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IN A
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ANNUAL REPORT...

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Fifty-Ninth Annual Convention

October 4th-7th, 1956

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ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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To The 59th National Convention of the Zionist Organization of America

Dear Fellow Zionist:

This current report covers ZOA's fifty-ninth year. The twelve months, ending August 31st, 1956, were by far among the most active in our history. The accounts, which follow my own, outline the principal activities that took place and suggest the remarkable scope of our activities. It will repay careful study.

Our ZOA Program for Israel and the American Jewish Community attracted a most gratifying degree of interest from the public. ZOA membership increased and our fund-raising rose.

The Zionist Organization of America, I believe, is in a healthy condition in all major respects, except for a vitally important need for increased income to improve its financial stability, a pressing requirement to perform its functions more efficiently. Further on, I will have more to say about these problems.

The organization is functioning smoothly despite the heavy load of the tense situation in Israel and the Middle East, the increase in our activities, and the financial burdens of the past year. Our President, Mortimer May, his administration and our staff are loyal, capable, and deeply devoted to the organization they serve. They are the mainsprings of our progress, and we owe them a very real debt of gratitude. I am glad to say that in the course of the year it was possible to make some staff adjustments in salaries, which gave practical expression to this appreciation.

The foundation of any organization is its program and activities. Ours is generally agreed to be the foremost and most active Zionist Organization in the world. Our primary goal is to continue to improve our work for Israel and Jewry and to expand it modestly within our means. The officers and membership of our organization share our faith in the future of Israel and Jewry and the continued need for the Zionist Organization of America. They share, too, the belief that constant advancement is essential to the vitality and efficacy of our organization. They, therefore, conceive the role of ZOA as supporting promising experiments and new developments in the advancement of Zionist objectives.

The work in the fields of Young Adult Zionists and Hebrew have been intensified. We are building new leadership to assume the future responsibilities of Zionist and American Jewish community life. Every part of our program projected by the 58th Annual Convention has been implemented and even exceeded. Our work in Israel and our public relations and educational activities on the American scene is the story of the unconventional which has become the common-place, of the untried which has become the routine, of the non-conforming which has become the customary. This has always been the happy as well as the challenging mission of our Zionist Organization of America.

Entering our sixtieth year is an appropriate point from which to focus on the future aims and needs of the Zionist Organization of America. A ZOA Platform has

ZOA - Building Israel and Jewry Today for Better Living Tomorrow - Through Zionism

been formulated for presentation to the National Convention. It will utilize financial resources to encourage experimentation in directions which will advance Zionism, Jewry and Israel. A review of our expanded services in the following pages, combined with constantly rising costs, has resulted in an increase in expenditures. But through economies and increased income, the operating budget has been held closely in balance.

During the past few years there has been a significant rise in American Zionist Fund contributions which have been utilized for our program. Our revenue for administration is solely derived from membership income.

A high proportion of all income coming from the thousands of members through the country indicates strong public support. On the other hand, heavy dependence on these far too modest resources often make it difficult for the organization to undertake projects of great intrinsic value which do not promise to capture the public imagination. There is no doubt that the organization would be in a far healthier financial situation and better able to perform its functions if it could substantially increase its income from the American Zionist Fund. This can be done only by making the most intense effort to increase our American Zionist Fund contributions and by making our financial needs clear to those who might potentially be interested in making gifts or bequests to the Zionist Organization of America.

The best hope of achieving these Zionist goals is to continue to provide the kinds of program and activity for Israel and Jewry which people everywhere will feel deserve their support. Besides performing our functions well, we must also make it clear to those interested or potentially interested that we need help and that our increased roster of membership and our rate of growth of American Zionist Fund collections are not enough in themselves to solve our basic, serious financial questions.

In closing, I must say a special word of thanks to the officers and governing bodies of our regions and districts. They have been extremely generous in contributing time, effort, intelligent advice and important financial support. They constituted one of the most important reasons for ZOA's continued success.

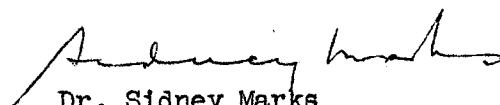
No attempt has been made in this report to review all of our projects and activities. Those reviewed have been selected to illustrate the nature of our concerns and operations.

I do hope that this 59th Annual Convention will stimulate profitable thinking and discussion of those fundamental problems facing Israel, Jewry and your ZOA so as to generate clearer concepts of the ends to be sought and better ideas of the means to achieve them through ZOA - an organization on which so large a measure of our hope for the future of our People depends.

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 fiscal year ending August 31, 1956 brought many problems and difficulties to the organization. The continuous emergencies, the many new activities such as Young Adult Zionists and Hebrew Culture & Language, the expansion of old ones, the payment of our Shekel obligation to the World Zionist Organization, expenses in connection with the World Zionist Congress, and the continuing rise in costs in every field, paper, printing, postage and labor in particular, played havoc with our budgets and our finances. In spite of reduction of staff and every economy which could be instituted without hampering the work of the organization, it was impossible to find adequate funds for all our needs. Our membership exceeded that of the previous year, our fund raising showed a splendid increase, but greater financial resources are required to keep our organization on a sound financial basis.

The Accounting Department has done everything within its power to administer faithfully all funds of the organization and keep accurate records thereof. The books of the Zionist Organization of America are under periodic examination and strict audit of the firm of Muhlstock, Elowitz & Co., Certified Public Accountants. The accompanying Financial Report shows the fiscal position of the organization as of July 31, 1956 and the income and expenses for the eleven month period from September 1, 1955 to July 31, 1956. The figures for the month of August have been estimated based on actual receipts and disbursements to reflect the operations for the full fiscal year, September 1, 1955 to August 31, 1956.

AMERICAN ZIONIST FUND

It is gratifying to report that we continue to increase our American Zionist Fund income with each year, and that this increase is due to an effort by most Regions.

Of our twenty-two Regions, eighteen have gone ahead of last year, and of these eighteen, six Regions have sent the National Office \$20,000 or more and four Regions have more than doubled the previous year's income. This shows a countrywide trend to take the AZF obligations seriously and to move forward to a more reasonable rate of giving.

It is regrettable to report that ten Regions have not even reached the \$10,000 level, and our aim for the coming year must be to increase their contributions substantially to equitably share in the maintenance of our activities and to maintain current contribution uptrend from all other Regions who are responding so well.

An effort has been made to obtain larger individual contributions and, for the first time in some years, we were successful in obtaining some \$5,000 contributions and quite a few donations ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. We shall have to concentrate even more on educating our membership to a higher giving level for the Zionist Organization of America, and indicate to them the value of their AZF giving for Israel and the American Jewish Community.

This year has again demonstrated that Regional and District dinners are the best and quickest means to raise sizable funds. Governor Thomas Dewey, Congressman Jacob Javits, Senators George H. Bender, Styles Bridges, Hubert Humphrey, Estes Kefauver, Wayne Morse, John Sparkman, Alexander Wiley, and Under-Secretary of State George Allen all joined our own leadership and representatives of the Israel Government to make these dinners major public demonstrations for Israel. Your fund-raising efforts highlighted the year's activities. Two of these dinners were the

first occasion for ZOA to use television as a means of bringing our message to a maximum audience.

The National Office has assisted numerous Districts in every phase of their AZF campaign and has given most Regions as much help as possible. Campaigning means everything from drafting letters to literature, securing speakers and actual fund-raising techniques.

Experiments were undertaken to raise funds by various other means. While some methods were successful, others provided a return far too small for the efforts expended. The single exception was Connecticut which did its fund-raising through a journal, and it enabled the Region to secure very fine AZF results. (This is the first ZOA journal that proved to be successful).

It should be recorded with gratitude that more of our leaders on every level are taking the AZF seriously and are giving of their time, effort and funds. We need to increase their number and encourage every District throughout the land to do its share.

ZOA BOOK & GIFT SHOP

Ever-mindful of its aim and purpose, the Shop has accelerated its activities in direct mail service and through personal contact. We are constantly promoting, on a national level, the sale of basic and new books on Zionism, Israel and general Judaica; stimulating interest in the music of Israel; encouraging youth groups, Districts and centers to maintain their own libraries; selling Hebrew dictionaries and manuals to students of the Hebrew language, as well as to tourists.

Realizing the necessity and importance of strengthening the link between Israel and America, we feel that we have made a contribution in this direction in some measure. We have supplied on a nation-wide scale PRODUCTS FROM ISRAEL -- giftware for the home and office, in patina and copper; hand-made dolls; figurines; religious articles; artistic greeting and holiday cards; and a miscellany of other unique items.

Activities of the Shop have also included the servicing and sale of books, records and arts and crafts to Sisterhoods, Temple Gift Shops, Centers, and Libraries; arranging special exhibits of our merchandise at bazaars, meetings and conventions; preparing lists and circulars for libraries and schools. And last, but not least, special holiday mailings of recommended gifts for adults and children, have become a regular procedure.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The substantial accomplishments of the ZOA in the public relations sphere over the past year have served to demonstrate the correctness of the decision made in August, 1954 to establish a single instrumentality for conducting our public relations work under centralized direction. Our Department of Public Information and its Commission on Israel and the Middle East, have provided vital information on the current Middle Eastern scene and have stimulated appropriate action, not only through communications to the Regions and Districts, but also by utilizing every available instrument for public education in our Organization -- The American Zionist, Press and Publicity, and Program and Education -- all of which are included in the Public Information Department.

The following are a few of the significant activities carried out during the past year:

Public Events and Briefing Conferences. Apart from conducting additional briefing and orientation sessions for ZOA District and Regional leaders, the Commission on Israel and the Middle East sponsored a number of significant public meetings, under the chairmanship of Harry Torczyner, notably the receptions for the United States Ambassador to Israel, Edward B. Lawson in May 1956, and for Attorney General Jacob K. Javits in December 1955. Among those who figured prominently in the Commission's conferences were Dr. Emanuel Neumann, ZOA President Mortimer May, Ansel E. Talbert, military editor of the New York Herald Tribune, and other experts on Middle Eastern affairs.

Literature. In recent weeks the Department of Public Information issued two pamphlets evaluating American policy in the Middle East against the background of Nasser's seizure of the Suez Canal. The response to these pamphlets -- "The Suez Crisis Could Have Been Averted" and "Calendar of Calamity" -- has been most enthusiastic.

The Department has carried forward its program of public relations education for Districts through the regular issuance of statements on the Middle East situation by ZOA leaders, directives for action and background material, much of it designed for transmission to molders of public opinion in each community.

In addition to preparing numerous refutations of hostile newspaper comment called to its attention by District leaders, the Department has at crucial moments set forth the ZOA's views in letters that have been published in major American newspapers. Such comment by the chairman of the Commission on Israel and the Middle East and the executive vice-chairman of the Public Information Department has been relayed to District leaders as guidance for similar communications to their own newspapers. The same procedure has been followed with respect to resolutions and editorials formulated by the Department for the major deliberative bodies of the Organization and for The American Zionist, and transmitted to the Districts for local use.

Other noteworthy and successful activities included: the national Day of Prayer in November 1955; the ZOA advertisement on American policy in the Middle East which was published in a number of important newspapers throughout the country in January, 1956; the Questionnaire concerning the American Council for Judaism, on which the Districts acted in the Spring of 1956; and finally, the vigorous program of action on the American scene presented by Rabbi Feuer to the extraordinary session of the National Administrative Council on August 26, which is currently being implemented.

THE AMERICAN ZIONIST

The American Zionist, in a continuing process of evolution, is now firmly established as a foremost organ of Zionist thought and public opinion. Within its 20 pages, once a month, are combined feature sections devoted to reviews and analyses on the current political scene, articles on various aspects of life in Israel, literary features as well as The News Reporter devoted to house organ material.

Within the limited number of pages made available to it, The American Zionist is unfortunately unable to allocate more space to the activities of our Regions and Districts and to the exemplary services rendered by our numerous individual workers. It is therefore earnestly suggested that in the coming year serious consideration be given to the issuance of a strictly house organ publication for limited circulation among key workers and leaders throughout the country. Such a publication would ease the burden now developing upon The American Zionist and afford it more space for literary contributions.

PRESS AND PUBLICITY

The multifarious activities of the ZOA in the past year have been duly reflected in the coverage secured by this department in the metropolitan newspapers, Anglo-Jewish press and Yiddish dailies. Through the courtesy of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and such feature services as World Wide News Service and Seven Arts Feature Syndicate, special articles and news dispatches covering major ZOA events, as well as progress of our Israeli projects, have been released to the Anglo-Jewish press and also transmitted to all daily Hebrew papers in Israel.

The activities of the Press and Publicity Department also encompass the furnishing of photographs on Israel and Zionist events to newspapers, and background material to columnists and feature writers. Special articles on the ZOA have also been placed at frequent intervals in the Yiddish papers through our Yiddish section. ZOA news items of major import are being relayed to the general press throughout the country by the wire services: Associated Press, United Press and International News Service. Close contact with members of the editorial and reportorial staffs of many daily and weekly publications are being maintained by the director of the department.

PROGRAM AND EDUCATION

In its fourth year the Program and Education met unusually heavy demands for servicing.

The tense situation in Israel and the holding of the 24th World Zionist Congress brought many calls for materials and individualized assistance in programming and educational activity. The bulk of the requests dealt with life in Israel, political developments, Zionist history and biography, current issues and American Jewish affairs, in addition to the more routine topics relating to District programs and the observance of holidays and anniversaries.

The Department prepared a comprehensive source-book covering the history of past Zionist Congresses and the issues before the 24th Congress. A monthly discussion guide was instituted this season. Rabbi Sternstein's searching thesis on "American Zionism: Diagnosis and Prognosis" was published and widely distributed. Several of the ZOA Pamphlet Series were reprinted, and the first of a number of pending additions to the series was recently issued. This latest pamphlet, "A Record of American Zionism," has met with general favor as basic material for new members, study groups, and speakers.

A number of exhibit displays were prepared for Regions, Districts, and national conferences.

The servicing extended by the Department included many requests from outside organizations and individuals in connection with meetings, lectures, discussions, and research.

Program and Education has assisted in various phases of the work of other ZOA departments. Cooperation has been mutually close and cordial with the educational and cultural programs of the Jewish Agency, Theodor Herzl Institute, Israel Office of Information, American Zionist Council, American Zionist Youth Commission, Histruth Ivrit, Zionist Archives, and other related agencies.

SPEAKERS' AND ARTISTS' BUREAU

From the onset of the season, calls for volunteer speakers as well as for professional lecturers and artists came in extremely large volume and variety, setting a new high mark for recent years. The demand reached a peak in the Fall and again in the Spring with Israel's Anniversary, the World Zionist Organization, and the Conventions of Regions.

A substantial proportion of the bookings were for outside groups which habitually call upon the ZOA for such servicing. Nearly all of these requests, as well as those from our own groups, were expeditiously and successfully fulfilled.

By far the larger number of engagements were filled by our corps of volunteer speakers, many of whom gave of their time to a sacrificial degree. A debt of gratitude is owed them for service which is vital and irreplaceable. Among such activities were a number of tours by ZOA leaders, covering various sections of the country.

The Speakers' and Artists' Bureau is also indebted to staff members who responded to the need for speakers and discussants outside their departmental scope and beyond the demands of duty.

We have been successful in reactivating numerous outstanding personalities who several years back were very active in our ranks and have now agreed to serve with us again. The process of enlarging our corps of volunteer speakers continued unabated during the summer and is still being vigorously pursued.

The first logical point of our summer activity has now been consummated in the issuance of the Advance Section of our Speakers' Catalogue, which is being mailed out this week. It contains over 110 names. Within the space of a few weeks, we will be prepared to issue our first supplement and we are still pursuing contacts with some 50 or 60 more Zionist and Jewish leaders of substance and stature.

Since the volunteer corps of speakers is the backbone of our Organization, we shall pursue that until we have a reasonable basis upon which to plan the year's activities for the Districts and Regions.

Immediately after the Convention, we shall be able to concentrate a little more fully on the artists and entertainers who will be available to our Districts and Regions.

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 activity.

The Food for Israel Department has two main avenues of approach: 1) putting before the eyes of the general public the need for supplying Israel with extra food 2) the organization of a flow of food scrips and certificates. Many, many thousands of scrips have been sent during the past two 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 these social agencies and the name of the ZOA and the names of the individual donors have been widely acclaimed throughout 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

Israel Bond sales exceeded those of 1954 by 20%. The total Bond sales for 1955 amounted to \$42,300,000. The participation of the ZOA has considerably gained in strength as compared with the previous year.

In addition to having a number of independent Bond functions with results of between \$80,000 to \$350,000 each, the ZOA spearheaded a great number of community Bond functions throughout the United States. The following Districts deserve mention for special functions in the Fall of 1955: Houston, Texas, Richmond, Va., Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Max Bressler of Chicago singlehandedly enrolled 52 Trustees (\$10,000 purchases) in 1955 of whom 24 were ZOA members.

When late in 1955 Dr. Abba Hillel Silver assumed the Chairmanship of the Board of Governors of the Bond Organization, the ZOA joined enthusiastically in making the 1956 drive a great success. At the Inaugural Bond Conference in Miami Beach, February 5th, 1956, the ZOA had a fund raising Breakfast which yielded \$50,000 in sales made on the spot and \$300,000 in sales made before the Breakfast by our leaders present, most of whom held offices on behalf of the Israel Bond Organization. Our Cocktail Reception for Dr. Abba Hillel Silver in Miami Beach, on February 4th, was attended by some 200 of our fellow Zionists.

Mr. William H. Sylk of Philadelphia in Miami Beach, accepted the National Chairmanship for Israel Bonds on behalf of the ZOA which led to a further increase in ZOA Bond activity in 1956 all over the country. From February to March, the Zionist Districts were especially active.

As a result of an agreement between the Israel Bond Organization and the UJA which started its 1956 campaign in March, Bond activity was then slowed down. However, the campaign was revived at the end of May when in view of the serious political situation, the Israel Government sent special emissaries to attend an emergency meeting of the Board of Governors of the Israel Bond Organization with the view of obtaining an immediate loan of 30 million dollars to be covered by the sale of bonds. The month of June was, therefore, proclaimed as "Security Month" for Israel Bonds, and the ZOA stepped up its bond activity accordingly everywhere. The Zionist Districts in Chicago -- for a function in honor of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver -- in New York - for a Guardian Dinner -- and the Districts in Los Angeles and San Francisco should be mentioned here.

Outstanding ZOA Bond work was done in Harrisburg, Pa. at a dinner with Ambassador Abba Eban and Governor M. Leader, in Washington, D.C. at the Ambassador's Ball, in Pittsburgh, Pa. at a special ZOA Bond Dinner with Governor Leader, as well as in Minneapolis, Minn.

On June 26th the ZOA administration held a meeting with Regional Presidents and Regional Bond Chairmen of the New York Metropolitan Area together with the Director of the New York Division of the Bond Organization. It was decided to hold a city-wide dinner in December 1956 in honor of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver to celebrate his "50 Years Zionist Activity". This dinner will be preceded by ZOA Bond functions in all five boroughs. Likewise, a dinner in honor of Dr. Silver will take place in Los Angeles in October sponsored by the ZOA.

ZOA leaders took part in the High Holiday appeals everywhere.

We are engaged in preparing our ZOA participation -- in the Annual Bond Conference in Washington, D.C. on September 22nd and 23rd to launch the Campaign of the coming year.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership as of August 31st had reached 107,000, of which approximately 16,500 are new members. This represents a substantial gain in membership, and it is the first time since the establishment of the State of Israel that the ZOA has shown an increase in membership over the preceding year.

During the year we engaged in a number of important techniques that were productive. In several Regions, meetings were held to which Jewish leaders from communities in the surrounding areas were called to a confidential briefing on the Israel situation. They were eminently successful. Full synagogue membership from two communities, a large increase of membership in existing Districts, and a general upsurge of membership was experienced. A letter to delinquent members, going back as far as 1950, over the signature of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver produced well over 3,500 members. A similar letter over the signature of Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum produced over 2,000 members. At the end of July, we sent out a letter to all of those who had not renewed last year's membership and closed the membership card for the year 1955-56, together with a letter from President, Mortimer May. Close to a thousand rejoined.

Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum made a tour of the Southwest Region and in several cities where he made an appearance, membership went well over last year's figures.

The high note in the membership campaign was the consistent gains made by the Metropolitan area - - - the first time that this area has lead the country as a unit in membership. Every one of the Metropolitan Regions increased membership figures.

This was accomplished through the untiring inspiring effort on the part of Harold W. Carmely, Metropolitan Membership Chairman. The method used was a consistent effort at the beginning of the year for new members. It was through the acquisition of new members that the Metropolitan area was able to show a substantial gain over last year. This effort for new members was achieved by regular and frequent billing to the old members which brought excellent results.

The New York State Region is the top Region in the country showing a gain of 18% over last year's enrollment. Following in order are Western Pennsylvania, Westchester, Long Island, and Brooklyn.

The Pittsburgh District of the Western Pennsylvania Zionist Region did the most outstanding job of any District in the country, having enrolled 586 new members. This was accomplished under the presidency of Harry Menzer with J. B. Bernstein as Membership Chairman.

Returns on our Rosh Hashanah billing, which incidentally was the most comprehensive that we have had in years, are beginning to come in and from all indications are showing a rise over the comparative period of last year. Districts throughout the country are organizing membership campaigns and if we can keep up the momentum, we shall undoubtedly go forward during the ensuing year.

PERSONNEL & TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATION

The Technical & Administrative Department is responsible for keeping a smooth running Organization for day-to-day activities.

Included among this department's responsibilities are Personnel, Purchasing of all office supplies, printing and equipment, physical functioning of the office and technical arrangements for special events.

Our Membership Records Section which controls the statistics of the Organization, is charged with issuing membership and life membership cards, and controlling a master file list of all metropolitan area.

Our Service Section which handles all mimeographing and mailings, is kept busy constantly. We have economized considerably by eliminating many printing jobs of various reports, bulletins, etc., by processing them in our mimeograph department.

The Addressograph Section handles over 400,000 plates, controls Officers & Executive files throughout the country and is responsible for all billings throughout the year. The addressograph plates are kept by an intricate system of "tabs", which, when the automatic selector is set, eliminates duplicate mailings.

YOUNG ADULT ZIONISTS

Actually work was not started until the end of February. Our first national event was the educational conference, which was held in Atlantic City the end of April. This conference was held during the time that the World Zionist Congress was in session in Jerusalem. It was devoted entirely to the basic question - "What Is Zionism Today?" The second national event was a week-end institute in Philadelphia at which was created the national bodies of the Young Zionist Districts. In the last nine months 14 new young Zionist groups were formed throughout the country and beginnings have been made in other communities. The age level of the new groups is 18-25, and in these groups we were fortunate enough to attract graduates from Young Judea, the Habonim Movement, and others.

In the last six months, the young Zionists of the ZOA have become well-known and honored on the American young Zionist scene. Our voice has been heard in many conventions, such as those of S.Z.O., Jr. Hadassah, Young Judea, Young Mizrachi and Hillel Foundation. No one in this country can view the young Zionist picture without the young Zionist Districts and we are proud of it.

We also work closely with the Youth Department of the Jewish Agency. We received a place at the Jewish Leadership Agency in Jerusalem and we sent a young Zionist on a ZOA scholarship for a year to Israel. We are now planning with the Jewish Agency for a ZOA Summer Institute in Israel for which we are hoping to have 35-50 young people who will spend the eight weeks of the coming summer in Israel.

The Young Zionists have decided to undertake a main project in Israel - a Young Zionist Leadership Training Center in Kfar Silver - and at the present time are busily engaged in raising money for this activity. In addition, there are a number of other projects which they have instituted for Kfar Silver, such as, furnishing our Agricultural School in Israel with books, mechanical equipment and other necessary items.

Besides our summer institute, a plan is also being formulated to send a group of 15 people to Israel for a year period. The time will be used as follows: 3 months to study in the Hebrew University or the Bar Ilan University, 3 months for work on ZOA projects in Israel, (ZOA House and Kfar Silver). The remaining 6 months they will devote to their own profession. By this means we will introduce the State of Israel to these young Americans and also start an Aliyah group.

For the coming year three main seminars are being planned. The first one will commence on October 11th at the Herzl Institute and will be a leadership history seminar, consisting of eight weekly lectures. It will give the history of our people for the last fifty years in the United States, in Europe and in Israel. The second seminar is scheduled for the beginning of February and its topic will be - "How to Bring Zionism to the American Jewish Community". This seminar will be made up of seven weekly lectures. The third plan is for March 1957 to July 1957. Each month we will have a Hebrew week-end. Our young people will go out of the city for a whole week-end to learn the Hebrew language.

In the early part of May we will hold our young Zionist Conference to celebrate Israel's independence. In this connection we will review last year's activities and plan our program for the year 1957-58.

Even though it is a bit too early to discuss it, we are projecting an American Young Zionist Congress at the ZOA House in Tel Aviv. This will be prepared and led by young Zionists of the Zionist Organization of America, and will be an international young Zionist event to celebrate the tenth year of the State of Israel. Ideas for this event are being worked on both here and in Israel, and when the program is completed, it will be brought to your attention.

We also looked into the work of Young Judaea all over the country. We are looking to it as the most important source for membership for the Young Zionist Districts and the ZOA at large, and it is our desire to train the children of Young Judaea so they will be ready to take over when their time comes.

Jewish communities all over the country are begging for help in the Young Zionist field. ZOA is the only one capable of extending such help.

Another thing, we planned for some time a Young Zionist publication and the first issue of the Young Zionist Bulletin was issued a month ago and from now on will appear every two months. We hope to improve it as we go along, and we will endeavor to give our young people a platform to discuss important matters which are facing our Jewish communities in this country and to supply information to our groups throughout the country.

We are also issuing a Young Zionist News Letter every three weeks same way as the Organization Letter goes to ZOA leaders. This goes to all officers of the Young Zionist Districts, directing them in their programming and other activities, and to keep them posted on matters in between the time that the Bulletin appears.

SPECIAL EVENTS

This department was established about a year ago. Although its work is closely inter-related with many ZOA activities of other departments, it has its own independent character and approach. The department's aims are: 1) to stimulate good will for ZOA through utilizing special Zionist events 2) to establish ZOA as an important factor in community life through participation in local activity 3) to secure cooperation or affiliation with the ZOA of Jewish pro-Israel organizations, as fraternal orders, Landsmanshaften, etc.

During the period under review, the department made valuable contacts with a number of Jewish organizations to join forces with the ZOA in its public relations work or to cooperate on ZOA projects in Israel.

It succeeded in securing the cooperation of Brith Abraham Fraternal Order which is one of the oldest Jewish orders in the USA with a membership of 20,000 families. The 69th Annual Convention of the Order held last June calls for full cooperation with the ZOA and urges Brith Abraham branches and members to support our organization. It is also expected that a prominent delegation of Brith Abraham will participate at this Convention.

During the current year the Director of Special Events paid many visits to a number of Regions. Some visits were of a "trouble shooting" nature and then were connected with AZF campaigning and membership drive.

In the coming year the Department will 1) give its full assistance to any Region or District in arranging special Zionist events 2) endeavor to enlist the support for ZOA a number of Jewish fraternal and social organizations with which contact was already made. It is hoped that many such organizations and institutions with pro-Israel tendencies will be brought closer to us and thus create a stronger liaison with ZOA and for what it stands.

SHEKEL

The first operations of the Shekel Department, were covered in the last annual report. They included the distribution of Shekel booklets to every ZOA member, the appointment of Regional and District Shekel Chairmen and briefing sessions on the importance of the Shekel held at a number of Area Conferences called by the World Zionist Affairs Department.

The department utilized the current Shekel year to use the Campaign not only for the sale of Shkalim, but also to acquaint our Districts and the general Jewish public with the problems of the 24th Zionist Congress.

A number of successful functions on Regional or District levels were held. Every opportunity was used for public sale.

The department noted with satisfaction the encouraging response of those participants at such meetings when matters related to World Zionist and General Zionist issues were discussed.

Despite the very hot summer season of 1955 the Shekel activities were conducted in full swing. Close contact was maintained with the ZOA leadership. Resorts in the New York State area particularly, were engaged in selling Shkalim to their guests. On the eve of the High Holidays the Rabbis in the Metropolitan area were approached to stimulate the Shekel Campaign. Many fraternal and social organizations adopted resolutions to sell the ZOA Shekel including Brith Abraham, United Roumanian Jews, etc.

A new venture undertaken by the Shekel Department was the so-called "Shekel Dollar Campaign". The entire membership was asked to sell a Shekel to a friend or relative. The Shekel Campaign, in comparison with Shekel Campaigns of other Zionist organizations in this country, was the most intensive. The figure of Shkalim sold to non-ZOA members was quite encouraging and topped by many thousands the figure of Shkalim sold to non-members in the year 1949-50.

The replica of the Bar Kochba Shekel or the tie clip and cuff links made from this replica, which were given as awards to good Shekel workers, had great public relations value.

The Shekel Drive, most vigorous in the New York Metropolitan area, was also encouraging in our Regions throughout the country. It was connected with an adequate distribution of Shekel literature and propaganda material.

HEBREW CULTURE

The Hebrew Language and Culture Department which was inaugurated just a year ago is proud to report that its endeavors to promote the Hebrew Language and Hebrew Culture among the members of the Zionist Organization of America have been marked by considerable success.

These were the highlights of the Hebrew Department's activities and services in the first year of its existence: 1) A Hebrew Course on the Air, presented over the New York Radio Station WLIB every Sunday afternoon; 2) The issuance of mimeographed Hebrew lessons; and 3) Tape Recordings of our Hebrew lessons as they went on the air. 4) A Monthly Series of Literary Forums devoted to the History of Hebrew Literature. 5) A weekly Hebrew Course, with audio-visual facilities for members of the ZOA Staff.

The Hebrew Department completed its first Hebrew course on the air. It consisted of 21 lessons in colloquial Hebrew for beginners. It was presented over Radio Station WLIB in a 15-minute program every Sunday afternoon. It was hailed by major Jewish and Zionist organizations in this area as a successful method of promoting the dissemination of the Hebrew language among American Jews.

In supplementing the weekly broadcasts, the Hebrew Department issued, regularly, mimeographed copies of the Hebrew lessons as they went on the air. Mimeographed lessons have been sent to foreign countries such as the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

Another important service that has been made available by the Hebrew Department is the tape recordings of our broadcasts. The tape recordings can be utilized by ZOA Districts and Regions outside the New York Metropolitan area for broadcasting a Hebrew program of their own over their local radio station, as well as for group instruction in a classroom with a recorder. Arrangements have been made for the resumption of the Hebrew Course on the Air after the Jewish Holy Days.

In its endeavors to familiarize large groups of the ZOA membership with Hebrew literature and Hebrew cultural life, the Hebrew Department instituted a monthly series of Literary Forums devoted to the History of Hebrew literature. These Forums that were conducted in English revealed a widespread interest on the part of the ZOA rank and file in programs devoted to topics of Jewish History and Hebrew Literature and Culture. The five Forums held in the past season, attracted a large audience.

The report would not be complete without mentioning the weekly Hebrew Course for members of the ZOA Staff, which was organized by the Hebrew Department. The Course, with audio-visual facilities, was conducted, to the delight of the students, by Dr. David Weinstein, of the Hebrew Teachers' College, Boston, and the Graduate School of Education, Harvard University.

TOURISM

The steady development of the activities of the National Tourist Department proved fully the need for a strong promotion of tourism to Israel. Since its inception in 1953, the Tourist Department established itself as a permanent instrument for promotion and development of the tourism for American Jews, to Israel. Our basic approach of regarding tourism as one of the most powerful sources of cultural and economic strength for the young State of Israel has been proven to be correct. The slogan of our tourist activities, "A Zionist who visited Israel is a better and more active Zionist" was accepted throughout the entire country as the stimulating factor in tourist activities of Regions and Districts. Every Zionist or every Jew, for that matter, who went to Israel comes back strengthened in his Zionist convictions.

The Tourist Department was instrumental in organizing group and individual tours from the United States to Israel, relating its activities with the enthusiasm created by the 24th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem. Promotion efforts are constantly undertaken by the National Tourist Department through circulars, folders, dissemination of information regarding expanding tourist facilities within Israel to engrain in the minds of our membership of the need for a personal visit in Israel. The ZOA anchored its tourist program to the endeavors for strengthening the ties between the creative life in Israel and the activities of our Districts and membership.

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 established 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 and the two national carriers of Israel: El Al Airlines and ZIM-Shoham Steamship Lines.

We urge and expect all Districts and members of the ZOA to organize their tours through our own ZOA facilities. We are planning for the coming year, several big undertakings which will coincide with religious holidays and national festivals in Israel.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all individuals, officers and members of Regions and Districts who have helped strengthen the program and activities of ZOA Tourism efforts.

THE UNITED NATIONS

The year in review, the first in which ZOA has been accredited as a Non-Governmental Organization to the U.N., was one of marked accomplishment for us at international headquarters. Our National U.N. Affairs Committee was initiated under the chairmanship of Moses Schonfeld, at our last convention.

We actually provide a two-way channel between the United Nations and our membership.

Background information and review of U.N. projects is provided regularly to the ZOA representative by U.N. officials. We have been represented at Briefing Conferences with the President of the Assembly, heads of Specialized Agencies, and members of the Secretariat. Among members of the United States Mission to the U.N., with whom our representative has conferred are the Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge, Permanent head of the Delegation; the Hon. Harold E. Stassen, Presidential Assistant on Disarmament; Ambassador James J. Wadsworth, Deputy U.S. Representative; Senator Pastore, R.I.; and U.S. Ambassadors from Lebanon and Switzerland. The ZOA view-point has been expressed on World Calendar Reform, Slavery, Human Rights, the Arab Refugees, Disarmament, Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy and Technical Assistance for undeveloped countries.

The friendliest relations have been maintained with members of the Israel Delegation to the U.N. During the General Assembly ZOA leaders attended a special luncheon conference, where they obtained first-hand information about issues affecting Israel and the United States. Dr. Frank P. Graham, U.N. Mediator for India and Pakistan and Mr. Mordecai Kidron, Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel at the U.N. were the speakers.

The problems and conflicts of the Middle East, evoked a special interest in our position by other organizations. Our attitude has been explained with restraint and consideration. Yet we never fail to bring home our misgivings - which we emphasized in many forms, in respect to the danger to world peace arising from Egyptian re-armament.

Our U.N. activities are reported regularly to the NAC sessions, and our U.N. representative has addressed meetings in many parts of the country. In the metropolitan area, numerous meetings have been devoted to the U.N.

Zionist individuals and groups, from all parts of the country, make a visit to the U.N. headquarters on the East River a highlight of their N.Y. visit. We have made tickets available for our fellow Zionists to attend meetings, arranged for tours through the buildings, and obtained documents and reports for them on U.N. activities.

ZOA's role, as a Non-Governmental Organization to the United Nations, offers greater scope for our understanding of world problems, and our helping to contribute towards their solution.

WORLD ZIONIST AFFAIRS

Our participation in the 24th Zionist Congress in Jerusalem occupied most of the attention of the World Zionist Affairs Department.

ZOA was represented at the Congress by the largest contingent in its history.

The ZOA was represented by 31 delegates and all alternates participated in Congress proceedings as full fledged delegates, through substitution.

29 members of the ZOA delegation were elected to Congress committees. The delegation elected a Steering Committee headed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann with Leon Ilutovich as secretary of the Committee.

In a major effort to preserve unity in General Zionist ranks throughout the world, the ZOA, in cooperation with the General Zionists Organization in Israel, was instrumental in establishing the Unity Bloc within the World Confederation of General Zionists at the Congress. The Bloc included, in addition to our own delegation, General Zionist delegates from Israel, Europe, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and almost all delegates from Latin-America. The solid bloc can be ascribed to our continuous friendly cooperation with General Zionist organizations in South America and our assistance given them in organizing the Latin-American Confederation of General Zionists with a central office in Buenos Aires, formed at their first continental conference in Santiago, Chile in September, 1954.

The Unity Bloc under our leadership made unremitting efforts aimed at an ultimate unification of the General Zionist and Progressive parties in Israel, as a pre-requisite for General Zionist unity in the Diaspora. Unfortunately, the Progressives refused. Under the circumstances, it became necessary to reorganize the World Confederation. Any other formula would have inevitably brought about a final split and the formation of two world confederations.

According to the resolutions overwhelmingly adopted by the Confederation's conference in Jerusalem, on May 7, the Confederation's powers are restricted to the following two functions: a) to bring together delegates of its component organizations at Zionist Congresses and Actions Committee meetings, and b) to obtain and allocate the funds of the KMK (Constructive Enterprises Fund of the Confederation).

The new agreement of reorganization provides that "each Zionist party or organization affiliated with the Confederation may be linked with like-minded organizations in any form it decides." And also stipulates that "all Zionist parties or organizations belongings to the Confederation shall be free to carry on their own activities and express themselves in writing or orally, in their own name, in their countries or elsewhere."

The Confederation accepted the long standing demand of the ZOA for an annual allocation for ZOA projects and activities in Israel, which will be deducted effective January 1, 1957, from funds obtained by the KMK in the United States. The balance of KMK funds will be equally divided between the General Zionist and Progressive parties in Israel.

The Confederation elected an Administrative Committee of 12 members. The 6 members of the Unity Bloc on the committee are Dr. Emanuel Neumann and Jacques Torczyner (U.S.A.), Dr. Abraham Stupp and Joseph Serlin (Israel), Leon Dultzin (Latin-America) and Jacques Orfus (France).

Dr. Emanuel Neumann was re-elected member of the American Section of the Jewish Agency Executive and will alternate as chairman of the Executive in New York with the representative of Hadassah.

The following ZOA members were elected members of the Zionist Actions Committee: Mortimer May, Abraham Goodman, Dr. Harris J. Levine, Rabbi Irving Miller, Jacques Torczyner, Abraham A. Redelheim. Deputy-members of the Actions Committee are: Max Bressler, William K. Dorfman, Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum, Dr. Max Nussbaum, Dr. Morton J. Robbins and Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum. As virilists were elected Dr. Samuel Margoshes and Dr. I. Schwarzbart. Jacques Torczyner was elected member of the Actions Committee Presidium and he, together with Dr. Harris J. Levine, are members of the small Actions Committee.

During Congress preparations, the World Zionist Affairs Department supervised the ZOA Shekel Campaign.

The day to day activities of the World Zionist Affairs Department through the year covered its usual varied areas of activities, with General Zionist organizations in over 40 countries, with the General Zionists Organization in Israel, with the World Confederation of General Zionists and World Zionist affairs activities in our own ZOA constituencies; it handled the exchange of material and information and responded to numerous requests for interpretation of Zionist policies in America and in the world movement. It provided information for the guidance of our representatives on the Executive of the World Confederation and in the Actions Committee.

The Department assisted in scheduling visits of General Zionist leaders in a number of countries and was host to many Zionist leaders from abroad in New York. Among them were Joseph Saphir, S. Z. Abramov, Dr. Reuven Katznelson and others. The Department distributes English, Hebrew and Yiddish material received from Zionist organizations in other countries and from the World Zionist Executive in Jerusalem.

The Zionist Information Service (ZINS) Weekly News Bulletin is about to complete its 8th year of publication. It is issued regularly in English, Yiddish and Spanish and its influence helped to promote good will for our organization throughout the world. ZINS has served 60 Jewish and Zionist publications in 30 countries and it is being mailed to 45 national Zionist organizations abroad and to their key leaders. Its favorable reception is best proved by the fact that the bulletin is reproduced already by three Zionist organizations abroad, namely, in Brazil, Mexico and Peru.

All Regions appointed their Regional World Zionist Affairs chairmen and some 200 Districts designated their chairmen who simultaneously served as Shekel chairmen at the time of the campaign.

Mr. Jacques Torczyner served as chairman of the National Committee on World Zionist Affairs, an office he so ably held during the past four years.

ZOA ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL

The Department for ZOA Activities administers the ZOA Daniel Frisch House in Tel Aviv and of the Agricultural Training Institute Kfar Silver.

These are the only projects in Israel, according to National Convention resolutions, recognized and approved by the ZOA.

Expansion of our work in Israel has made it necessary for Leon Ilutovich, ZOA assistant executive director, who is in charge of this department, to spend two months in Israel a year ago to carry through a fundamental reorganization of the ZOA House and to complete preparations for the opening of Kfar Silver.

The ZOA House started operations three years ago. Kfar Silver is only one year old. But already after this relatively short time our two projects have left their imprint upon the cultural life of Israel and they immeasurably raised the standing and prestige of the ZOA in the eyes of the Israeli public on one hand and of the movement in America on the other.

Official recognition of the constructive services rendered by the ZOA House in Tel Aviv and Kfar Silver was expressed in the allocations recommended for our two projects by the State Department out of the U.S. appropriation made for the support of cultural institutions in Israel yet to be approved by Congress. The allocations were announced as a result of a mission to Israel in behalf of the State Department by Mr. Bernard Katzen.

K F A R S I L V E R

A comprehensive survey of the Agricultural Training Institute Kfar Silver can be found in the enclosed new pamphlet "Young Plants in the Negev" published by this department two weeks ago. Please note the blue loose sheet enclosed with the pamphlet, which lists all expenditures required for the completion of construction and furnishing of Kfar Silver so that it may reach its ultimate goal of 320 students.

In addition to the details given in the Kfar Silver pamphlet, let us add the following. Kfar Silver was opened to the first group of 75 students early in October, 1955. Its official dedication took place with Dr. Silver's participation last March 29. The ZOA delegation to the 24th Zionist Congress was guest of Kfar Silver in April when the cornerstone was laid for the Dr. Emanuel Neumann Cultural House to be constructed out of a contribution by Mr. Jack Verdi. Another major contribution towards the development of Kfar Silver was pledged by Mr. Maxwell Abbell of Chicago, Illinois, for the building of a synagogue.

Although still in its initial stages, Kfar Silver is an ambitious undertaking and a pioneering effort. The future development of Kfar Silver may perhaps be best illustrated by the following figures:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Students</u>	<u>Staff</u>
1955-56	75	25
1956-57	115	30
1957-58	240	30
1958-59	320	38

Kfar Silver is under the supervision of a Curatorium (Board of Directors) appointed by the ZOA in cooperation with the General Zionists Organization in Israel. The chairman of the Board is Mr. Chaim Danieli of Tel Aviv. The present headmaster of the school is Mr. Arie Kotzer.

ZOA DANIEL FRISCH HOUSE

The preceding year witnessed the most spectacular development in the activities of the reorganized ZOA House in Tel Aviv under the able direction given to the House by Mr. Elias M. Epstein, its director.

More than 400,000 attendances were recorded in diversified events held at the ZOA House last year that set a record in programming for the State of Israel.

ZOA House activities attracted 4,000 tourists, most of them Americans, as well as Israelis of all walks of life. It is interesting to note the attendance at ZOA House programs of American students and youth from other lands as well as U.S. servicemen from warships on good will visits, for whom special receptions were arranged.

61 concerts of classical and chamber music and recitals of Israeli and visiting American artists were held at the House, which featured the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and conductors from abroad. In all, 71,000 persons attended the "live" concerts in the spacious ZOA House Garden, dedicated in honor of Dr. Emanuel Neumann. 15,000 participants attended 32 lectures with a wide range of subjects of both Israel and international interest. The series of lectures on American history, as well as another series on "America in the Eyes of an Israeli," deserves special mention. Distinguished Americans who spoke at the ZOA House during the past year were Ambassador Edward B. Lawson; Dr. Lincoln Hale, head of USOM; Dr. Thomas McGrail and many others. Regular Saturday evening plays drew an estimated 211,000 persons. Special American and Israeli holidays attracted the participation of more than 26,000 people. Only recently 1,000 attended the Fourth of July celebration and a similar number the American Labor Day celebration, first introduced by the ZOA House in Israel as typical of our policy for observing U.S. national holidays to acquaint the Israel community with them.

Last year the House introduced special symposiums dealing with life and events in the American Jewish community and the Diaspora. Particularly attracting large audiences were forums featuring U.S. Reform, Orthodox and Conservative rabbis. These events were supplemented by a wide range of exhibits of works of American and Israeli artists, including the now famous in Israel exhibit of 300 American contemporary prints; the presentation of the Atomic Energy Library by the U.S. to the Israel government; briefing sessions for American specialists on assignments in Israel; opening of the Social and Cultural Club conducted in English for the discussion of current political and economic affairs; the organization of several youth

groups - Hebrew and English speaking; film clubs; showing of American documentaries; Oneg Shabbat for tourists; the introduction of typical American folk dances in Israel, meetings of various organizations like the American-Israel Friendship League; conventions; international congresses like the Mediterranean Citrus Congress; Hebrew ulpan for immigrants from English speaking countries and English classes for Israelis. This and many other activities too numerous to list in this short report keep the ZOA House busy from early morning till late at night.

The ZOA House Tourist Service, in cooperation with the Israel Government Tourist Corporation, is planning special receptions and events for foreign visitors. High holiday services attract tourists practically from all over the world. The newly introduced home hospitality plan that enables foreign visitors to meet their counterparts in Israeli homes: teachers meet teachers; lawyers get acquainted with lawyers, etc.

A valuable addition to the ZOA House was the establishment of the Abraham Goldstein Library, contributed by the ZOA Connecticut Region. The library is temporarily located in a small room on the ground floor of the House and will eventually occupy a whole wing in a beautiful hall on the second floor.

During the last Zionist Congress in April, in the presence of the ZOA Congress delegation, New York Jewry Hall was officially dedicated and a plaque was unveiled indicating the contribution towards this hall of the five ZOA Regions in Metropolitan New York. At the same time a large beautiful wall-size Honor Roll was unveiled, listing ZOA Regions, Districts and individuals who contributed towards the construction of the House.

Activities at the ZOA House are supervised by a Management Committee appointed by the House chairman in New York. The Volunteer Management Committee is 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.

PROMOTION OF ZOA PROJECTS ON THE AMERICAN SCENE

The Department for ZOA Activities in Israel made considerable progress in providing our Regions and Districts throughout the country with new and up to date promotion material and literature to enable our membership to acquaint the American Jewish community with our activities in Israel.

We published an attractive two-color pamphlet "America in Israel"; the ZOA House Headlines is a monthly edition listing current events and activities at the House; a monthly list of U.S. Visitors to the ZOA House is issued regularly and sent to all ZOA Regions; the department prepared large selections of up to date ZOA House and Kfar Silver photos and made available to our Districts and Regions a wealth of background material for articles, news items and stories on both projects; a system of press releases on visiting Americans sent directly from the ZOA House to their home town newspapers was instituted.

The department has prepared the first ZOA color film on our two projects to be shown for the first time at this Convention. In addition, a ZOA House color film-strip consisting of about 40 slides will be ready shortly.

The ZOA Daniel Frisch House and Kfar Silver are both beneficiaries of the American Zionist Fund (AZF), which enables us to carry on these activities and invest in construction and expansion, particularly of Kfar Silver.

Mr. Abraham Goodman is the American chairman of the ZOA House in Tel Aviv.

Dr. Harris J. Levine and Mr. Moses Torczyner are chairman and vice-chairman respectively for ZOA Activities in Israel concerned with all aspects of our Kfar Silver project.

AMERICAN ZIONIST YOUTH COMMISSION

This has been a year of significant progress in our Zionist Youth Program.

The number of young people actively affiliated with Young Judaea more than doubles that of all the other Zionist youth movements combined. This is a heart-warming indication of the calibre and receptivity of the program. Increasing thousands of young people are being informed and imbued with Zionist knowledge, spirit, and activated dedication.

Noteworthy highlights along the road of "building our Zionist future "during the year, are as follows:

1) Year-in-Israel Course

In addition to the stabilized Summer-in-Israel programs for seniors and leaders, a new horizon was opened by the Commission - an entire year of work, study, living in Israel. The pilot group, 16 high school graduates, embark October 5th on this superb Zionist adventure.

2) Camp Herzl

Recognizing the urgent necessity of developing young Zionist leaders, a camp leadership program was established this summer with the wonderful co-operation of Camp Herzl, in Wisconsin. Some 40 young leaders and prospective leaders from the Mid-west and West lived and learned Zionist-centered Judaism, and the techniques of leadership. Together with Tell Yehudah, the National Young Judaea camp in the east, the Summer-in-Israel courses, local commission camps, we now have a thriving summer Zionist program both across the land and in Israel.

3) Hugel Halutzi

No Zionist educational effort is worthy of the term unless there is a solid core of Israel orientated study and activity. During this year, hundreds of our young people, in communities from Texas to New England, have been organized into Hugel Halutzi, where they delve deeply into every aspect of Israel, and prepare to consider intelligently the question of their personal participation in the Jewish State. During the summer, a special Machaneh Avodah (tent camp) was conducted on the site of Tel-Yehudah, where these dedicated young people worked and studied. So pressing was the demand that an extra session was added.

4) National Israeli Dance Award

Zionism being a way of life, well rounded with recreational and social aspects, as well as cultural pursuit, meetings and projects, our young people are enthusiastic exponents of the Israeli arts. In the annual American Zionist Youth Council Dance Festival, Young Judaea was awarded First Prize in competition with all other youth movements.

These highlights, in addition to the regular program of publications, institutes, Israel projects, leadership training activity, are made possible by the broad-visioned sponsorship of the ZOA, in partnership with Hadassah. While it is in some respects a long range investment- as is true of all youth education - the ZOA recognizes that if we are to have an intelligently informed, actively identified Zionist movement tomorrow, we must build it today, in the minds and hearts of our children. For the faith and resources made available now, we shall reap a rich harvest for our youth, the Zionist movement and our people.

B'NAI ZION

Bnai Zion concluded its 47th annual Convention last June, at which reports were received of record accomplishments in every field of activity, including both the Israeli and American scene.

The continued forward march was made possible by the harmony which prevailed in our Administration, under the devoted leadership of our Nassi, Justice Arthur Markewich, and his successor, Nathaniel S. Rothenberg. By their own splendid example of true democratic leadership, they have sparked the membership into greater accomplishments in the service of our common cause.

The Bnai Zion delegation to the World Zionist Congress, headed by our past Nassi and President of the Jewish National Fund of America, Dr. Harris J. Levine, was greatly instrumental in the formulation of the program that was adopted, especially as it relates to the continuation of the Jewish National Fund as a most beloved institution of the Jewish people.

We have dedicated the new Community Center in the Kfar Bnai Zion, a medical clinic in Hadera and a Community Center in Talmei Zvi. In addition thereto, arrangements were made for the establishment of a Ceramics Institute in Ein Hod, the artists colony, in memory of Minette Fisher. These are but a few of the projects that we finalized through the efforts of our Bnai Zion Foundation, under the able Chairmanship of Benjamin E. Gordon.

The Women's Division of Bnai Zion, under the excellent leadership of its Chairman, Dorothy S. Levine, continued to be one of the most vital factors in our fund raising activities.

The Membership and Insurance progress in Bnai Zion continues to show a net increase and the report at the Convention showed a membership of 6,200 with an insurance in force of \$4,300,000. During the year five new Chapters were organized, bringing the total to 82 groups throughout the country.

The outstanding event of the past year was our annual Order Day Dinner, which was tendered in honor of the Attorney General of the State of New York, Hon. Jacob K. Javits. The proceeds of this dinner were allocated to the Jewish National Fund for the planting of a forest bearing his name.

The newly elected officers at the Convention were:

Nathaniel S. Rothenberg	Nassi-Grandmaster
Benjamin E. Gordon	Sgan-Dep. Grand Master
Norman G. Levine	Sgan-Dep. Grand Master
Dr. Sidney Marks	Sgan-Dep. Grand Master
Hon. Abraham J. Multer	Sgan-Dep. Grand Master
Herman Z. Quittman	Mazkir - Grand Secretary
Dr. Jacob I. Steinberg	Gizbor-Grand Treasurer
Rudolph Edelson	Assoc. Grand Treasurer
Dr. Harris J. Levine	Chief Medical Examiner
Hyman J. Fliegel	Counsel
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, working through 400 local Councils, conducted an extensive educational and public relations program during the past year. The Council, with Rabbi Irving Miller as Chairman and Rabbi Jerome Unger as Executive Director, operates five regional offices in New England, the South, Midwest and West.

The Council cooperated with Town Hall in bringing a mission of eight prominent Israelis for a successful tour of 40 key American cities. In addition, 50 AZC-sponsored speakers made some 1,500 appearances before non-Jewish civic, university and other groups in 200 communities.

In an extensive Eighth Anniversary program AZC publicized Israel's achievements through a gala outdoor festival in Central Park, New York City, mass celebrations in many communities, hundreds of radio and TV programs, local newspaper stories and picture spreads and the distribution of the blue and white cornflower on the streets of New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago.

Through the publication and distribution of numerous pamphlets, fact sheets and special chairmen memoranda the Council has carried its message to civic leaders, churchmen, newspaper editors, radio and TV commentators, and other molders of public opinion.

The AZC's Youth Department sponsors an active Student Zionist Organization, with chapters on more than thirty campuses. This summer, at its Camp Hatzofeh, the Youth Department conducted an Ulpan, designed to equip college students and high school graduates with a workable knowledge of Hebrew. It also cooperated with the New York Board of Education in sending an interdenominational group of six high school students for a study tour of Israel.

Continued support has been given the American Christian Palestine Committee, which through publications, speakers and local groups, renders invaluable service among the Christian communities.

Other AZC projects include a mass rally in Madison Square Garden calling for defensive arms for Israel, a series of radio programs highlighting the relationship between the Bible and Israel today, a memorial meeting for Theodor Herzl and Chaim Nachman Bialik, and several regional conferences.

UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL

In the year since the last ZOA convention, two political events occurred which had a decisive effect upon the rescue and resettlement program of the UIA and its constituent agencies in Israel: Egypt's large-scale purchase of Communist arms and the ban on organized Jewish emigration of Jews from Morocco.

Prior to the Egyptian arms deal, the Government of Israel through a series of long-term loans participated in some phases of the UIA agencies' rehabilitation work. Under the pressure of growing military expenditures, the participation had to be drastically reduced and the immigrant housing scheme which in 1954 had been the sole financial responsibility of the Israel Treasury must again be subsidized out of philanthropic funds.

While the Israel Government was forced to reduce its contribution to the rescue and rehabilitation work of the UIA agencies, political developments in

Morocco brought a steep rise in the immigration rate and all stages of the re-settlement program had to be accelerated. Caught between diminishing income and an unexpected need for increased services, the UIA agencies appealed to American Jewry and in November 1955 the United Jewish Appeal launched its campaign for a \$25,000,000 Special Survival Fund to speed up the tempo of emigration from North Africa. With the help of this Special Fund, about 45,000 Moroccan immigrants arrived in Israel during the last year, while an additional 70,000 who had already registered with the Jewish Agency's immigration offices in Morocco by June 11, 1956 were caught by the emigration deadline. If, as it is hoped, current negotiations will lead to a relaxation of the restrictions now in effect, the UIA agencies in Israel must be prepared to receive a maximum of immigrants in a minimum of time regardless of existing facilities.

A most encouraging aspect of the immigration picture during the past year, was the increasing number of newcomers from behind the Iron Curtain. It is yet too early to predict the extent to which this trend will continue to develop, but we know from past experience that we must be prepared in advance with adequate resources to take full advantage of any temporary situation which permits our fellow Jews to emigrate. Just as the success of the Special Fund enabled us to move tens of thousands of Moroccan Jews while there was still time, we must be ready to exploit similar opportunities whenever and wherever they arise, although it may not be prudent to propagandize certain pending developments in this area at this particular time.

The political events of the past year highlight the obstacles which confront the UIA agencies in their efforts to achieve a speedy and productive integration of the newcomers. On the one hand, immigration schedules are determined by unpredictable changes in the migration policies of foreign governments. On the other hand, the economic development of Israel and her capacity to absorb new arrivals on the labor market often depends on the extent to which public funds can be used for constructive rather than military purposes, a balancing of priorities in which the ambitions of Col. Nasser and other Arab leaders must be taken into consideration at all times.

In view of these factors which make long-range planning extremely difficult, the continuation of the 'ship-to-settlement' program during the past year has been a major achievement. This program is based on the coordination of all reception and resettlement activities, including the registration of immigrants aboard ship, the allocation of places of settlement prior to arrival, the availability of homes, food and household goods and of employment opportunities for the newcomers. By the middle of 1956, less than 50,000 immigrants or 6 percent of all those who had arrived since May 1948, were left in the primitive transit accommodations of the maabaroth.

The absorption of the newcomers during the past year was greatly facilitated by two important events in the field of agricultural development: the opening of the Yarkon-Negev pipeline and the completion of the first stage of 'Operation Lahish'.

The Yarkon-Negev line, Israel's most ambitious irrigation project to date, was built at a cost of \$42,000,000 of which more than 60 percent was provided by the UIA agencies on behalf of the lines major customers - the new villages in the Northern Negev. Currently, about one-third of the UIA agencies' budget for agricultural settlement is spent on a variety of local and regional irrigation projects.

The second major undertaking this year was the opening of the deserted, semi-arid Lahish district in the Northern Negev to a new form of 'regional settlement'.

Planned to eliminate bottlenecks encountered in previous development schemes, Operation Lahish is based on an integrated pattern of agricultural and industrial activity; designed to stabilize employment opportunities and provide a greater measure of social, educational and cultural services for the newcomers. Twenty-seven villages with 4,000 settlers as well as the beginnings of a semi-urban industrial center have already been set up in the area.

Within the UIA agencies program of agricultural settlement, special attention is being given to the needs of Israel's more than 300 exposed border villages, of which over 200 are post-statehood settlements. Searchlights, roads, fences, telephones, shelters and other passive security measures are being provided to as many isolated points as can be serviced with available funds. Last year, the UIA agencies spent close to \$10,000,000 on these activities and a similar sum will have to be provided in the near future.

These few highlights of the UIA agencies' activities during the past 12 months indicate the scope of the responsibilities and problems which have to be faced. Yet they cover only part of the agencies' program and account for only about half of their \$123,000,000 budget. The consolidation of more than 400 settlements - about 60 percent of Israel's agricultural population is still dependent on the UIA agencies in one form or other - the rehabilitation of the handicapped, the training of thousands of immigrant youth, these are long-range projects which require years of patient sustained effort and financial support. A half-acre of vegetables added to a small-holder's farm, a few yards of irrigation pipe, a set of tools for a handicapped artisan, a pair of shoes for an immigrant child, these are details too numerous to list. Yet it is through such details that human lives are salvaged and rebuilt and a new future is fashioned and safeguarded.

The activities of the UIA in the United States are designed to interpret the highlights as well as the daily details of the rescue, rehabilitation and resettlement program in Israel and to achieve the broadest possible mobilization for the nationwide UJA campaign through which they are financed. The UIA acts not only as a source of information and general campaign aid, but also as representative of the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency - the UIA's constituent bodies in Israel - and of all Zionist parties within the UJA. During the past year, UIA operations were concentrated on achieving maximum support for the UJA's \$25,000,000 Special Survival Fund.

To implement its campaign of information, education and mobilization for UJA, the UIA in the United States conducts a variegated program including the intensive use of community services, publicity and promotional material, films, and general information.

The UIA's film and community service department offers the largest film file in the Zionist fund-raising field. The department arranges approximately 1,000 bookings a month for welfare funds, schools, organizations, synagogues and other groups. Its operations cover some 2,500 cities in 48 states and in Alaska, Hawaii, Japan and other foreign countries.

The publicity department 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 file is used extensively by welfare funds and other organizations throughout the country. The UIA's monthly magazine 'fotofacts' has a circulation of over 65,000.

Supplementing the work of the publicity department, the research department serves as information center for facts and figures concerning the Jewish Agency's rehabilitation and immigration program and is widely used by speakers, newspapermen and students.

As National Chairman of the United Israel Appeal, I wish to express my profound appreciation to ZOA President, Mortimer May, ZOA Secretary, Dr. Sidney Marks, and to the administrative staff and members of the ZOA for supporting the programs of the United Israel Appeal agencies, and thus contributing to the upbuilding and preservation of the State of Israel through the United Jewish Appeal.

Dewey D. Stone
National Chairman

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

The past year, with the attention of the Zionist world focused on the 24th World Zionist Congress and its reappraisal of all Zionist work in the last five years, was highlighted by a great Congress debate on the program and achievements of the Jewish National Fund, culminating in a resolution expressing high praise for the role the JNF has played in the upbuilding of the Jewish Homeland and endorsing the continuation of the present autonomy of the Keren Kayemeth. "In the period from Congress to Congress", reads the resolution unanimously adopted by the 24th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem, "the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael made great strides in developing the soil and redeeming the wastes, reclaiming, afforesting and draining extended areas -- including the gigantic Huleh Development Scheme -- for the absorption of thousands of new immigrants in productive agricultural work, benefiting the nation and the State as a whole." The stand of the Congress was further expressed in a passage of the resolution saying: "The Congress calls upon the Zionist Movement and all central and local bodies to extend to the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael the fullest assistance in its raising of funds, to aid it in the fulfillment of its vital tasks of implementing the principle of national land ownership, development of the soil and Zionist education of young and old."

In the United States, the Jewish National Fund has added one more page to its growing book of achievements in the field of fund-raising for the redemption and reclamation of the Jewish soil in Israel, the Zionist education of the Jewish masses, and the training of our Jewish youth in the fulfillment of its duties to the Jewish Homeland. The past year witnessed a deepening of the Zionist consciousness of the masses, assiduously cultivated by the Jewish National Fund during more than fifty years of its

existence. This consciousness registered particularly in the increased number of wills and bequests by American Jews with the Jewish National Fund as the beneficiary. The report of the Foundation for 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 and bequests, shows a constant increase, bringing the total of wills and bequests to close to \$8,000,000.

There has been a general growth of our activities and influence which was reflected in an increase of close to \$200,000, in the course of the last year. Whereas the income from traditional collections for the eleven months of 1954 amounted to \$1,971,828, the income for the corresponding period in 1955-56 reached the sum of \$2,145,522.

We are bending all our efforts to further increase this sum in the coming year. By action of the Board of Directors, the month of November, 1956, was proclaimed "JNF Month". The purpose of the JNF Month, as defined, is "to focus nation-wide attention on the achievements of the Jewish National Fund in building the Land of Israel and strengthening its security; to deepen JNF sentiments among the masses of the Jewish people in America; to serve as a powerful stimulus to JNF leaders and workers throughout the United States for an intensified efforts in behalf of the JNF; and to mobilize the broadest possible support for the Jewish National Fund through the widest possible use of the traditional JNF methods." Special efforts will be made to distribute half a million JNF Blue-White Boxes in the course of the JNF Month. The JNF Month will be launched nationally by a special Mobilization Conference which will take place on Friday, November 9th through Sunday, November 11th and which will map out the proceedings of the JNF Month throughout the country. Joseph Weitz, Chief of the Colonization and Afforestation Department of the Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael in Jerusalem, and one of Israel's leading afforestation experts, will bring a special message to the Conference as the emissary of the KKL to the Jews of the United States. It is our fond hope that the Jews of the United States, and the Zionists in particular, will rally to the support of the Jewish National Fund, enabling it to fulfill its mission in this crucial hour in the life of the Jewish State and the Jewish people.

Our thanks go out to Dr. Harris J. Levine, President of the Jewish National Fund of America, who throughout the year has again demonstrated his high qualities of leadership and who, at the World Zionist Congress, presented the case of the Jewish National Fund with consummate skill and eloquence. Our thanks go out also to the New Board of Directors that was elected with Dr. Levine and to the national officers: Dr. Israel Goldstein, Honorary President; Louis Segal, Honorary Secretary; Albert Schiff, Treasurer; Juliet N. Benjamin and Nat Levine, Associate Treasurers. Our special thanks go to Judge Bernard A. Rosenblatt, President of the JNF Foundation.

We wish to record our sincere thanks to Benjamin E. Gordon, National Chairman of the Zionist Organization for the JNF, and to Dr. Sidney Marks, Executive Director of the ZOA, for their hearty cooperation and complete devotion to our cause. We also send our thanks to the chairmen and staff of the Zionist Regions and Districts and to all men and women throughout the country, the devotees of the Jewish National Fund, without whose support our achievements would have been impossible.

Mendel N. Fisher
Executive Director



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