

# THE ZIONIST RECORD

THE ORGAN OF SOUTH AFRICAN JEWRY

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## A Colourless Statement

THE statement on the British Government's attitude to the UNO Commission's report has in the main borne out the predictions made at the time the Commission was appointed, that Downing Street would not carry out the recommendations of the Commission. That is perhaps the only clear feature in an otherwise hazy speech. It has set everybody wondering—especially those who pinned their hopes on the outcome of the Commission's deliberations and kept on urging Jews to be patient and not to continue transporting refugees to the shores of Palestine—why the various stipulations made by the Colonial Secretary could not have been told to the world at the time the Commission was appointed. Quite possibly there might have been an entirely different approach by UNO towards the Commission and many things which have to be dealt with now could have been accomplished during the Special UNO Session on Palestine. We note that one British newspaper asked why this statement was not made seven months earlier. To-day the speech appears colourless to all and its spirit of detachment somewhat unconvincing. Much of it is reminiscent of the famous dictum issued by Henry Ford to his agents when they requested cars of different colours. "You can have any shade you like as long as it is black," declared the magnate.

Mr. Creech Jones hardly mentioned either the majority or the minority report of the UNO Commission and the keynote of his speech was that the United Kingdom would not enforce any settlement which if rejected either by the Jews or by the Arabs, might have to be imposed by force of arms—as if the present regime were not being imposed by force and as if naval squads were not being used to keep back Jewish immigrants. Cynics were therefore justified in interpreting the speech as meaning that Britain was prepared to impose by force of arms not this or that policy but only the policy which suits her best. The Jewish Agency's statement rightly pointed out that "the real alternative is not between force and no force, but between force employed for the establishment of international law and justice and force employed as at present for quite contrary purposes."

Of this there was a glaring example even while Mr. Creech Jones was speaking. Near the shores of Haifa force was being used against a boatload of refugees. Naval squads and troops were being employed in large numbers. Yet it has been generally admitted that much less force would have been required to admit the Jews. Mr. Creech Jones chose to ignore entirely the recommendation to admit 150,000 Jews made by the UNO Commission and resorted instead to hackneyed and glib talk about the need for international arrangements for displaced persons. One day it may be said that this speech was the swan song of British rule in the Middle East. It certainly could not have ended on a more melancholy note, displaying as it did the helplessness of a great Power and its anxiety to appease and become the tool of a bunch of Arab intriguers and manipulators. Apologists of Great Britain will say that she was acting purely out of considerations of self-interest, but even this is extremely doubtful. Experiences in Egypt and elsewhere do not indicate that the precious oil which might be the basis of fear mentality on Britain's part would long be available even if the last Jew were squeezed out of Palestine, assuming, of course, that such a thing were possible.

Mr. Creech Jones has spoken clearly about Britain's intention of evacuating British troops from Palestine. Equally clearly it must be emphasised that so long as such troops are maintained in the country and so long as there is a British administration in Palestine it cannot be exonerated from its duties under the Mandate. Every occasion on which Jews are turned away from Palestine is a breach of an international trust and cannot be particularly sustained after the recommendations of the UNO Commission.

As for the future, it has been made clear by Jewish leaders that should there be no other alternative, Palestinian Jewry would be able to assume power immediately and would not require foreign protection. If there is fear and anxiety at the present juncture, it is largely due to the possibility that the scare-campaign about a wholesale slaughter in Palestine if the British withdrew, might cause other nations to hesitate at granting the establishment of a Jewish State. This in particular is the case in America, where the State Department seems to be vacillating on the matter of accepting the majority report of the UNO Commission. The U.S.A. has not been entirely blameless in the numerous crises which have occurred in Palestine. For years past American presidents, cabinets and leaders of all parties have made numerous promises to the Jews. The time has now come to put these promises to the test.

As regards the Jewish camp, it must again be emphasised that this is a time for united action. The outrage at Haifa, in defiance of the authority of the Yishuv, has been described as most advantageous for Arab propagandists and politicians. Apart from the Arabs, it also serves as an excellent argument for those who are interested in maintaining the status quo in Palestine. The deportation to Hamburg will not be avenged by the shedding of the blood of Haifa policemen. It will best be achieved by a constructive and consolidated effort to prove once again the Yishuv's capacity and readiness for statehood.

## Summer Camps

FROM the advertising columns of the Jewish press it appears that a number of organisations are already busy preparing summer camps for members and sympathisers. This institution is a most commendable one and has great educational value. Possibilities offered to young people to spend their holidays in a Jewish atmosphere, in a camp which is guided by a definite ideology, will no doubt be of benefit to their Jewish upbringing. The question may however be asked to what extent there is "a Jewish atmosphere" in the camps.

It is not expected that the camps should all be summer schools, although one should not ignore the vast potentialities of summer schools such as exist in England. With regard to the camps we should like to

## Overseas Delegation To Conduct Hebrew University Drive

THE 1947 Hebrew University campaign in South Africa will open on Monday, October 20, and will be inaugurated at Cape Town. The campaign in Johannesburg will be opened early in November.

The Campaign will be conducted by a strong delegation from Palestine consisting of Sir Leon Simon, C.B., Chairman of the Executive Council of the Hebrew University, who will be accompanied by Lady Simon; Miss Marcia Gitlin, formerly of South Africa and now a resident of Palestine; and Mr. Norman Lourie, also a former South African who now lives in Palestine.

This will be the first occasion that Sir Leon will have paid a visit to South Africa, and the presence in this country of so distinguished a Jew and scholar will undoubtedly arouse the greatest interest here.

Miss Gitlin and Mr. Lourie are no strangers to South Africa. Both of them are extremely well known in this country where they played a foremost part in the Zionist movement for many years. They now come to South Africa direct from Palestine, where Miss Gitlin is attached to the Hebrew University, and where Mr. Lourie settled some years ago with his wife and family. Miss Gitlin has already arrived in Johannesburg. There can be no doubt that her wide

experience in the field of organisational work, coupled with her intimate knowledge of conditions in Palestine and South Africa, will be an important factor in the success of the Campaign.

Sir Leon and Lady Simon and Mr. Norman Lourie will arrive next month.

## PALESTINE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

ENERGETIC preparations for the forthcoming Palestine Industrial Exhibition, to be held in Johannesburg early in November, are being made by the South African Board for Inter-Trade Relations with Palestine, which is sponsoring the exhibition. The exhibits have now arrived in Cape Town and are expected in Johannesburg shortly.

Mr. Herzl Zuckerman, trade delegate of the Foreign Trade Institute of Palestine, is collaborating with the board in the preparations for the exhibition. He returned to Johannesburg this week after paying business visits to Durban and Cape Town.

A preview of the exhibition was staged in Tel Aviv just before the exhibits were despatched to South Africa and was attended by leading business men, who were deeply impressed with the exhibits and the layout of the exhibition.

## S.A. FRIENDS OF THE PALESTINE ORCHESTRA

The S.A. Friends of the Palestine Orchestra will meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Miller, Parktown, on Sunday, October 12, at 8.30. The guest artists are Gwen Frangon-Davies, Gerald Cassen and Louis Jacobson. The guest Chairman will be Mr. A. Shacksnovis, K.C. Tickets can be obtained at K. Kallman, P.O. Box 8819, Johannesburg.

## DEATH OF MR. MYER LEIBOWITZ

THE death occurred in Johannesburg on Monday of Mr. Meyer Leibowitz, a prominent communal and Zionist worker. Mr. Leibowitz was born 57 years ago in Lithuania and came to South Africa in 1907. After a short stay in Potchefstroom he settled in Johannesburg and very soon occupied an important position in local commercial life. He later became chairman of Hippo Holding Company.

Mr. Leibowitz was a keen and devoted communal worker. He was vice-president of the United Hebrew Schools and has rendered yeoman service to that institution. He was a member of the Council and vice-chairman of the United Hebrew Congregation, Johannesburg, and national chairman of the S.A. Friends of the Hebrew University. A man of a quiet and kindly disposition, he believed in constructive work and was a liberal contributor to all good causes. In his private life he was most charitable and extended a helping hand to many people. He will be sadly missed by a host of friends throughout the country.



Mr. Leibowitz is survived by his wife, Sadie, his daughter, Molly, and his son, Bernard.

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon and was largely attended.

draw attention to the remarkable developments of summer camps in the United States of America. There camps are organised for adults as well as for juniors on an elaborate scale. A programme of activities which are both enjoyable and instructive, have been included in their programmes. As a result it has been found that these camps serve to educate the public more than the meetings or lectures held during the year. Cultural programmes are presented in an attractive form and conducted by specialists and experts. It might be said that in South Africa there is a much smaller field, yet it is remarkable that, so far as we are aware, no camps have been formed for adults, even on a small scale. Our long summer should make such camps a profitable undertaking, both from a financial and from a cultural point of view to many a Jewish organisation that would try to tackle it.