

ALL SET FOR WIZO CAMPAIGN.

Enthusiastic Preparations Throughout the Province.

Women Zionists throughout the Western Province have reacted eagerly and spontaneously to the announcement that a special Wizo effort is shortly to be inaugurated in South Africa. While their record of support for Wizo in the past is substantial, they are fully aware that the present emergency situation demands unprecedented efforts, and all energies will be concentrated on a supreme drive which will bring the maximum results. A fortnight's intensive activity will begin on Sunday, 21st March, with the arrival of the delegation in Cape Town.

The Campaign delegation will be headed by Miss Tonie Hauser, General Secretary of the Palestine Wizo Executive. Miss Hauser, who has held this office for the last 16 years, is an authority on Wizo affairs, and the present importance of their organisation in Palestine is due not a little to her great capacity for hard work and her resourcefulness. She is the centre of the Wizo administration and the directing force that carries out Executive resolutions and the decisions of all the sub-committees that deal with the problems of the institutions throughout the country. While still a student in her home town in Switzerland, her practical sense of organising ability and Zionist fervour expressed itself in the founding of the first branch in Switzerland of the dominating Zionist youth movement of that time—the "Blue-White." Later she played a leading role in the formation of the first Wizo group in Switzerland on the lines of which all the other groups were subsequently modelled. She spent two years with Wizo in London and became thoroughly familiar with the work of the Women's International Zionist Organisation. Miss Hauser has represented Wizo on many public occasions in Palestine and at International Conferences, and is an attractive speaker. Her personal charm, clearness of mind, and wealth

of information captivate the attention of her audiences.

Mrs. Anna Franks, Chairman of the S.A. Women's Zionist Executive Council, who is actively concerned with the arrangements for South Africa as a whole, will accompany Miss Hauser for the first few days of her trip, and will visit some of the country centres before returning.

CAMPAIGN ARRANGEMENTS.

Arrangements already confirmed are as follows:—

Monday Afternoon, 22nd March: Inauguration of Cape Town Women's Campaign at a Reception in the Zionist Hall under the auspices of the Bnoth Zion Association.

Tuesday Evening, 23rd March: Worcester.

Wednesday Evening, 24th March: Paarl.

Tuesday Evening, 30th March: Strand-Somerset West.

Wednesday Afternoon, 31st March: Stellenbosch.

Thursday Evening, 1st April: Wellington.

Other arrangements for suburban and country centres will be announced at a later stage.

From my Desk

... By ...

HASOFER



MSS.

When Professor Cecil Roth was in South Africa he evinced great interest in the work of the W.I.Z.O. At that time the Hall of Treasure was being conducted and he very kindly autographed a number of copies of his book, "Jewish Contributions to Civilisation." These were subsequently sold by W.I.Z.O. for a fairly substantial amount to interested collectors. He at the time signed an I.O.U. for the original manuscript of his next major work. News has just come to hand that this noted historian has redeemed his promise. He has written to Mrs. Helena Lieberman, the Chairman of the Bnoth Zion, that the MSS. of his newest book, a life of Donna Grazia Mendes, is on its way to South Africa. There now is a unique opportunity for any collector to acquire this remarkable manuscript; the proceeds of the sale will naturally go towards W.I.Z.O. funds.

Donna Grazia.

Grazia Mendenesia was a Marrano champion of Jewish rights, who was born in Portugal at the beginning of the 16th century. She was certainly a pioneer Zionist worker, who in her day was one of the forerunners of the W.I.Z.O. ideals. Denounced by a sister as secret Jewess, Donna Grazia was imprisoned and her property was confiscated. The Marrano poet Usque dedicated his "Consolation for the Tribulations of Israel" to this wonderful woman, who in her lifetime had contributed most liberally to Jewish charity, supported scholars and founded Synagogues and institutions of learning. She had financially helped hundreds of exiled Marranos to re-establish themselves, while others captured by pirates had been ransomed by the "Grand Widow of Kusta." Most memorable amongst her political acts was her intercession for the Marranos of Ancona, who had been arrested by the fanatical Pope Paul IV, who declared his intention of burning them. She appealed to Sultan Suleiman, who demanded the release of his Turkish subjects. In order to punish this inhuman Pope, Donna Grazia attempted to organise a Jewish boycott of the port of Ancona. Unfortunately her co-religionists did not support her effort and the boycott failed. History still repeats itself!

Artistry.

Last week I had the rare privilege of discussing Jewish affairs with the noted concert pianiste, Mrs. Vera Benenson. Mrs. Benenson was born in Kiev and studied in Russia and Germany. From an early age she toured Russia, Poland and all the larger European centres. Her press cuttings read almost like an extended "Cooks" tour. Each article pays tribute to her great artistry and talent as well as to her individuality of performance and originality of talent and interpretation. Her husband, the late Dr. Jacob Benenson, was a brilliant analytical chemist. He was a noted Zionist worker and financial supporter of our cause. He was a collector of Hebraica and Judaica. On his death Mrs. Benenson presented his library of over 5,000 volumes to the Hebrew University. The gift was made through Dr. Weizmann, an old and personal friend of the Benenson family. Vera Benenson has just completed a

successful concert tour of the Union and Rhodesia and is awaiting a passage to Australia. I asked her if she intended visiting the Yishuv, and with a typical Jewish gesture she replied in an emphatic affirmative: "And not only to visit but to settle!"

Jewish Music.

Mrs. Benenson said that she hoped that with the establishment of a Jewish State there would be a great creative effort in the sphere of Jewish music. At present she maintains there is not very much great music which can be called typically Jewish. "The Jew," said Mrs. Benenson, "is an artist, he has imagination." He is not really a great business man because he is a dreamer. Unfortunately he has not been able to create anything great and lasting in art, because art cannot prosper when a people is not stable and not assured of a minimum of security. "The Jews, as refugees," continued Mrs. Benenson, "easily assimilated the learning and culture of those countries which afforded them a temporary haven, and incidentally made colossal contributions to the arts of the countries in which they lived." I joined with this talented artist when she expressed the hope that, with the realisation of Israel's age-old longing, we will, in our own land, accumulate many works of great talent which will for once be Jewish.

Another Musician.

Miss Tonie Hauser, who is arriving shortly in connection with the imminent W.I.Z.O. Campaign, is as famous for her leadership in Zionist work as she is for her singing. She has possibly done as much propaganda with her artistry as she has done with her oratory. Miss Hauser, who has been the General Secretary of W.I.Z.O. in Eretz Israel for the last 16 years, will arrive here on 21st April. It is related that this remarkable woman captivated the delegates at the last Basle Congress by her beautiful contralto voice. In fact, a well-known member of the Agency was heard to say after he had listened to her singing at one of the many receptions that he would rather listen to Tonie Hauser than all the others put together.

Propaganda.

A letter from the American Zionist Organisation lies on my desk. With characteristic American ingenuity the opportunity for propaganda was not overlooked. In addition to the ordinary postage stamp, another stamp of the same size is affixed to the envelope. On it is portrayed the head and shoulders of a typical Chalutz carrying the Blue and White Zionist Banner. The following two inscriptions appear on the stamp: "Back the Jewish State" and "Make the U.N.O. Decision a Reality." I wonder if a supply of these stamps could not be obtained locally as I feel sure many people would like to affix them to their correspondence. It might even prove quite a useful source of revenue.

Tailpiece.

In one of the local secular schools the teacher asked little Abe Cohen, aged 11, to name the "Three Graces." "Please, Sir, Grace Fields, Grace Moore and Grace Tzorehs."

TO EACH JEWESS IN SOUTH AFRICA

WOMEN IN PALESTINE ARE FACING AN EMERGENCY

Whether the call is for Balaclava caps, hot meals for Haganah men, emergency hospital needs, aid to refugee women, special care for child immigrants

WIZO FULFILS ITS OBLIGATIONS

A recent cable states: "Help us to fortify our homes and schools towards the safe reception of increasing immigration. Help us to hold every position—above all beleaguered Jerusalem."

Don't leave it to the women of Palestine —
DO YOUR SHARE!

Support the

1948 WIZO CAMPAIGN