

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PATWA Branch to be Formed in South Africa

Sir,—Your readers will remember the article by Major S. Comay, which appeared in your journal on April 4 last. This article dealt with PATWA, a body whose purpose is the assistance and organisation of professionally and technically trained Olim to Palestine.

A subsequent letter to you indicated an interest amongst South African Jews in this type of organisation and consequently a start has been made towards the formation of a South African branch of PATWA.

A preliminary committee has been established with the intention of bringing together as many as possible of the professionally and technically trained people who plan Aliyah to Palestine. A general meeting will be called in the very near future at which all interested will be able to formally constitute a South African branch of PATWA.

Those interested in joining this organisation are asked to communicate with the hon. secretary, PATWA, P.O. Box 18, Johannesburg.

Yours, etc.,
N. PENN,

Chairman, Provisional Committee.

Ignorant People Who Write to the Press

Sir,—The ignorance which prevails even amongst Jewish people on the facts of the situation in Palestine was well illustrated in the controversy now raging in Cape Town concerning Dr. Rabinowitz's speech.

I do not want to justify the speech which he made, and which provoked a bitter attack on the Jewish community whom the "Argus" described as "those who profit by the hospitality of this country." Two wrongs do not make one right, and the irresponsible sword-rattling of the militant Revisionist leader of Johannesburg can in no way justify the nasty comment of the Cape Town newspaper. But I feel that people who write to the press must know what they are talking about before they venture publicly to defend the Jewish community.

There were two letters in the "Argus" from Jews: one by the chairman of the Revisionist party, which was a

balanced presentation of the case as the Revisionists see it, and a well-worded defence of Dr. Rabinowitz. But then came another letter, by "Techezaknah"—obviously a Jewish writer—who came out to defend "terrorism" on the grounds that when people escape from calamity they are "justified in doing as the terrorists are doing in order to bring immigrants to Palestine."

Now "Techezaknah" should know that neither the terrorists individually nor the Irgun Zvai are bringing in immigrants to Palestine. Those who bring the immigrants to Palestine are the most violent opponents of terrorism because they feel that it interferes with their work. Their movement could have evoked the greatest sympathy of the whole world if not for the dissident groups who have given the British Government an alibi for ruthlessness and cruelty. Furthermore, by associating terrorism with the movement of refugees to Palestine the writer has unconsciously repeated a stock argument of Bevin and of the notorious "Times" commentator who say that one of the reasons for the arrest of the traffic of ships is that there are "terrorists" among the passengers.

People who are not familiar with their facts should not hasten to write to the press.

Yours, etc.,

RALPH D.

Cape Town.

The Origin of the Zionist Flag

Sir,—With reference to the note by "Ben Dor" on the origin of the Zionist flag, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that there is a reference in Midrash Rabbas Nos. II, 2 to the Zionist colours. It says that the banner of the tribe of Judah was sky-blue.

Yours, etc.,

(Rabbi) S. RAPPAPORT.

72 Montgomery Mansions,
Lily Avenue,
Berea.

Reasons for Joining the Revisionist Party

Sir,—After having been a member of the United Zionist Party for some years, during which time I served as a member of the Youth Executive, I have decided to resign in order to place myself at the disposal of the Revisionist Party. My reasons for doing so may be of interest to others.

In common with many other members of the U.Z.P. youth, I have been sadly disillusioned by the events which have occurred since the elections to Congress, and it has become increasingly evident that the party in which we placed such high hopes has become a house divided against itself. It has become, in fact, an anachronism, consisting of a youth section which had great potentialities but whose substance is being frittered away by a leadership which is apparently unable to grasp the realities of the present situation.

When the party was formed, in spite of statements to the effect that it was a "centre" party, it was obvious that it was being created to fill the aching void caused by the absence of the spearhead of the nationalist wing, that is, the Revisionists. The urgent necessity was to create a force which could challenge the supremacy of the Left Wing parties.

The U.Z.P. with its vigorous and capable campaign against the socialist bloc, earned the respect and support of a large number of Zionists and

eventually managed to obtain control of the Zionist Federation. Having gone so far, the seniors were apparently satisfied. They had a youth movement behind them, to help them win elections and do any other hard work that might be necessary, while they could sit in council and deliberate on the policy of the Federation.

The youth, however, was not satisfied with this subservient role and on fundamentals there was a wide gap between them.

The special party conference which was called to discuss the party mandate to the Congress delegates gave rise to a heated debate in which it was made plain that the entire youth movement as well as many seniors were totally opposed to Partition in any shape or form and an anti-Partition resolution was adopted. It was also made quite clear that no confidence was to be placed in Weizmann but that Silver should be supported. What happened at Congress is, of course, well known. The party delegates, with one exception, contemptuously ignored the clear instructions of the party and supported Partition. It seems that the Labour Party leaders are not alone in their policy of ignoring commitments. And so we learnt that our work for the party was so much waste of time. The election promise of "a Jewish State within its historic boundaries" was apparently merely election propaganda, to be forgotten when the party came to power. How familiar this all sounds!

On the important issue of the resistance in Eretz Israel, a similar absurd position exists. The position of the youth is well known. They have stated that they make NO distinctions between various underground movements and regard them all as heroes. Fine sentiments these, but what do the seniors say.

The official journal of the movement still persists in following the British Foreign Office line. If an act is performed by Haganah, it is "kosher," but if the self-same thing is done by the Irgun it is a "terrorist outrage." What a mockery of the youth! What use all the high-sounding resolutions about "no distinction"? It is obvious that the seniors are leading the youth by the nose.

And so one turns to the Revisionist Party, which is the only one that attempts to halt the vicious campaign of slander and misrepresentation that portrays our modern Bar Kochbas as desperadoes and gangsters. It is a united organisation, unhampered by internal rivalries, determined to struggle for those ideals which it advocated for so long and which were so tardily accepted by the rest of the Zionist Movement.

I refer, of course, to their bitter fight for mass evacuation from Europe, subordination of all ideologies to the prime aim of the establishment of the Jewish State, uncertificated immigration and a Jewish army, in every single one of which they were violently attacked by the rest of the movement, but each of which they have eventually seen accepted as axiomatic by most Zionists.

Yours, etc.,

JOE ROSENBERG.

14 Soper Road,

Berea.

The above letter has been considerably condensed.—Ed. "Z.R."

CAPE TOWN ZIONIST SOCIALISTS' STUDY CIRCLE

A study circle meeting took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. Decktor, of Oranjezicht, on Friday night, April 25. Mr. L. Karabelnik presided. Mr. B. Padovich spoke on "The factors which contributed towards the establishment of Zionist Socialist movements."

The speaker will continue his talk at the next meeting of the study circle at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Slusznay, 5 Jagersfontein Avenue, Vrederhoek Estate.

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JEWISH MUSICAL INSTITUTE First Anniversary



MR. SOLLY ARONOWSKY

The Jewish Musical Institute celebrates its First Anniversary with a Grand Concert on Tuesday, May 20, at the Johannesburg City Hall.

The Institute was founded about a year ago by Mr. Zelik Engel and Mr. Solly Aronowsky, who are the manager and musical director respectively.

Mr. Engel is a businessman whose heart and soul are in music. Every day after work he goes straight to the Institute and puts in a good deal of hard work there. He himself plays the mandoline.

Mr. Aronowsky is the well-known violinist, conductor and impressario, who resigned from the S.A.B.C. where he had been first violinist for nearly 11 years, to become the musical director of the Institute.

One of the first sections of the Institute, which was highly commended by the world-famous conductor, Mr. Albert Coates, as well as by Johannesburg's musical director, Mr. John Connell, who has conducted it, is the Youth Symphony Orchestra—beginning with a handful of players, it has already developed into a fine body.

With the assistance of the recently-elected committee a Youth Choir, Balalaika Orchestra, Piano Accordion Section, Jazz Band Section and "Chevraya" were added.

The Executive Committee consists of: Chairman, Z. Infeld; vice-chairman, J. Schreiber; treasurer, Mrs. Ch. Batnitzky; hon. secretary, Mrs. P. Burstein and K. Winnik; manager, Z. Engel; musical director, S. Aronowsky.

The committee consists of Mesdames M. Aronowsky, A. Purto, R. Muskin, E. Blieden, and Messrs. G. Fine, M. Natas, S. Katz.



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