



Letters to the EDITOR

West Rand Sports Club Suspend Activities

Sir,—The West Rand Jewish Sports Club has been forced to suspend its activities, and I would be obliged if you could publish the following statement for the information of members and the public:

Because of the lack of support by the Jewish Community of the West Rand, the committee of the West Rand Jewish Sports Club convened a general meeting of members for the purpose of considering the position and recommending the dissolution of the Club.

The general meeting was abandoned because of a lack of a quorum, and the committee then decided to suspend activities. The assets of the club were disposed of, and after payment of all liabilities, a credit balance of £88 9s. 2d. remained.

It was then decided to distribute the money equally between the Palestine Special Emergency Fund and the Magen David Adom. The necessary cheques have already been despatched.

In conclusion, the committee wishes to place on record its appreciation to Mr. K. Bacher for his original generous gesture in giving the use of his farm for the purposes of the club, and regrets the decision that had to be made.

Yours, etc.,

D. LEWIN,
Honorary Secretary.

83 Park Street,
Randfontein.

Hebrew and the Jewish State

Sir,—It seems strange that the Reverend M. Bloch, of Pretoria, should have used the argument in the "Zionist Record" that because a Jewish State is going to be established now in Palestine, religion should be taught in the Hebrew schools at the expense of modern Hebrew.

The argument should be used the other way about. Now that there is a Jewish State there is more reason for spreading the knowledge of the language which will be the official tongue of the Hebrew State.

Could the Reverend Bloch explain how religious teaching can be made effective among children whose parents are non-observant?

Yours, etc.,

LEIB STEIN.

Johannesburg.

Should Sneh Have Resigned?

Sir,—I see that Dr. Sneh's resignation has given our Revisionists a chance to enjoy themselves. Though they do not lift a finger towards the sailing of the immigrant ships, they nevertheless have the audacity to pass opinions whether the traffic of "illegal" immigration should continue or not.

Dr. Sneh has not offered any valid reasons why he should have resigned. As pointed out in your editorial, the

reasons given by him are far too simple. It is impossible to speak of orientation at a time when everything is in a state of flux. Furthermore, an orientation towards this or that bloc is sometimes forced on a government and is not always a matter of choice.

Rabbi Silver has made it clear that the Agency is not directing itself either to the Western or to the Eastern bloc. Is not Dr. Sneh doing harm by levelling his accusations?

Furthermore, it should be remembered that this is a time of war for the Jewish people and it is usual for governments at a time of war not to make public any disagreements which exist.

Thus, in the case of England it is only now that we learn from memoirs about disagreements which existed within the Cabinet during the last war.

Yours, etc.,

"JUST A ZIONIST."

Films On Anti-Semitism

Sir,—I was very interested in the article about films in anti-Semitism published in your issue of December 26.

I have not yet seen in this country the films "Cross Fire" and "Gentlemen's Agreement." I hope it will not be long before these two films are brought to this country.

In the meantime I can only give my reactions to novels that take up anti-Semitism as a subject. It does seem to me that in such novels anti-Jewish sentiments are over-emphasised and inflated.

I do not deny that anti-Semitism exists in the English-speaking world but with the exception of the rabid groups, such as the Mosleyites, the majority of non-Jews may be infected with a slight form of prejudice such as exists between normal nations, e.g., the dislike which an Englishman may have for a Continental or the haughtiness bordering on contempt which an American entertains towards the rest of the world.

It is not a specific issue and when turned into a subject for a novel it becomes terribly laboured.

Yours, etc.,

(Miss) J. GORDON.

Johannesburg.

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Are Arabs or Terrorists Causing the Disturbances?

Sir,—The leader in the "Rand Daily Mail" of January 6, in dealing with the present situation in Palestine, very easily dispenses with the Arab question by stating, inter alia: "The Arabs are disunited. Their rulers are more anxious to score off each other than anyone else, and those who income depends on oil royalties do not intend to jeopardise it by unduly provocative action. The Arab armies are poor by any standard. They have one or two bodies trained by the British, which are efficient though small, but the fighting quality of the rest is negligible. And even if the fighters are available, the material is not. The Arab League is poor and cannot afford to buy the costly weapons of modern warfare, neither has it the skill or factories to make them. The threat of destruction of the Jewish State by Arab force can therefore surely be dismissed."

We wish that the Arab threat could so easily be dismissed. When we remember that the form of attacks at present is by no means "modern warfare," but ambushes on convoys, attacks on settlements, the throwing of home-made bombs on to crowds, the blowing up of buildings—in short, guerilla warfare and sabotage of every kind; when we remember the numerical superiority of the Arabs (two to one); when we read the fiery speeches of the Arab leaders calling their men to "Holy War" and the assistance offered by the other Arab countries, outside of Palestine, we simply cannot agree that the "Arab League is poor and cannot afford to buy the costly weapons of modern warfare and that the threat of destruction of the Jewish State can therefore surely be dismissed."

To anyone that has read any reports of the incidents since the end of November, the stabbings, the attacks on mourners at funerals, the attacks on buses, on farms, on factories, on buildings, the kidnappings, the burning and the looting, the "Rand Daily Mail" editorial is either ill-informed or else completely callous.

The Jews do not deny that the terrorists have also added to the tension in Palestine. In fact, the moderate elements in Palestine have again and again condemned their activities. But to place the onus for the state of war that exists in Palestine at the present time entirely at their door is to my mind not only evading the main issue, but is also a completely unjust summing up of the situation there.

Yours, etc.,

"JUSTICE."

Judgment From a Distance

Sir,—I have heard many people passing remarks about incidents in Palestine and speaking with authority as if they knew all about it. Thus the recent happenings in Haifa are being widely talked about.

May I say that those who hasten to criticise and to pass judgment should realise that, just as you cannot expect a Palestinian to pass opinions about the internal affairs of South Africa, so, too, is it impossible for people in Johannesburg to say that one thing is right and the other is wrong in Palestine.

Yours, etc.,

"NO CRITICISM."

United Hebrew Institutions of Benoni

The annual general meeting of the United Hebrew Institutions of Benoni was held at the Hebrew Hall, Benoni, recently. Mr. Isidore Bader presided and presented the report and balance sheet. The election of the new council resulted as follows: Hon. Life Member; Mr. N. Kirschner; President, M. M. Smith; Vice-president, Mr. C. Broomberg; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. L. Kapelus; Council, Messrs. H. Cohen, C. Hoppenstein, L. Judelman, J. Levin, M. Manasewitz, D. Miller, M. Nestadt, L. Perkes, H. Stein, L. Stein, D. Schneider, H. Tucker, V. Toker, H. Wald, A. Weitzman, Z. Yawich.

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MUSICAL AWARDS

Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Israel, of Johannesburg, have received news that their daughters, Anthya (14 years old) and Lorraine (10 years old), have been awarded bursaries by the University of South Africa for their proficiency in playing the piano. Anthya has won the Frederic Holden Memorial Bursary for instrumentalists in the Durban Eisteddfod. She has played on three occasions with the Durban Municipal Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Edward Dunn.

TRIPLE FUNCTION AT CAPE TOWN

Members of the Strand and Somerset West Hebrew Congregations participated in a most interesting function recently.

The occasion was a triple marking not only the commencement of Chanukah, but also UNO's decision on the partition of Palestine in the presentation of a set of Genesis and Mishnas to the Somerset West Hebrew Congregation.

The set of books were formally handed over to the congregation and placed in a cabinet presented by the treasurer and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. S. Funder, in memory of their son. These books were the possession of the esteemed late Rev. Schmolow, for 40 years minister to the congregation, who, just before he died, presented them to the synagogue. The committee decided to raffle the books agreeing that the two winners should be the official donors. The money collected from the raffle was sent to the Cape Jewish Aged Home. Mr. Anna Friedman and Mr. Mendel Aronson won the raffle.

Mr. Kruss, the chairman, welcomed the speakers, who were Rev. S. Kivowitz, the present minister, Rev. Morgenstern and Rev. Gad.

Mr. Aronson replied to the honour bestowed on him, and Mr. Jack Friedman, of Worcester, replied on behalf of his mother.

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