ZOA Cabinet for Israel Bonds was created, consisting of twenty-two Regional Bond

Chairmen. Mr. Bressler put forward the principle that in addition to Bond work done by our leaders within the various community drives, every ZOA District should have a Bond function under its own aegis. 23 cities followed this example, while 37 Zionist Districts participated in community drives. Of the 59 Bond functions scheduled through the ZOA Bond Department, 42 have already conducted their drives for 1957.

The outstanding ZOA Bond functions in the Fall and Winter of 1956 were: A dinner held in New York in honor of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, which yielded \$1,250,000 in Bond sales. Chairmen were Rabbi Irving Miller and Abraham Goodman. A dinner held in Philadelphia in honor of the brothers William H. and Harry Sylk, which also yielded \$1,250,000 in sales. A dinner in Pittsburgh, Pa., with sales of \$400,000, and one in Houston, Texas, with sales of \$170,000; a dinner in Nashville, Tenn., in honor of Mr. Mortimer May, with total sales of \$100,000, and one in Los Angeles in honor of Dr. Silver, with sales of \$85,000; a dinner held in Cedarhurst-Woodmere, Long Island, yielded \$450,000.

As part of the dinner in honor of Mr. Mortimer May, a campaign for Bonds was launched among the members of the National Executive Council of the ZOA. The result shows that 94% of NEC members are now Bondholders.

The Chanukah Festivals at Madison Square Garden in New York City, which was repeated three times, was attended by 54,000 persons. Many hundreds of ZOA volunteers sold Bonds for these festivals.

The Israel Bond Conference in Miami Beach took place in February. The ZOA held a Breakfast at the Hotel Fontainebleau on February 15 in advance of this affair. The Breakfast was chaired by Mr. Max Bressler and addressed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, ZOA President. It was well attended and yielded \$182,000 in sales. In addition, 32 ZOA leaders undertook to make sales totalling \$405,000 in the weeks immediately following the Breakfast.

In the New York Metropolitan Area, ZOA activity for Bonds was intensified when Mr. Benjamin Doft was appointed Chairman. He, together with Mr. Bressler, held a meeting on April 5 with the Presidents and Bond Chairmen of the five Regions, at which the principles and methods for ZOA Bond work were discussed. A Bond Cabinet for the New York Metropolitan Area was set up. Special Regional Leadership Conferences were held in June in Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx. Mr. Doft also addressed the Annual Regional Conventions of Long Island and Westchester.

The month of August was used to prepare the sessions on Israel Bonds at the forthcoming Zionist Convention and to mobilize our leadership to attend the Israel Bond Fall Conference, both to be held in New York in September.

PERSONNEL & TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATION

The Technical & Administrative Department has the tremendous task of keeping organizational Technical activities running smoothly from day to day.

This Department expedites all purchasing of printing, furniture, office equipment and supplies, not only for the National office, but for the ZOA House in Israel as well. Each item, before buying, is analyzed as to necessity and price. Bids are taken to insure lowest cost. The Department handles all personnel, supervises the stenographic pool, the stockroom and the operation of all office services, which includes Membership Records, Mimeograph & Mailing, and the Addressograph Section.

All special meetings, conventions, conferences and banquets are operated under the direction of this Department.

The Membership Record Section processes the membership reports of all ZOA districts throughout the country, maintains accurate membership statistical records, and controls a master file list of all metropolitan area. This department issues the membership and life membership cards.

The Service Section is a busy department throughout the year, handling all mimeographing and the mailing of millions of pieces of printed material, bulletins, literature and bills.

The Addressograph Section has an intricate system of "tabs" which permits the automatic selection of any one of the varied ZOA groups, for mailings, mass billings, notices and publications. This department controls all Officers & Executive files throughout the country which must be kept up-to-the-minute because of constant changes of officers, addresses, etc.

During the course of the year, our "machine" operated efficiently, effectively and at minimum costs. Bidding for printing and other items are competitively-bid. Clerical personnel problems, due to labor scarcity and higher wage levels, constantly faced us but were handled with expedition.

SPECIAL EVENTS

This department is entering its third year of existence. During the period under review, it was engaged in many activities, which are closely connected with the work of other ZOA departments. It has, however, its own independent character and way of operation. The department's aims are: (1) To stimulate good-will for ZOA through utilizing special events and making valuable contacts; (2) To establish ZOA as an important factor in community life by stimulating ZOA participation as a unit in local activity; (3) To secure cooperation or affiliation with ZOA of pro-Israel organizations, as Fraternal Orders, Landsmanshaften, etc.

The Department maintained close contact with the Brith Abraham Fraternal Order, which is now celebrating its 70th Anniversary, and whose cooperation was secured over a year ago. ZOA speakers and films were provided for a number of B.A. Lodges, and we are hopeful that this relationship will grow stronger from year to year.

Since the last ZOA Convention until the end of June, 1957, the Director of Special Events paid many visits to a number of districts and regions throughout the country (28 communities outside New York - 10 in the Metropolitan area). Those visits were of a "trouble shooting" nature and in the months of the Sinai Campaign crisis - they were connected with the ZOA's vigorous campaign of informing the communities of the facts pertaining to the crisis.

For a number of months, the Department was engaged in fund raising activity for AZF, particularly for the ZOA's Emergency Fund. It was also helpful in preparing from this end, the Columbus Day exhibition, which took place on October 12, 1956 in the Daniel Frisch ZOA House in Tel Aviv.

In the coming year, the Department will try to enlist the support of pro-ZOA Orders, groups and institutions for ZOA projects in Israel and USA. As in the past, it will give its fullest assistance to any Region or District.

YOUNG ADULT ZIONISTS

"Should our ZOA specially organize -- or let normal processes build -- our Young Adult Zionist participation?"

That question has been debated at countless meetings of our Conventions and National Executive gatherings. Whether the results of organized effort outweigh the expense of the effort has perennially perplexed our leadership.

After a year of proven results, we can safely say that our Young Zionist movement rests solidly on a three-legged stool of increased membership, solid educational program and devoted efforts on behalf of Israel and Jewry.

The Young Adult Zionist approach is highly selective and does not follow the ordinary program activities nor interfere with them. It is being built for solid growth, attracting a highly intelligent, Zionist-conscious group of young people who are attracted to the Organization by friendliness and warmth and excellent programming. They are able to work and play at the same time.

Twenty ZOA Young Zionists left on July 14th for the Jewish Agency Leadership Training Institute in Jerusalem, spending the summer there, of which two weeks are provided at Agricultural Training Institute Kfar Silver. This was the culmination of efforts of Zionist arousal. It is to be followed by the ZOA's Year-in-Israel program which has already been launched to provide Young Adult Zionists with a period of one year study in orientation courses and in work in their various professions under conditions approximating those in the United States.

Young Adult Zionist education is a common enterprise between Zionist leaders and Young Zionists, and depends to a large extent on self-discipline and mutual education. Its purpose is to enable the Young Zionist to live more fully a Jewish life, to understand the causes of his anxieties, to acquire tools for solving Jewish problems at home, in his community and abroad, and in the process to enjoy the excitement of intellectual growth and dedicated Zionist endeavors. It is for this reason that the techniques of Leadership Seminars and Conferences were utilized. Two Leadership Seminars, fully attended over three months, an Educational Conference in Philadelphia, bringing together over 200 Young Zionists from every part of the country, were products of this thinking.

The Young Zionist Bulletin met with great success. No claim is made that this publication holds the answer to mass Zionist indoctrination but the facts show that it provided excellent source materials for Young Zionists on an individual basis.

The Young Zionist National Convention in Atlantic City brought over 100 delegates representing the 2000 Young Zionists from all parts of the country. Full dress debates dealing with major aspects of these efforts were featured, together with addresses by national leaders.

Nineteen new Young Zionist Districts were established throughout the country. Our Young Adult Zionists participated generously in the American Zionist Fund and also established libraries at Kfar Silver.

Our Young Israel Director, Gideon Patt, and our new Shaliach, Arie Even, played outstanding roles in this effort.

We know that in 1957 and the years ahead the Zionist Organization of America can continue to depend on the best efforts of the Young Adult Zionists in making our Zionist enterprise one of the most constructive in the nation.

HEBREW LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Interest in Hebrew is gaining momentum among our members. Stimulated by personal and ideological ties with the State of Israel and the Hebrew language, more and more members are responding to ZOA's determination to help make Hebrew a vital factor on the American-Jewish cultural scene. Particular effort is being directed toward developing new up-to-date techniques. The Department prepared a questionnaire to be filled out by each member. One by one the Regions are mailing it to their membership and receiving enthusiastic responses. Almost all stress the desire for "Hebrew conversation" and request means to study or opportunity to practice and increase knowledge previously gained. The Department's activities have therefore been concentrated on the following projects:

Records - to meet the need and lack in this area of study-at-home, the Department undertook to prepare the material and record a set of records which will give the learner a total of over 600 words of "Basic Hebrew". The selection was based on current studies and word counts. Not one word of superfluous value was included; only words of high frequency in modern spoken Hebrew - singly and in phrases and idioms were included. A second set of 600 words will follow. The total will approximate a full course in basic Hebrew: spoken, printed and written.

In response to numerous requests, a correspondence course in basic Hebrew is being prepared, with individual teacher-pupil assignments, lessons in the mail, etc.

Another method for bringing at least a little Hebrew to the membership within the framework of the organization was devised and is being introduced into many Regions and Districts. This is an Outline of Hebrew parliamentary terms which may easily be incorporated into the conduct of every meeting by the chairman.

Moadonim (Hebrew clubs) have been started in a number of communities and many more are being planned for the coming year by the sub-committee on Moadonim under the chairmanship of Harold W. Carmely. Some feature Hebrew-speaking groups and programs; these are aided by the department in program material and personnel. Other feature instruction classes in Hebrew, Bible, history, etc; these are helped to plan and to secure instructors.

The Department introduced a Hebrew Culture Page which it sponsors in the The American Zionist and for which it obtains articles on a variety of subjects connected with Hebrew-language and culture. It has presented throughout the year a monthly series of Forums on Hebrew Literature which has attracted a devoted public of interested men and women.

Orders for its series of 30 mimeographed Hebrew lessons and tapes of recorded Hebrew lesson broadcasts have been filled throughout the year and are continuing. Further broadcasts are being arranged in several cities.

The opening of Day Schools is being advocated and encouraged in a number of communities.

TOURISM

Tourism to Israel is one of the most important sources of economic strength of the new State and one of the most powerful instruments of cultural ties between the young State and Jews throughout the world.

Our basic approach of treating tourism as one of the most powerful sources of cultural and economic strength for the young State proved itself again during the report period to be right.

We take pride in stating that our ZOA tourists were the best community ambassadors who represented the American Jewry in Israel and vice versa brought knowledge of Israel to their home communities.

Tourism to Israel in 1956-57 underwent a very severe test. Close to 2/3 of the report period represent the time when due to political reasons an absolute ban on visiting Israel was imposed on American citizens. At this time, we took a strongly positive approach to the problem. While arranging, in cooperation with our Department for Public Information, a mass movement protesting the ban, we, at the same time, in full cognizance of the importance of preparing for the future and stressing our continuously optimistic approach to Zionist work, went ahead with full force promoting the understanding of tourism in laying the groundwork for vastly expanded tourist activities in the period after the ban will have been lifted.

The upsurge in the number of our members who used the facilities of the Tourist Department in going to Israel, either in organized groups or on individual trips, proved how right we were in our educational activities in this respect.

Hundreds of thousands of folders, circular letters "touristgrams" and individual letters served the purpose of pegging the tourist program to the strengthening of ties between the creative life in Israel and the day-to-day activities of our Districts and membership. This vast literature which helped disseminating of information on Israel, not only on its expanded tourist facilities, tended to engrain in the minds of the wider circles of our membership the need for a personal visit to Israel.

A steadily increasing number of tourists who went to Israel during the report year under our auspices are evidence that the ZOA is fully equipped to handle, in cooperation with travel agencies, all tourist needs. The volume of tourist activities of the ZOA in the report year increased considerably in comparison with the previous one, despite the situation in the Middle East. The Tourist Department is promoting active interest among the leadership and membership of all Regions and Districts to organize tours in their communities. These tours are organized around the national and religious Jewish holidays in the form of pilgrimages. The Tourist Department provides the facilities and assistance, which are essential to a pleasant, informative and fruitful tour of Israel.

Programming of our tours is done in a manner to show participants in our groups the life in Israel and its structure from all points of view. In this respect, we may pride ourselves that large segments of the tourist industry are adjusting their programs to the plans initiated by us. We are trying to persuade the tourists who go on their vacation abroad to spend as much of their time in Israel as possible and not to regard the visit in Israel only as a side-trip during their vacation.

The ZOA House in Tel Aviv which is a natural anchor of our tourist activities in Israel played an ever-increasing part in the development, promotion and execution of tourism to Israel. We cooperated very closely and in a most friendly and productive manner with the tourist offices of the Government of the State of Israel, especially with the Israel Government Tourist Office for the Americas in New York, and the two national carriers of Israel: El Al Airlines and ZIM-Shoham Steamship Lines.

Several group tours which left under the auspices of the ZOA Tourist Department deserve special mention. Among these, were tours for holidays and summer vacations. We service many people who upon their retiring plan to settle in Israel and take a trip there first. Also, we try to stimulate trips of many tourists who, at our advice, will be spending their winter vacations in the warm climate of Israel instead of in some of the southern resorts here.

An enterprise which evoked the widest interest among our membership at large and the Jewish and non-Jewish public was the "ZOA Israel Night" on February 7 at the first International Travelrama held at the N.Y. Coliseum from February 2-10th. The Israel Booth became for one night, thanks to our efforts, the main center of attraction at the huge travel show. A group of many thousands led by several hundred ZOA leaders from New York and surrounding states gathered at the beautifully-arranged Israel Booth.

The Tourist Department was most active in setting up, in cooperation with the Youth Activities Dept., all technical arrangements for the Young Zionist Summer Institute group which left for Israel for the first time this year as an organized body.

All participants of this group, members of their families and friends had the same words of praise for the wonderful arrangements which we made for them, as our tourists find for the highest standards of our activities in this field in cooperation with foremost travel agencies specializing in tourism to Israel.

A substantial part of the time was devoted to the preparations for the Grand Anniversary Tour in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Zionist Organization of America and the first World Zionist Congress. The tour, which will be one of the major projects not only of the Tourist Department, but of the Zionist Organization of America as such, promises to become one of the highlights of the coming year. The tour is planned for April 21-May 19, 1958 and will visit Israel and the historic sites of Zionism in several European countries. Hundreds of inquiries and advance bookings are being received continuously by the Tourist Department.

We take pride in our tourist exhibits. Our tourist exhibit at the last Convention which will be again represented on a larger scale at this year's Convention, as at many Regional Conventions gives visual proof of the expanding activities of the department and of the cooperation with the Israeli tourist agencies and both national carriers of Israel.

Much of the activities of the Tourist Department were devoted to the continuous survey of tourists who visited Israel. Thousands of questionnaires were sent out during the year to all tourists who registered at the ZOA House in Tel Aviv. The replies of the survey are being thoroughly analyzed and many suggestions implemented.

The Tourist Department cooperates in this and other aspects of its Israeli activities very closely with the Department for ZOA Activities in Israel.

The Director of the Tourist Department undertook during the report year several cross-country tours and visited over 50 communities. During these visits he briefed our leadership and membership on most current problems and aspects of every ZOA activity, including tourism.

The National Tourist Department urges and expects all Districts and members of the ZOA to make the fullest use of our own ZOA facilities.

WORLD ZIONIST AFFAIRS

During the past several years, we have witnessed a growing realization, on the part of our ZOA constituency, of the fact that the role of our organization in the World Zionist and General Zionist Movement would be one of the major factors in determining the future of the ZOA in this country as well. Hence, the increased interest in what we call World Zionist Affairs.

The work of the World Zionist Affairs Department has covered our relations and contacts with the World Zionist Organization, with General Zionist Organizations in foreign countries, with the General Zionist Organization in Israel, and with the World Confederation of General Zionists. Thus, basically, the work of the department may be divided into two essential parts: A. Zionist Foreign Relations, and B. World Zionist Affairs on our own American scene.

Let us list here only a few of the major items as an illustration of the varied activities undertaken in the course of the year.

Last March, the second Conference of Latin-American General Zionists convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Starting with our assistance at the conference in Chile, September, 1954, the Latin-American Confederation of General Zionists has emerged as a serious factor in Zionist life on that continent. The close cooperation established between us and our friends in Latin-America has cemented a strong General Zionist Movement throughout the Western hemisphere.

Our regular contacts with Zionist Organizations abroad reached out to forty-eight countries including Israel. Our exchange of information and ideas regarding Zionist policies helped to further better understanding toward the position taken by the ZOA on various issues on the American scene, and in the World Movement.

The World Zionist Organization, including the Zionist Movement in this country, has been confronted during the past year with a purely organizational issue of a territorial federation aimed at a reorganization in the United States that is of vital interest to the ZOA. Our representatives in the Zionist Actions Committee and in the Executive of the Jewish Agency have constantly upheld a position aimed at securing the integrity of the existing Zionist Organizations.

The WZA Department has remained in close contact with the Executive of the World Zionist Organization, and provided material and information for the guidance of the members of the World Zionist Affairs Committee, of Regional World Zionist Affairs Chairmen, of ZOA representatives in the World Confederation of General Zionists on the Executive of the Jewish Agency, and on the Actions Committee.

The Department was host to a number of prominent Zionist leaders from Israel and abroad, who had an opportunity of meeting with ZOA leaders particularly in the New York Metropolitan Area.

The Zionist Information Service (ZINS) Weekly News Bulletin is entering its 10th year of publication. Its editions have regularly appeared in English, Yiddish, and Spanish. They helped to promote good-will for the ZOA and a better understanding of the aims of our organization and of General Zionism everywhere in the world.

ZINS has serviced some sixty General Jewish and Zionist newspapers and publications in thirty countries. The bulletin is received not only by newspaper editors, but also by Zionist Organizations and their key leaders in practically all countries where the Zionist Movement is active.

The World Zionist Affairs Department continues periodic distribution of English and Hebrew publications received from Israel and other countries abroad.

ZOA ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL

The year 1956-57 has been another period of progress and achievements in ZOA activities in Israel.

Both the ZOA Daniel Frisch House in Tel Aviv and our Agricultural Training Institute, Kfar Silver considerably expanded the scope of their activities and added on new programs and departments.

In accordance with National Convention resolutions, the ZOA House and Kfar Silver are at present the only two ZOA Projects in Israel approved and maintained by our organization. Their future development, and this particularly applies to the younger of the two projects, Kfar Silver, will no doubt add to our standing and position of influence in the eyes of the Israeli public and in the eyes of the American Jewish Community as well. The two projects are already contributing their part in accomplishing a historic task of bringing closer together the United States, its Jewish Communities, and the Zionist Movement in America to the people and the State of Israel.

K F A R S I L V E R

Comprehensive reports on our Agricultural Training Institute, Kfar Silver, were published at National Conventions in The American Zionist, and in pamphlet form; we shall deal this time with its development during the past fiscal year.

In addition to the first four buildings (dining hall, two dormitories, and one classroom-building) constructed early in 1953, four new buildings were completed in the course of this year. They include one 11-room dormitory, which can accommodate forty to forty-five students, and three semi-detached houses for members of the staff with two apartments in each.

To facilitate absorption of additional students, the ZOA Administration authorized construction of essential buildings during the coming year 1957-58. These will include one more dormitory, one more classroom building (two classrooms) and one more house for members of the staff, containing four small apartments for bachelor employees. All new buildings are constructed according to improved plans and specifications providing for more space and better quality of construction.

When opened on August 11, 1955, Kfar Silver had one class of twenty students only. Already in February, 1956, the school absorbed an additional fifty-five Youth Aliyah pupils distributed in three groups with a teaching program especially

adjusted for their lower educational level. In the Fall of 1956, another group of twenty-eight students was admitted to Kfar Silver, making a total of one hundred and three students, who were divided into two classes for students who graduated from Israel elementary schools and three classes for students coming from Youth Aliyah ranks.

The construction of the above-mentioned new buildings, will enable Kfar Silver to start the school year 1957-58 with an additional group of at least fifty students. Thus, the year 1957-58 will witness the expansion of Kfar Silver up to one hundred fifty students, which is almost 50% of its maximum capacity. As planned by us, in two years from now the school will reach a total of three hundred and twenty.

As a result of our negotiations with the Jewish Agency, Kfar Silver was included in the budget of the Agency's Agricultural Colonization Department which contributed in the years 1955-56 and 1956-57 towards the development of the farm, for the purchase of agricultural machinery and for the construction of farm buildings.

Out of these allocations, the following farm buildings were constructed: a barn for forty head, coops for 1000 chickens, a garage, and a silo. In addition, Kfar Silver took over a citrus grove covering 230 fruit-yielding dunams and 70 dunams were planted with sub-tropical fruit and vineyards; 10 dunams were also planted with an experimental orchard including every kind of citrus fruit grown in Israel. The total area of Kfar Silver is 470 acres, made available to us by the Jewish National Fund.

Although hardly two years old, Kfar Silver is credited with a rather high pedagogic and educational standard. It is customary for agricultural schools in Israel to lose 10 to 15% of their students at the beginning of each school year, due to the specific conditions prevailing in this type of school. Kfar Silver lost practically no students during the two years of its existence.

Further recognition to Kfar Silver was given by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, which only recently issued a provisional charter for Kfar Silver, duly recognizing it as the first American-chartered school in Israel, and including it among the few American-chartered schools abroad.

The granting of the charter by the Board of Regents means that Kfar Silver diplomas will be recognized by the State of New York and other states in our country.

The finding of adequate teaching and administrative personnel is one of the most difficult problems confronting every new project in Israel. Kfar Silver couldn't possibly avoid this issue. After having overcome many difficulties, we managed to organize the present Kfar Silver staff of 41 members. They can be broken down as follows: Teaching Staff - 16; Farm - 9; Office (at Kfar Silver and in Tel Aviv) - 4; Services - 6; Kitchen facilities - 6.

In planning the future development of Kfar Silver, the ZOA cannot be satisfied with the establishment of just another agricultural high school in Israel. Our aim is to transform Kfar Silver into a modern school run along American lines and introducing American know-how and new agricultural methods that its graduates could practically apply, after finishing their studies.

Twenty members of ZOA Young Zionist Districts, who attended the Jewish Agency's Summer Institute in Israel, spent for the first time twelve days in Kfar Silver.

The day to day operations of Kfar Silver are conducted under the supervision of a Board of Directors whose members have voluntarily taken upon themselves the difficult task involved in this type of project. The Chairman of the Board is Mr. Chaim Danieli. The other members are: M. Kiselstein, Dr. S. Levine, B. Gordon, Dr. Y. Wirklich, J. Ur, Mrs. M. Goldstein, E. M. Epstein and D. Tannenbaum.

The Board organized a Women's Committee for Kfar Silver, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Goldstein, a leader of the General Zionist Women's Association in Israel. The Committee was instrumental in providing equipment needed by the school.

At the American end, this project is under the supervision of the Committee for ZOA Activities in Israel.

ZOA DANIEL FRISCH HOUSE

Last April 28th the ZOA House in Tel Aviv completed four years of activities, and we are glad to say that its diversified programs have placed it in the forefront as the most outstanding cultural and tourist center in the State of Israel, dedicated to fostering cultural relations and mutual understanding between Israel and the United States, and serving as a center for the Israel Community as well.

Due to the ban on travel to Israel for United States citizens ordered by the State Department as a result of the Sinai campaign, the number of tourists to Israel dropped considerably in comparison with the previous year. In spite of that, over 450,000 attendances were recorded by the ZOA House at various events and functions held during the year 1956-57. Last summer, like the preceding year, Americans of all walks of life, including American servicemen from Europe and from ships of the Mediterranean fleet, as well as Jewish youth from foreign lands who attended summer institutes in Jerusalem, were guests at special programs and receptions at the ZOA House.

For the first time, our own group of twenty members of the Young Zionist Districts of the Zionist Organization of America appeared at the ZOA House, during their six-week stay in Israel at the summer institute of the Jewish Agency.

It is interesting to note that during a three-month period from March through May, 1957, not less than 330 cultural functions took place in the ZOA House.

This unusually heavy load of cultural activities at the House included concerts of classical music by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; concerts of chamber music and recitals by Israelis and visiting American artists; lectures on a wide range of subjects of both Jewish and American and international interest; seminars on American and English History and Literature; regular Saturday evening plays; addresses by distinguished Americans; celebrations of American and Israel holidays; Friday night Oneg Shabat meetings that attract foreign tourists who are anxious to hear outstanding Israel personalities discuss political, social and economic issues . . . all part of the ZOA House activities.

The recently introduced social and cultural Dinner Club, which meets once a month for a serious discussion of current political and economic affairs has attracted wide attention in Israel. Ulpanim in Hebrew for newcomers from Anglo-Saxon countries, and classes in English for Israelis have been expanded. A number of youth groups, Hebrew and English-speaking; film clubs; showing of American documentaries; meetings, conferences and conventions of numerous organizations like the recently held National Conference of the Israel Farmers Federation, take place at the ZOA House.

The above, and many other events too numerous to be listed in this report, were interwoven by a wide range of art exhibitions showing works of American and Israeli artists. Other types of exhibits are designed to acquaint the Israel public with life in the United States and other Western countries.

Two such exhibits showing the development of parliamentary government in England and the United States have recently attracted wide attention, and are the first exhibits of this type ever to be shown in Israel.

The ZOA House Tourist Service has planned special receptions and events for foreign visitors. ZOA House High Holiday services are attracting tourists from practically all over the world. A home hospitality plan enables foreign visitors to meet their counterparts in Israeli homes.

Abraham Goldstein Library

This wonderful project, undertaken by the ZOA Connecticut Region in memory of Abraham Goldstein of Hartford, Connecticut, has come to fruition. Reconstruction is in full swing on the second floor of the ZOA House, where the library will occupy a whole wing. Its modern facilities will provide space for twenty thousand volumes of Americana and Judaica, and for a spacious reading room.

Goodman Auditorium

A generous contribution from the Goodman family, through the efforts of Mr. Abraham Goodman has brought about the dedication of the Goodman Auditorium located on the second floor of the House with a seating capacity of four hundred.

The ZOA House has launched the 60th Anniversary Celebrations of the ZOA in Israel in July with the participation of our President, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, and the ZOA Members who attended sessions of the Zionist Actions Committee held in Jerusalem.

The ZOA House will play an important role in operating the new ZOA Young Zionists One Year in Israel, which will go into operation late in the Fall. It will also operate the ZOA Loan Fund for American settlers in Israel, which is now being organized.

All of these programs are conducted under the able leadership given to the House by its Director, Mr. Elias M. Epstein, assisted by a staff of twenty-seven members.

The activities of the ZOA House are supervised by a Management Committee of volunteers in Tel Aviv, as follows: Joseph Serlin, Chairman; Charles Passman, Co-Chairman; Dr. F. L. Mezger; Mr. Shabbetai Miron; Dr. Shaul Levine; Dr. Joseph Singer; Mr. Arie Weinberg; and Mr. Itzhak Ziv-Av. Two sub-committees for programming and finances act as a part of the Management Committee.

PROMOTION OF ISRAEL ZOA PROJECTS ON THE AMERICAN SCENE

As in previous years, the Department for ZOA Activities in Israel has continued to provide our regions and districts throughout the country with promotion material and literature dealing with the story of our projects and activities in Israel.

In addition to the two available two-color pamphlets on the ZOA House and Kfar Silver, the department continues publication of the ZOA House Headlines, which is a condensed edition listing current events at the ZOA House. It is based on the ZOA House monthly bulletin published regularly in Israel. The department also continues monthly publication of lists of United States visitors to the ZOA House regularly sent to all ZOA Regional Presidents and Regional Directors. The department has made available to our districts and regions selections of ZOA House and Kfar Silver photographs, and distributed through the ZOA Press and Publicity Department and through The American Zionist articles, newsletters and stories on both projects.

A system of press releases with interviews by American tourists in Israel has been instituted by the ZOA House, which sends them directly from Tel Aviv to the home-town newspapers of the visitors.

The first ZOA color film in sound "ZOA In Israel", prepared by this department and shown for the first time at the 59th National Convention a year ago, was very well received throughout the country. It has been shown not only at the ZOA meetings, but also at community-wide gatherings in various parts of the United States.

ZOA-UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

Since the ZOA-UJA operation started, considerable progress was made in the way of intensifying ZOA efforts for the regular UJA campaign and the \$100 million Emergency Rescue Fund. This operation brought the ZOA as a unit into the campaign. As in the past, ZOA members were actively engaged in the campaigns of the Welfare Funds locally, being well represented in the leadership of the local campaigns, among its volunteer workers or among its big givers.

Immediately after our UJA operation was approved by the NEC and Conference of Regional Presidents which took place on February 14th, the ZOA began to implement its plans in the following ways:

- 1 - Through ZOA-UJA independent functions;
- 2 - Setting of a higher standard of giving;
- 3 - Screening our ZOA membership lists in order to secure 100% participation in the campaign;
- 4 - More intensive participation in the "clean-up" period of the campaign.

A special ZOA-UJA mobilization conference took place on April 6th and 7th with main addresses delivered by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, ZOA President, Abraham Goodman, Chairman of the NEC and ZOA-UJA Chairman for the Metropolitan Area, Max Bressler, National ZOA Chairman for Israel Funds and by Rabbi Herbert Friedman, Executive Vice-President of UJA. A special resolution was adopted containing a detailed plan for action in the Districts throughout the country.

Our Districts and Regions were requested to appoint ZOA-UJA chairmen and committees. Although when our intensive work started, the planning of the campaign in the communities was already well advanced; nevertheless, we managed to make an additional effort. Separate ZOA functions were arranged in Indianapolis, Hartford and Chicago. In the latter city, two ZOA-UJA functions took place - the second on May 28th, which boosted the local effort by \$326,000. An outstanding job on behalf of UJA was done by our Districts in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Wilkes-Barre and Hartford. Particular mention should be given to the Greater New York Metropolitan Area, where 26 separate ZOA-UJA functions took place

and, in a number of Districts, Person-to-Person solicitation continued during a number of Sundays. An outstanding job was done by the 7th District, whose successful function brought in about \$62,000 in new moneys. This applies to other districts in Greater New York which made a similar effort and, as the UJA figures indicate, the ZOA-UJA functions resulted in new moneys.

During the month of June, ZOA-UJA Days were proclaimed by the Regions in the Metropolitan Area (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Long Island and Westchester). ZOA telephone squads were formed which, with the fullest cooperation of UJA, did a good job.

In places where no separate functions took place, the ZOA leadership spearheaded the UJA effort. During the period under review, over 25 large communities outside of New York were visited by a number of our national staff members. In the visited places, ZOA leadership came into contact with the local campaign leadership, and plans were worked out for utilizing the ZOA manpower for the UJA.

The ZOA never missed an opportunity in order to stimulate a bigger effort for UJA. Urgent appeals for volunteer workers; for raising the standard of giving; for fullest participation in the National UJA Cash Conference (June 8th and 9th); for solicitation of cash, were made by the ZOA with a very good response. Special acknowledgment is due to Mr. Harry L. Shapiro, the liaison officer between UJA and ZOA for his magnificent cooperation.

The ZOA-UJA operation established, in a very short period of time, a closer relationship with the local Welfare Funds throughout the country. Our conferences and meetings in the Greater New York area, as for instance the ZOA Metropolitan Luncheon of May 15th, brought closer to our ZOA leadership the importance of our operation as a unit in the campaign.

Many more ZOA Districts, where the campaigns are taking place in the Fall, will be visited in order to organize them for a successful effort.

AMERICAN ZIONIST YOUTH COMMISSION

Our Zionist youth program, conducted jointly by the ZOA and Hadassah, through the Youth Commission, has made significant strides this year.

1. Membership - The nationally registered membership of Young Judaea has been increased by some 1500 this year. Thus, there are more than twice as many young people actively affiliated with our Young Judaea than there are in all of the other Zionist youth organizations combined.

This steady growth, coupled with an intensified program, brings Zionist-centered Judaism into increasing numbers of young minds and hearts across the country.

2. Program - This growth is significant not merely numerically, but in the knowledge, loyalty and activated dedication nurtured among these thousands of young people. The YOUNG JUDAEAN magazine, recognized as the foremost Jewish publication in the 10-14 age range, has been read each month by every Junior Judaeon in the land. In this way, the exciting worlds of Jewish living, democracy, Israel and Zionism are conveyed in stories, pictures, features and games.

The JUDAEAN LEAVES has become an invaluable resource for our club leaders. A treasure of factual information with guides to skillful usage, this monthly publication has earned respect from youth and adult alike.

The Young Judaea HANDBOOK, long out of print, was published again this year. In the HANDBOOK the young people learn about the Zionist Movement, the ZOA and Hadassah, our Israel projects and the American Jewish community - plus their role in this scene.

In addition to these regular publications - as well as THE SENIOR and the LEADERS' GUIDE - there has been an upsurge in Week End Conclaves, Workshops and Leadership Training Institutes. These Judaeans live, as well as learn, our Zionist ideals and reality.

3. The Camp Program - The heart of our Zionist youth program on the American scene is Tel Yehudah, the National Young Judaea teenage camp. Some 320 high school Judaeans are "Tel Yehudah-niks" this summer in the regular sessions and in the Machaneh Avodah (work-study tent encampments). The week-long Workshop-National Convention brings an additional 200 into this Zionist camp picture.

At the same time, in a network of Zionist camps conducted by our local Youth Commissions across the country, some 2000 additional young people are living the enriching experience of a totally Jewish-Zionist atmosphere. This enlarged camper registration - especially in Tel Yehudah - strengthens Young Judaea. For Tel Yehudah has proved itself as a superb laboratory for Zionist youth training and leadership. At Camp Herzl, in Wisconsin, we conduct a three-week National Leadership Training Session for prospective young Leaders in the West. This successful experiment of last year dictated its repetition this year, with excellent results.

4. Israel Courses - A total of over 60 Judaeans are participating in our various Israel courses, in the Senior Summer-in-Israel, Leaders' Summer-in-Israel, the Year Agency Machon and the new Judaeans Year-in-Israel program.

Most exciting of these is the Year-in-Israel course, launched during this past season. The 15 Judaeans high school graduates in the first such course, are being followed by some 25 in the second Year-in-Israel program. Applications have already come in for the 1958-59 Year-in-Israel course.

As the number of Judaeans Israel participants increases year by year (last year we had a total in all the courses of 40) a growing reservoir of dedicated knowledgeable young American Zionists is our gain. It is hardly visionary to see soon at least 100 or more of our finest young people benefiting from a solid year in Israel, every year, returning home to enrich - perhaps transform - our American Jewish scene.

This past year has been one of growth in depth and of dynamic expansion within our Youth Commission constituency. With continued ZOA understanding and with strengthened support, we shall be rewarded with "succeeding generations of American Jewish youth" - as the Judaeans put it - "rooted in their heritage and dedicated to service, as Zionists, to the Jewish people."

B'NAI ZION

Bnai Zion, organized in 1908 and chartered by the New York State Insurance Department in 1910, concluded its 48th Annual Convention last June, at which it inaugurated its 50th Jubilee celebration, which will last for the next two years.

Reports at the Convention were made, regarding the accomplishments of Bnai Zion, in every field of activity, including both the Israeli and American scene.

The continuous forward march was made possible by the harmony which prevailed in our Administration, under the devoted leadership of our Nassi, Nathaniel S. Rothenberg.

A Golden Jubilee Commission was appointed by our Nassi, including all the past Nassiim, and headed by Dr. Harris J. Levine, President of the Jewish National Fund, as Chairman.

Our Annual Order Day Dinner, held in February, was tendered in honor of Governor Averell Harriman, and the proceeds were used for the planting of a forest, bearing his name, as a token of our appreciation for his friendship to the cause of Israel.

The Bnai Zion Foundation continued its manifold activities in Israel, and during the past year, we have undertaken the establishment of another Medical Clinic in Herzliyah, as well as the building of a Community Center in Talmei Zvi. The continued progress of the village, Kfar Bnai Zion, in Israel, was a source of great pride to us and our members have advanced I.L. 45,000 to the village for the planting of orange groves, which will add to the economic stability of the settlement. Our continued support to the Ein Hod artists village in Israel, will make it possible for the arrangement of an exhibit in the United States of the work done by the Israeli artists.

On the American scene, the Bnai Zion Foundation continued to give gold and silver medals for proficiency in Hebrew to students in colleges and high schools, and added a number of scholarships for deserving students in the study of Hebrew.

During the year, Bnai Zion participated fully in the United Jewish Appeal campaign, as well as the Israel Bond Drive, in addition to the specific projects that Bnai Zion sponsors in Israel.

Our membership and insurance progress continued to show a net increase for the seventh consecutive year, so that our membership today reached the 6,500 mark and our insurance in force has passed the four and a half million dollar mark. The increase of membership took place in the existing Chapters, as well as through the formation of additional Chapters. During the course of the year, the youth activities were developed to the extent that our new membership consists mainly of young American Jewish couples whose fraternal and Zionist needs are fulfilled through Bnai Zion's program.

We have also added other benefits and services, through making available to our members, in addition to the Blue Cross hospitalization and Blue Shield surgical benefits, the General Medical Plan, which covers members' visits to the doctor's office, of their own choice, or the doctor's visits to the home.

The American Affairs Committee was revitalized and the results were most inspiring, through our group's participation in various community activities on the American scene.

The newly elected officers at our last Convention were:

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION - BNAI ZION
1957-1958

Nathaniel S. Rothenberg, Nassi - Grand Master

Hyman J. Fliegel	Sgan-Deputy Grand Master and Counsel
Norman G. Levine	Sgan-Deputy Grand Master
Dr. Sidney Marks	Sgan-Deputy Grand Master
Hon. Abraham J. Multer	Sgan-Deputy Grand Master
Herman Z. Quittman	Mazkir-Grand Secretary
Dr. Jacob I. Steinberg	Gizbor-Grand Treasurer
Rudolph Edelson	Associate Treasurer
Dr. Harris J. Levine	Chief Medical Examiner
Samuel M. Stuckgold	Auditor
Louis K. Bleecker	Trustee
Hon. Arthur Markewich	Trustee
Hon. Harry A. Pine	Trustee
A. A. Redelheim	Trustee
Dorothy S. Levine	Chairman Women's Division

AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL

The American Zionist Council, under its chairman Rabbi Irving Miller and its executive director Rabbi Jerome Unger (re-elected at a plenary meeting held on March 26, 1957), carried on a particularly extensive educational and public relations program during this past year of crisis in the Middle East. Council activities were conducted through the departments of information, radio and television, speakers and community relations, and with the assistance of five regional offices in New England, the South, Midwest, and West.

Following the Sinai Campaign last October, the Council called for community-wide meetings under the sponsorship of all local Jewish groups to clarify Israel's position and U.S. policy in the Middle East. During the winter, when Israel was threatened with economic sanctions by the United Nations, AZC people held numerous conferences with leaders of public opinion to interpret Israel's stand and needs to the American people.

Fact-sheets containing background information and analyses of the crisis as it developed were compiled and distributed at frequent intervals among local Councils. Offsets of editorial opinion, columns and cartoons assembled from the press throughout the country were also circulated, as well as numerous pamphlets and special chairmen memoranda. As part of the Council's regular public relations program, the American press was carefully scrutinized for unfavorable columns and editorials, and corrections of misleading information were sent to the press for publication. Also, as part of the program of counteracting unfavorable publicity, local Councils were alerted to pro-Arab propaganda emanating from Arab sources and from special groups, such as the Rotary International.

The Council participated in the Conference of Presidents of seventeen national organizations and cooperated closely in its decisions.

Organized in a matter of hours, with the cooperation of all Zionist and several non-Zionist organizations, the AZC staged a mass demonstration in Madison Square Garden in February, at the height of the propaganda campaign to impose sanctions on Israel.

Israel's Ninth Anniversary was observed by the Council through special projects, highlighted by a mass rally in Central Park, New York City. Similar celebrations were held in communities throughout the country. Special TV films, radio tapes and literature pertaining to Israel's achievements were widely distributed. A salute to Israel was presented in an AZC-produced radio program, "Time and the Bridge."

The Council's Youth Department expanded its activities on campus, operating through 68 chapters of the Student Zionist Organization (the multi-party campus group) in over 70 colleges. These chapters interpret Israel to the campus and counteract Arab propaganda. Some of the measurable results of this activity are: a seven-week Hebrew course for American college students; 34 SZO members participating in the Summer Institute in Israel; 17 participating in the one-year program of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; 7 taking part in the PATWA work program in Israel during the summer, and 7 members participating in the Leadership Training Program in Israel.

Other aspects of the Youth Department's work include the servicing of non-Zionist youth groups, Zionist youth groups and Jewish Community Centers, as well as a program in the general high schools.

The invaluable service which the American Christian Palestine Committee renders among the Christian communities through publications, speakers and local groups, has received the continued support of the American Zionist Council.

UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL

The United Israel Appeal is the fund-raising arm of the Keren Hayesod-Jewish Agency in the United States and derives its income from the nationwide United Jewish Appeal campaign. Besides acting as a transmitting agent for UJA funds, the UIA implements a year-round program of interpretation on all aspects of the upbuilding of Israel, particularly centering on the immigration, rehabilitation and resettlement program of the Jewish Agency.

The story of the UIA during the period since the last ZOA convention, therefore reflects the relentless struggle for the saving of Jewish lives, which, in recent months, has reached proportions approximating the mass migration of 1949/50.

Between June 30, 1956 and July 1, 1957, over 82,000 immigrants arrived in Israel. They came to a country strained by the exigencies of an uneasy armistice which in October, 1956 erupted in full-scale mechanized warfare through the Sinai peninsula. They found a people burdened by heavy taxation; a people which for more than eight years had sustained the triple weight of defense, absorption and economic development and had shared its inadequate housing facilities and other scarce resources with hundreds of thousands of needy immigrants. In short, they came to a country which, by ordinary standards, should have restricted the influx of additional refugees, yet continued to open its gates to every Jew in need -- the only country in the world to do so.

This great humanitarian program of rescue and resettlement directed and implemented by the Jewish Agency in Israel, would not have been possible without the financial assistance of Jewish communities throughout the world, foremost among them the Jewish community of the United States.

As Nasser's Nazi-inspired anti-Jewish legislation and the plight of the Hungarian escapees summoned up the spectre of the dreaded 1930's, American Jews rallied for a supreme effort on behalf of UJA's \$100,000,000 Emergency Rescue

Fund and of the Appeal's regular 1957 campaign. As of June 1, 1957 Welfare Fund pledges were running an average of 20 percent ahead of 1956 and several communities already succeeded in topping their 1948 record, the high-water mark in the history of organized Jewish fund-raising in the United States.

Yet, even these splendid efforts failed to keep pace with spiralling needs. Under the pressure of the greatest Jewish refugee crisis in two decades, budgetary estimates became obsolete within a matter of weeks. Last October, the Jewish Agency estimated that some 70,000 immigrants would arrive in Israel in the course of the year. In January, 1957 this estimate was revised upward to 100,000. At the present rate of immigration, even that last figure will be exceeded by the end of the year.

Within the framework of this report, it is impossible to outline all the tasks and problems which confront the Jewish Agency as a result of the rapidly shifting immigration picture. Yet a few highlights will indicate the extent of the vastly increased responsibilities which American Jews have pledged to share as responsible partners in the great rescue and resettlement movement now under way.

Housing for this year's immigrants alone will require investments totalling \$80,000,000. The Jewish Agency is straining its resources to avoid a return to the unsatisfactory maabaroth (transitional settlement) operation. Yet, every week new huts and semi-permanent structures have to be set up because the immigrant housing scheme cannot keep up with the mass influx.

Agricultural development must be accelerated to create homes for newcomers and assure an adequate food supply for Israel's population which will pass the two-million mark before the end of 1957. Yet due to the shortage of philanthropic funds, agricultural expansion must be carried out at the expense of already existing settlements which still lack necessary equipment, farm machinery and irrigation facilities.

Settlement of the vast, empty flatlands of the Northern Negev is vital for Israel's future for economic as well as security reasons. Yet Negev development depends on the implementation of large-scale, expensive irrigation projects.

Two years ago, a unique experiment in regional settlement was introduced by the Jewish Agency in the Lachish district. Today, about 1,150 families live in the twenty-six agricultural villages in that area and this summer a similar program of coordinated settlement will be started in the Adulam sector in the Judean hills. Here, again, substantial sums are needed for homes, roads, public services and farm development.

Furthermore, the character and composition of the present immigration makes it necessary to develop absorption facilities in urban and semi-urban areas. During recent months, over 60 percent of the new arrivals came from Eastern Europe, among them a high percentage of professionals and skilled workers. These are the types of immigrants that Israel has been waiting for many years and they will make a significant contribution to the overall development of the country. Yet they, too, need homes, guidance and opportunities to acquaint themselves with the language, life and special conditions in the country.

Mass immigration has placed a tremendous burden on all public services in Israel such as hospitals, schools and other public institutions. Until last year, the Government of Israel provided these services out of tax receipts, but due to the precarious security situation, other demands on the Israel treasury now force the Jewish Agency to contribute to the building and operation of additional facilities needed to integrate new arrivals.

Thus, the tasks confronting the Jewish Agency today range from the resettlement of nearly illiterate immigrants from Oriental countries to the placement of highly qualified physicians and engineers. A few months ago, the Agency's budget was revised upward to an all-time high of IL 250 million (approximately \$167 million) yet even this revised figure will not fully cover the Agency's anticipated share in the immigrant housing program and the extension of public services.

These are some of the problems and needs which the UIA tries to interpret on the American scene. Experience has taught us that given the facts, American Jews will act quickly and generously and we are confident that they will not fail to live up to the high hopes which the valiant people of Israel and homeless Jews throughout the world have placed upon them.

To implement its campaign of public education, the UIA conducts a variegated program including the distribution of publications and films, press releases, pictures and a general research and information service.

The UIA's community service department offers the largest film library in the Zionist fund-raising field and arranges approximately 1,000 bookings a month. Its operations cover some 6,000 cities in 49 states and various foreign countries. Its most recent acquisitions are the documentaries "Drew Pearson Reports on the Holy Land" and "Ben-Gurion - Builder of a Nation" which have been shown on TV and in commercial movie theatres and have been widely acclaimed by the general press.

The publicity department of the UIA services the general Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish press with news and features on the activities of the Jewish Agency and the Keren Hayesod in Israel. Its photographic files are used extensively by Welfare Funds and other organizations in the United States and Canada. The UIA's monthly publication Israel Fotofacts has a circulation of over 65,000.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

The Mobilization Conference and the JNF Month marked the stepping up of activities for the period under review. The wider program of deepening the Zionist spirit through the JNF program, enabled us to reach out throughout the land in making American Israel aware of the importance of the JNF program.

The upward trend in our income was again reflected this year, showing a gradual increase in our intake from the traditional collections for the past number of years. For the period of 1956-57, our income amounted to \$2,365,959.74 as compared with the corresponding period of 1955-56 - \$2,245,732.69. We have been able to achieve an increase in income while our administrative expenditure for the period under review was \$321,384.89 as compared with \$324,185.65 for the previous year. Greater resources are needed to meet the budgetary requirements of the Keren Kayemeth. They can and should be made available within the framework of our traditional fund-raising program and through the Foundation of the JNF.

The JNF Mobilization Conference held in the beginning of the season was highlighted by an address by Mr. Joseph Weitz, Director of the Land Development Division of the KKL in Jerusalem. He outlined the three-fold JNF program of the year; which includes twenty new border settlements to be built on JNF land in Galilee, Shomron and the Mountains of Judea; the Jerusalem Forest, ringing the Capital of Israel, which is to number one million trees, and a chain of agricultural settlements centering around the City of Safed.

Following the Conference, Mr. Weitz visited key communities from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and addressed a series of meetings and conferences in which he outlined and elaborated on the plan adopted by the Mobilization Conference.

JNF Month was observed in the key communities throughout the country. Governors of the States - notably New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Illinois, California - proclaimed the month of November, 1956, as JNF Month. There was a wide distribution of Blue and White Boxes throughout the country. The "Eternal Light" enabled us to bring the message of the JNF to a coast-to-coast audience, which program was narrated by the eminent artist of stage and screen, Paul Muni, who volunteered his services for this broadcast.

Closely linked with the JNF Month was the plethora of JNF meetings, dinners, and functions throughout the land, which afforded the Jewish communities the opportunity to attest to their time-honored devotion to the work of the JNF. Through the traditional fund-raising program, substantial sums were mobilized. The most notable functions held were the dinner given in Chicago in honor of Col. Arvey, the annual Chanukah dinners held in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, and later equally important functions held in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Boston, Miami, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Cincinnati and the brilliant function sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Detroit JNF. We succeeded in opening new territory where JNF activities have been dormant.

The past year saw the expansion of the services of the Jewish National Fund through the creation of a special Organization Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Harris J. Levine. The purpose of the Commission is to organize new JNF Councils throughout the country and reorganize old ones wherever necessary. Functioning as part of the Organization Commission is the Sub-Committee on Education and Propaganda and the Sub-Committee on Small Communities.

One of the initial activities of the Sub-Committee on Education and Propaganda was a series of public lectures given at the JNF House by outstanding lecturers and authors. The lectures are scheduled to be continued in the Fall and Winter, and to be supplemented by special Seminars on the ideology, history and achievements of the JNF. The aim of the JNF Educational Programs is to disseminate throughout the Jewish community of America authentic and significant information about Jewish life, past and present, with special emphasis on the work of the Jewish National Fund and its bearing on the development of the State of Israel and the Diaspora.

The Foundation of the Jewish National Fund -- a JNF Department devoted to the creation of a pool of funds for the establishment of special projects in Israel through wills, bequests and projects -- has made rapid strides. Over \$11,000,000 is recorded representing potential income.

Of special significance in this connection is the action of the National Executive Committee of the Zionist Organization of America under which the ZOA will undertake, jointly with the JNF, a special project in the Adullam region of Israel to cost \$2,000,000. The greatest part of the funds to come from the largest body of organized Zionists in the United States is to be in the form of wills and bequests, assignment of insurance policies and gifts of Israel Bonds.

Through the ZOA, provisions are being made to divide their bequests and insurance policies equally between the JNF project and the Kfar Silver Agricultural School.

We mourn the passing of Maxwell Abbell, leader and benefactor, who was a member of the JNF Board, and Professor Gustave Klausner, formerly of St. Louis, who served our Movement with great distinction.

We express our deep appreciation to Dr. Harris J. Levine, who was re-elected for the eighth term as President of the Jewish National Fund of America. Re-elected with him were Dr. Israel Goldstein, Honorary President; Louis Segal, Honorary Secretary; Albert Schiff, Treasurer; Miss Juliet N. Benjamin and Nathan A. Levine, Associate Treasurers and Isidore Epstein, Assistant Secretary. Mendel N. Fisher was re-elected Executive Director and Secretary for the 23rd term.

We are deeply indebted to the officers and to the Chairmen of the following Standing Committees: Benjamin Gordon, Finance Committee; Louis Segal, Labor Department; Nathan A. Levine and Maurice Plessner, Co-Chairmen of the R.G.C.; Miss Juliet Benjamin, Chairman for Trees; Mrs. Regina Gordon, Chairman for Boxes. We are indebted to the members of the Board of Directors and to the Administrative Committee and Finance Committee, who have all contributed to the progress of our work. Our special thanks to Judge Rosenblatt, President of the JNF Foundation, who was re-elected for the second term.

The JNF Administration records its gratitude to the JNF Staff, both on the national and local level, and to our volunteer army throughout the country who have given us invaluable support. To the ZOA Co-Chairmen for the JNF - Judge Bernard Rosenblatt and Benjamin Gordon, and to Dr. Sidney Marks, Executive Director of the ZOA, who has been unfailing in his dedication to the JNF, we owe a special debt of gratitude. We also express our special thanks to the ZOA Districts, both on the national as well as on the local level, who have helped to mobilize support for the JNF program.



for the
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OF AMERICA**

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