

# Reception to Visiting Zionists.

## Large Gathering in Zionist Hall.

### Address by Mr. A. Goldberg, M.P.

There was a very large gathering in the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night when a Reception to visiting Zionists was held under the auspices of the Dorshei Zion Association.

**Dr. C. Resnekov** was in the chair and extended a cordial welcome to the guests and to the speaker, Mr. A. Goldberg, M.P.

It was necessary, he said, for the world to-day to have a clear conscience of the Jewish problem. The conscience of the world had been fine and noble in 1917, when it gave the Mandate to Britain. The Jews would have been content with Britain as mandatory power if she had carried out her obligations to them. Britain, however, had been gradually whittling away the Mandate and just before the war had declared it unworkable. There was ample proof that the Mandate had been given to Britain not in her own interests but so as to create a National Home for the Jews. But the home promised in 1917 was being denied us by our erstwhile friends. We must not be dismayed, however. The 600,000 Jews in Palestine could not be destroyed. History would not end with our generation. There was a strong will to survive in the Jewish people. We had a vital strength in us and with this strength we could not be vanquished by any Power. The Jews were united in their determination and watched with devotion and love the developments in the Homeland. We must resist all attempts to restrict immigration. When we asked for a viable Jewish State we were on firm ground. He hoped that that demand would be fulfilled so that the Jewish people could continue with their great task of rebuilding.

**Mr. A. Goldberg, M.P.**, said that the situation in the Zionist world was changing almost day by day. However much we shared the views or disagreed with the views of the Jewish Agency, we should recognise the tremendous responsibilities it shouldered and acknowledge the capable way in which it was discharging them. He did not want to dramatise the situation; there was enough drama in the situation itself. Nevertheless, we were living in momentous times. No speaker could be wrong if he emphasised the critical times through which we were passing.

Decisions would soon be taken which would have tremendous consequences not only for the Jews but for the world at large. The Jews were anxious to see whether at this moment the British Government would have a real conception of its great responsibilities to the Jewish people. The Mufti was anxious to see whether his work had borne fruit. The Russians were interested in seeing the position in the Middle East as complicated as possible. The Arabs, from recent reports, seemed to be anxious not to seek Russian friendship.

The Jews had lived on their nerves for a long time. It was not unnatural that many Jews had lost faith and confidence in the future. It was not through the reaction of despair that we had lived through our tragic history. It was not sheer heroics to say that, whatever was the decision of the British Government, nothing could destroy what we had built up. The Yishuv, which had proven itself to be the sheet-anchor and bulwark of the Jewish people, would remain strong economically and culturally. Nevertheless the decision taken at the London Conference would be momentous.

We must be careful not to be too optimistic, not to pin our hopes on that decision.

The Jewish people had never made demands on the British Government which they were not entitled to make, said Mr. Goldberg. No statement made by Mr. Bevin or Mr. Attlee entitled us to regard them as well-disposed to the Jewish people—which meant in these days to have an understanding of the tragedy of the Jewish people. Mr. Bevin and Mr. Attlee had not shown that they understood or had the capacity to understand. However, even if we did not enjoy the friendship of Mr. Bevin or Mr. Attlee, we should show we did not rely on their friendship. Our strength was determined by our achievements, not by the number of our friends. As we had made ourselves strong in the past, so shall we continue to make ourselves strong. In spite of the differences at Congress on this issue, Jewry was united. To-day we had fewer friends but better friends. In the United States we had many friends, such as Mr. Bartley Crum, who was a member of the Anglo-American Commission and whose counterpart in England was Mr. R. H. Crossman. It was true that in the United States the traditional dislike of the English and the important part played by the Jewish community were responsible for the fact that many political leaders appeared well disposed towards us. Nevertheless, we had many powerful friends whom neither the insane acts of the terrorists nor anything else would move from the stand they had taken.

Mr. Goldberg strongly condemned terrorist action in Palestine. Whatever the provocation, he said, there was no justification for a return to the law of the jungle. When innocent lives were lost, whether British, Arab or Jewish there was no justification. We must take a firm stand and on every principle, Jewish or otherwise, we must condemn terrorism. He was glad that at long last the leaders realised that we could not have it both ways. We must move heaven and earth to root out terrorism. We must make it clear that we were determined that no minority should take it on itself to direct the policy of the Jewish people.

As much as we ought to condemn terrorism, however, so much ought we to make it clear to the world that resistance would go on and that we would not willingly submit to the imposition of any injustice. We must emphasize that the Jewish people, to whatever extent lies in its power, will resist and that it will never acquiesce in a policy based on retribution. Terrorism and resistance were two things foreign to each other.

We had come to realise that we must be realists; but if we are realists we must be ready to examine the implications of the position at the moment. We must realise that the future lies in our own hands; that our salvation lies with us. We cannot discharge our responsibility by placing it on any other people. That responsibility was not to give in to despair, whatever the decision of the London Conference. We must realise that we must determine to pour all our resources into the building up of the National Home and the future will yet be well.

During the evening Cantor S. Mandel (accompanied by Mr. W. Sher) rendered songs, and Mrs. B. Tuch (accompanied by Miss R. Rabinowitz) violin solos, which were very much appreciated.

## S.A. Jewish War Appeal Actions Committee.

### ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING.

After a well-earned recess of one month, following the heavy activity in connection with the launching of the Third Campaign, the Actions Committee of the S.A. Jewish War Appeal met at the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg, on Tuesday, 14th January. There was a very large and enthusiastic gathering, and from the atmosphere that prevailed it was evident that a record number of workers are going to restart the campaign to raise funds and make every effort to guarantee the final success of the campaign which has started so auspiciously.

**Mr. Louis Feldman**, who, in the absence of Mr. Max Greenstein, was in the chair, in a short address reported a very large increase in the number of donors in the present campaign. The average donation was also considerably higher, previous donors having at least doubled their contributions. He called on every trade section to exert themselves as never before. He was pleased to report that certain sections had responded magnificently, especially the furniture section.

Mr. Feldman also reported that the J.D.C. was making plans to raise a minimum of \$122,250,000 for its 1947 programme. This was a tremendous advance on the 1946 programme of \$58,000,000.

**Mr. Jack Kanareck**, who has just returned from a trip to Europe, gave a moving account of the desperate straits in which a large section of European Jewry still finds itself. It was his view that the bringing of relief to the hard-pressed Jews of Europe was a long-range problem that would require many years and much hard work on the part of better placed communities, to bring to a satisfactory end. He warned against all tendencies towards complacency as we were still passing through a very critical stage.

Much has been done, he said. The J.D.C. heads were working night and day in their efforts to restore the position to more or less normalcy, but there were still many parts where it was quite impossible to deal with the desperate demands of the situation. There was a terrible shortage of linen

and blankets, but nothing could be done with the limited resources, as the first essential was to provide food for the large masses who are still on the brink of starvation.

**Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler** gave some first-hand impressions of his stay in Europe and stressed the need for greater efforts at this critical juncture when European Jewry had entered the phase of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Before the close of the meeting, Mr. M. J. Spitz, the Acting Chairman of the J.W.A., asked all the workers present not to slacken in their efforts. This was a noble task in which they were engaged, and he asked them to acquit themselves in a manner that would do credit to the South African Jewish community.

## Children from Cyprus Under Care of Youth Aliyah.

A second batch of sixty children, mostly from Cyprus, arrived in Palestine recently, and were taken into the care of the Youth Aliyah Organisation. The arrival of the first batch was reported in the Jewish press a short while ago. Further arrivals are expected shortly.

There are about 1,200 children in the camps in Cyprus. They have been housed in a special camp, within the main camp. This is being referred to as the "Children's Village."

Youth Aliyah is now organising a team of teachers who will shortly proceed to Cyprus; their main task will be to instruct the teachers at the camp.

Commenting on the first batch who arrived in Palestine from Cyprus, Mr. Hans Beyth, Director of Youth Aliyah, states: "Many of them come from Auschwitz and other camps in Germany. They all wanted to enter Youth Aliyah and expressed the desire to study, study and study. They are of excellent human material, and have already received some preliminary training in the camps in Germany. One could already feel the influence of the good work done by our instructors and supervisors who were sent to Europe from here."

## The Jewish People will Never Forget

ITS SONS AND DAUGHTERS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO SOUGHT TO BENEFIT THEIR PEOPLE WHEN THEY DIED BY REMEMBERING THE J.N.F. IN THEIR WILLS. THEY SHOWED THEIR LOVE FOR THEIR PEOPLE, THEIR CONCERN FOR THEIR PEOPLE'S FATE AND THEIR DEVOTION TO THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOMELAND BY HELPING TO REDEEM ITS LAND, SO THAT THEIR BRETHREN MIGHT LIVE A LIFE OF FREEDOM ROOTED IN THEIR OWN SOIL.

THOUSANDS OF JEWS ARE LIVING ON LAND REDEEMED WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY BEQUESTS LEFT TO THE J.N.F.

IN YOUR WILL REMEMBER THE

**J. N. F.**