

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

**Party Representation in S.A. Zionism.**

The Editor,  
S.A. Jewish Chronicle.

The acceptance by the Actions Committee of the principle of separation between the World Zionist Organisation and the Israeli Government carries with it implications which require a readjustment of Zionist activity in this country. A new approach to the whole party set-up within the S.A. Zionist Federation seems to be the first essential. The decision of Conference to change the Federation's constitution by providing for the election of its executive on a party basis may possibly have been justified in the light of circumstances then existing. Few of its sponsors, I am sure, will, however, to-day urge either that that innovation has produced results beneficial to the movement as a whole, or that with the establishment of the Jewish State its whole foundation has not disappeared.

As to its consequences, I need for my present purposes refer only to the incentive it has provided to our youth to introduce within their ranks that self-same bitterness and division which have characterised the party strife amongst their elders. The unseemly grappling for the "souls" of youngsters from the age of eleven upwards in order to build up a particular party group is but one of its unhappy symptoms.

It is an obvious platitude to assert that the creation of a sovereign independent State of Israel has brought about far-reaching changes in the link between the Jews in the Diaspora and that State. Their future relationship will still have to be defined, if, indeed, it is capable of exact definition, but surely the first emphasis must be placed on our unequivocal recognition, as Zionists live beyond its confines, of the fact that the citizens of Medinat Israel, and they alone, will have the right to decide their future constitution, their internal social, economic and other policies, as well as the foreign policy of their Government. Of course, we shall remain vitally interested but a failure to accept this fundamental position is a denial of the State's right to that legal recognition of its sovereignty and independence which we are now urging on other countries.

How false and artificial, therefore, is the continuance of the S.A. Zionist Federation or the election of Congress delegations on the basis of party representation! Neither the Federation nor party delegates at Congress will be entitled to determine whether, for instance, a Socialistic Republic or a Theocracy is to be created or whether an alliance should be formed with the Eastern or Western bloc. In order to fulfil their duties of advancing the cause of Israel and of co-operation with it no specific party viewpoint or mandate is necessary or even desirable.

I do not mean to suggest that Zionist parties as such in South Africa will have to go out of existence, but their functions will be limited. By collaboration with their counterparts in other countries they will be able to strengthen their respective organisations in a democratic Israel, but this can no longer be achieved through the S.A. Zionist Federation or the World Zionist Organisation as such.

The rank and file of South African Zionists have always regarded their obligations as transcending those of mere party loyalties and affiliations, and have been prepared to leave the political, economic and spiritual destiny of Palestine in the safe hands of its Jewish citizens. If given a lead, therefore, I am convinced that at this stage an amendment of the Federation's constitution to abolish representation by party nominees will receive almost universal support. Now is the opportune time for the launching of a movement for this vital purpose. Is it asking too much of the present executive or of the party leaders themselves to give ex-

(Continued in Second Column.)

**Chief Rabbi Prof. Abrahams Visits Queenstown.**

**LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE OF NEW HALL.**

On Tuesday, 14th September, Chief Rabbi Prof. I. Abrahams visited the Queenstown Jewish Community for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of their new Hall which is also to accommodate the local Hebrew School. The building is to be named the *Israeli Hall*.

The proceedings were opened by the President of the Congregation, Dr. Schaffer, who introduced and welcomed Chief Rabbi Abrahams, and spoke of the significance of the function. The Rev. Gordon, the Minister of Queenstown Hebrew Congregation, read Psalms C plus CI and placed a receptacle containing a document recording the names of the members of the Committee in a hollow brick beneath the foundation stone.

**RABBI ABRAHAMS' ADDRESS.**

Rabbi Abrahams then set the inscribed marble plaque which served as the foundation stone, and upon the completion of this ceremony the Rabbi briefly addressed the assembly. He paid tribute to the Jewish idealism which had inspired the Community to embark upon this undertaking. Whilst the Jewish citizens of Queenstown, mostly born and brought up in this country, had never been wanting in their sense of civic duty, they had at the same time remained loyal to the traditions of their religion and people. The new structure that they were erecting was an eloquent expression of their faith in their children's future: they had the courage to believe that the next generation could continue to live in peace in South Africa and live as wholehearted devoted Jews, meriting the Biblical description: "Ye are children unto the Lord, your God."

**LECTURE.**

In the evening, Chief Rabbi Abrahams delivered a lecture in which he analysed the present position in Palestine, described the part played by our youth in the present Jewish struggle and renaissance, and stressed the need for a renewal of Jewish religions and cultural values in the Diaspora.

The Chair was taken by Mr. Adleson, who had been the prime mover in raising funds for the erection of the Israeli Hall, and a very warm vote of thanks to the speaker was moved by Dr. Schaffer. Before leaving Queenstown, the Rabbi gave an assurance that he would, *Deo Volente*, attend the consecration of the completed building in about six months' time.

Tel Aviv.

No outside relief assistance may be needed by the Jews in Poland after 1949, Prof. Joseph Sak, member of the Polish National Council and Vice-Chairman of the Jewish Central Committee, declared here at a press conference. He said that all Zionist parties, except the Revisionists, are permitted to function in Poland.

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pression to this strong feeling of public opinion by themselves taking the initiative?

The next S.A. Zionist Congress cannot now be far away. Steps in the suggested direction will have to be taken by them immediately, failing which the task will be undertaken by others.

D. COHEN.

Cape Town.

**Zionist Conversazione.**

ADDRESS BY

MR. H. DAVIDOFF, M.P.

Mr. H. Davidoff, M.P., addressed a Zionist Conversazione under the auspices of the Dorshei Zion Association at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night. Dr. I. M. Hurwitz was in the chair, and extended a cordial welcome to the speaker, referring also to the Zionist activities of his wife, Mrs. Jeanette Davidoff.

Mr. Davidoff at the outset expressed his horror at the brutal murder of Count Bernadotte and his condemnation of this dastardly crime. Speaking on the subject of "The 'New Look' at Israel—Ours and Theirs," he said that every Jew could be proud of the heroic stand of the Jews in Israel and of the way the Jewish State was being built up in the face of tremendous difficulties. People looked with admiration at Israel, and those not previously active in the Zionist cause, like himself, had acquired a "new look." The Jewish people had become a united whole, determined to build up the Jewish State. Jews could walk with their heads high, proud of the fact that they now had their own homeland.

**DUTY TO ISRAEL.**

But the "new look" did not only mean appreciation and admiration of the deeds of the Jews in Israel. It should force us to a realisation that we owed a duty to the State of Israel. The fight was for all Jews, and if we lost, woe to all Jews! Every Jew must give as much as possible. We must be true to ourselves, or all would be lost. The attitude of "alles sal reg kom" would not do. All Jews must dedicate themselves to Israel with the utmost devotion. The speaker suggested that South African Jews should tax themselves by giving to Israel the rebate on taxation announced in the recent Budget. What we had done in the past should be as nothing compared with what we ought to do to-day. He suggested other ways of helping Israel and expressed the hope that Cape Town would give a lead to the rest of the Union.

**ANTI-SEMITISM.**

Going on to deal with "their" new look, Mr. Davidoff said there were three classes of anti-Semitism—ideological, social and economic. The first was the most dangerous and might lead to a state of Nazism. There was no open anti-Semitism in the House of Assembly at present. The establishment of the State of Israel had given the Afrikaners a "flow feeling" towards the Jews. He hoped this was not a passing phase, but was afraid it might be so. There was admiration for the Jewish victories and sympathy with the establishment of the State of Israel. Many of the English were anti-Semitic because they had been misled by propaganda, and it would take a long time to disabuse their minds. They could not see anything to applaud in the fighting in Israel. The Englishman's "new look" was one of contempt, but it was hoped this attitude would change.

Jews in South Africa must not rely on promises of yesterday or threats of the day before. They must be on the *qui vive* all the time and must keep an even course. There was always a danger that the extremists in the Nationalist Party might gain the upper hand. If this happened the Jews could only hope that Israel would flourish to the extent that we could all find a home there.

**NEWS COMMENTARY.**

During the evening Mr. S. M. Levin gave a news commentary. He strongly condemned the brutal and cowardly assassination of Count Bernadotte, and hoped that the perpetrators would be tracked down. He did not think that this could be interpreted as a breach of the truce, however, and hoped there would be

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**Worcester Hebrew Congregation.**

WELCOME TO RABBI M. SMITH.

A hearty welcome was extended by the Jewish community of Worcester to their new Rabbi, Rabbi M. Smith, and his family at an informal reception held in their honour at the Worcester Zionist Hall on Thursday evening, September 9.

The Rabbi and his family, who had arrived from England only the day previously, were introduced by the chairman, Mr. Jack Friedman, who extended an official welcome to the Rabbi and his family on behalf of the congregation. In this he was also supported by short speeches delivered by the heads of the various communal bodies.

Both Rabbi and Mrs. Smith expressed their sincere thanks to the Worcester congregation for the cordial reception accorded them and also for the great deal of effort on the part of the Executive Committee in providing them with a new house which was built in record time, and for making their journey from England as comfortable as possible, even to the extent of providing special facilities for kosher food.

Rabbi Smith explained what the essential tasks of a Rabbi in a community were, and laid emphasis on the fact that although popularity was desirable, devotion to duty was not to be sacrificed for the sake of popularity.

In response to remarks made in his speech by the chairman of the Junior Zionist Society the Rabbi pledged to pass on to the youth who were full of enthusiasm some of the benefits of his experience, which they admitted they lacked.

Refreshments were served after the conclusion of the speeches, thus finding one of the most well-attended and enjoyable functions held at Worcester.

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no serious consequences. The attempt being made to blame the whole of the Jewish people was inexcusable. Public opinion in Israel to-day was behind the Government in their efforts to root out the dissidents. They would earn more respect because of the stern measures taken, as was the case in the Altalena incident.

Referring to Count Bernadotte's last proposals, Mr. Levin said that this showed the strength of our case. This could be presumed the minimum to which the British Foreign Office was prepared to agree to, and showed a remarkable change of attitude, which was a good sign. There was a swing-over in our favour, and there could be no more discussion on the principle of a Jewish State. The proposal to set up an Arab Government revealed a split in the Arab camp and made the prospect of a resumed full-scale war less likely. Politically, the position was to our advantage, and nothing could prevent us from winning the battle and establishing the State on a firm basis.

Miss Avra Weinreich accompanied by Miss R. Leibowitz, rendered songs, and Miss Leibowitz a pianoforte solo. Mr. J. M. Weinreich thanked Mr. Davidoff for his interesting address.

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