

Weizmann ON THE LAND



"I have always believed that the foundation of foundations is the land. Only when you have that can you build on it..."
(In Tel-Aviv)



"Every tract of land which the Keren Kayemeth acquires brings us closer to the fulfilment of our aspirations and aids the struggle for our future in the land."
(In Daganía)



"Another dunam, another man, another tree, will add up to a Jewish State."
(In the Jordan Valley)

"Great tasks await you today. The country must prepare for masses of newcomers, and to whatever we turn our hands we shall stand in need of that basis common to all things — land".

(Before leaving Eretz Israel)

South African Jewry and the World Jewish Congress

Arguments Against Affiliation

By Richard Feldman, M.P.C.

Last week we published an article by Mr. L. Tager dealing with the World Jewish Congress, and advancing arguments for affiliation with that Body by South African Jewry. This week we publish the text of a memorandum drawn up by Mr. Richard Feldman, M.P.C., in which he sets out his case against affiliation.

(1) The question of the Board's affiliation to the World Jewish Congress is one that should not be decided while there is no unanimity amongst important communities on the need for such a "Congress" and while there is no clarity on the purpose and composition of such a body.

(2) While it is true that in South Africa there is no substantial volume of opinion opposed to the conception of a Jewish World Congress and there has been no evidence of a reluctance to identify the local community with World Jewry, it is undesirable to affiliate with a body representing only certain sections of Jewry.

(3) The time is also inopportune because European Jewry, what has been left of it, has not yet been able to express its views on the question, and has, therefore, been unable to make its influence felt in the councils of such a Congress.

(4) American Jewry is very much divided on the issue and British Jewry as represented by the British Board of Deputies and the Anglo-Jewish Association, are unanimous in their opposition to affiliate to the Congress and have agreed to join a Committee consisting of the World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Congress and the British Board of Deputies all being "in all fundamentals agreed upon policy in regard to foreign affairs and Palestine, should act as the nucleus of a wider and if possible all embracing body consisting of representatives not only of the three initiating organisations, but of all other bodies which in general accepted their policy." Such a committee has now been established and this arrangement appears to be acceptable also to the sponsors of the World Congress.

(5) The fact that the British Board is opposed to affiliation because "it considers of vital importance that British Jewry should approach its own Government," displays the most serious weakness of the present conception of a World Congress since the objection indicates that it is the intention of the Congress to be the spokesman of communities also in regard to their own affairs. This would create a most dangerous situation for any community in relation to its own government. The suggestion that each community should reserve to itself the sole right of representation would not meet the objection since this repugnant feature is as yet inherent in the constitution of the Congress.

(6) Some of the strongest objections to the conception of a "World Congress" have been formulated by the London "Jewish Chronicle." The following few extracts will illustrate the ideological objections:

"The name which this new creation assumed was, at the best, a misnomer; and at the worst, an indefensible and potentially mischievous pretence. The grandiloquent title of "Congress" suggested an authoritative organisation democratically elected and conducted, and fully entitled to commit world Jewry for whom it claimed to speak. In none of these respects did the new body pass muster."

"The title which was adopted suggested the existence of some sort of overriding political instrument provided by the Jews of the world with

a roving commission to interfere in every country at any time, in every matter which it deemed concerned Jews, to lay down policy for world Jewry everywhere would be responsible, and to embark on political enterprises for which, again, the opinion of the world would be held accountable. It further suggested that the Jewries of the free democracies not content with the rights they enjoyed as citizens, sought the over-protection, where necessary, of a general world-Jewish political organisation, thus aspiring to lead, as were, a dual political life. This was what the title "World Jewish Congress" implies."

(7) The W.J.C. at its War Emergency Conference, despite strong opposition decided on the creation of a Relief and Rehabilitation body which the Joint Distribution Committee would be asked to join. It is known that the J.D.C. would not tolerate such interference in its work at so critical a juncture. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency declared that "this proposal may lead to a split in Jewish life." This decision indicates that the over-zealous protagonists of Jewish Unity are prepared to carry out their plans even though they may cause new divisions. There is much that is wrong with the J.D.C. but at this stage to interfere with its most urgent work it is performing and which it alone can perform, would surely prove to the great detriment of European Jewry.

(8) To commit South African Jewry to affiliation, before many issues are clarified, would be extremely unwise. There must at first be established that the greater part of Jewish communities are agreeable to join a World Congress and there must also be a clear definition in regard to the principal object of such a Congress. The leaders of the W.J.C. must also prove that they aim at a goal which cannot be achieved through other divisions.

(9) It is therefore recommended that the forthcoming Congress of the Jewish Board of Deputies be acquainted with the position and not to force a decision on affiliation with the W.J.C. since any decision would be premature.

Matthews Concert on Sunday Night

THE Bach "Chaconne," one of the greatest works for the violin (unaccompanied) will be played by Thomas Matthews, the brilliant English violinist, when he will appear before the S.A. Friends of the Palestine Orchestra and the Habimah and at the Theatres next Sunday night, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. S. 7 Jubilee Road, Parktown. Mr. Matthews is making this gracious gesture to express his esteem for the Palestine Orchestra. His programme also include: Allegro (Narcissa), Minuet (Haydn), Grave (F. C. B.), Caprice 24 (Paganini), Canzone (Goddard), Fille aux cheveux de (Debussy), The Little White Doe (Ibert), Air on G String (Bach), Ludium (Bach). Invitations may be obtained from the secretary of the society, Mr. Meyerhof, 32 Montagu House, corner Joubert and Montagu Streets, phone 22-0434.