

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
Meeting of the Executive Committee
October 12, 1919.

M I N U T E S

I. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Sunday, October 12th, 1919 in the City of New York.

PRESENT. Doctor Cyrus Adler, in the Chair, and Messrs. Dorf, Bernheim, Marshall, Cyrus L. Sulzberger, A. Leo Weil and the Assistant Secretary.

Excuses were received from Messrs. Elkus, Lasker, Rosenwald, Schiff, Straus and Mayer Sulzberger.

II. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 2nd and of the New York members of the Executive Committee held on March 6th were adopted as issued to the members.

III. THE FALASHAS

The Chairman stated that Doctor Jacques Faitlovitch, who had interested the Committee in 1915 in the matter of assisting the Falashas, the Jews of Abyssinia, is now in the United States. Doctor Faitlovitch has reported that the Inter-

national Pro-Falasha Committee is now out of existence, that according to the latest information the situation of the Falashas is very grave, that he has not found it possible to undertake the expedition to Abyssinia which he had planned in 1915, and that he desired to request the assistance of the American Jewish Committee in the formation in this country of an organization to undertake the Falasha work or that the Committee itself act as the central body in this connection. The Chairman stated that the President and he had invited Doctor Faitlovitch to present himself before the Committee and to set forth his requests in person.

DOCTOR FAITLOVITCH appeared before the Committee and made the following statement:

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the suggestion of Doctor Cyrus Adler, I beg to submit a brief memorandum of the question on the Falasha Jews of Abyssinia.

It is not my intention here to enter into a general discussion of the Falasha problem with which you are all familiar and in which you have shown a kindly interest on previous occasions. I shall limit myself to a statement of the Falasha situation which has arisen since my last visit to this country in 1915.

When I was here last time, your Committee voted generously the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.) to enable me to pursue my work. Moreover, your Committee made itself responsible for the collection of the annual subscriptions which I had succeeded in securing to the amount of

approximately two thousand dollars (\$2,000.). Having obtained your assistance I returned to Italy and immediately began preparations for an expedition to Abyssinia. Unfortunately, political conditions in connection with the war made it impossible for me to undertake the journey. The European Central Committee which had been organized in 1913 in Frankfort on the Maine has been unable to function on account of the war, and all my efforts during the last few months to organize a new Pro-Falasha Committee in Europe have been of no avail.

In the meantime, the condition of the Falashas has changed for the worse. The last news I had from Abyssinia was towards the end of 1916, when I received a communication from the young Falasha whom I had taken with me to Europe and then brought back to Abyssinia, to the effect that the school established by me and entrusted to his care in the province of Denbia in the interior of Abyssinia was left without funds, and would have to be discontinued unless I came to its rescue. Since that time, all contact with the Falashas has been cut off. The Abyssinian embassy which visited recently Europe and America was not able to give me any information concerning the Falashas who live far away from the Capitol, but the general report about the terrible ravages wrought by famine and the Spanish influenza as a result of the war, fills me with anxiety about the fate of the Falasha people.

Under these circumstances I consider it my sacred duty to once more proceed to Abyssinia in order to find out the condition of the Falashas and reestablish communications with them. I have addressed a request to the Joint Distribution Committee asking that I be permitted to go to Abyssinia and establish a little pharmacy there to bring medical help to the sorely stricken population. I understand that a sub-committee has been appointed to consider the matter.

Realizing the special functions of the Joint Distribution Committee, I felt that I had no right to ask for anything beyond immediate relief. But the permanent danger confronting the Falashas, that of being lost to Judaism, remains in all its gravity. I feel that it is the duty of the Jews in all civilized countries and particularly of America, not to allow this branch of the House of Israel, which for more than two thousand years has remained staunch to our faith, to be cut off from its parent stem. This danger can only be combatted by en-

lightenment and instruction in the tenets of Judaism. It is a most significant fact that since my coming to Abyssinia, and bringing the Falashas in contact with Judaism, the formerly successful attempts of the Christian missionaries were completely frustrated so that in 1908 I was severely criticised in the reports of the Abyssinian missionaries for having interfered with the success of their work. It is therefore essential that the school should be maintained at all costs, and that there should be organized or reorganized, some central agency which should make itself responsible for the maintenance and direction of that school.

As I pointed out previously, all my endeavors to organize a central Falasha Committee in Europe have been without success. It has only been possible to maintain the local committees in Holland and Switzerland, both of which felt that they could not possibly assume the function of a central committee. At their urgent advice I came to this country to appeal to the well-known generosity and loyalty of the Jews of America on behalf of our unfortunate brethren in Abyssinia. Short as has been my stay in this country, I have had ample opportunity to observe the deep interest in the Falasha cause manifested by many Jews with whom I had the chance to discuss this question. I have no doubt but that the necessary funds can be procured and that all that is needed is to place the cause of the Falashas in responsible hands.

Hoping that the Joint Distribution Committee will consider favorably my application for an expedition to Abyssinia and carrying relief there, I beg to submit the following request to your Committee.

First, that the American Jewish Committee make itself responsible as it did in 1915 for the collection of such annual contributions as I have succeeded in securing.

Second, that it appoint a special committee which should supervise the expenditures of these moneys.

Third, that the American Jewish Committee shall enable me to enlarge the school

work in Abyssinia by establishing a teachers' institute in that country. That institute is a vital necessity if we are to get hold of the bulk of the Falasha people and to preserve them for Judaism. The funds at my disposal will undoubtedly prove inadequate for this purpose and I hope that the American Jewish Committee will place an additional fund at my disposal so that I can successfully accomplish my task.

In the course of discussion which was had during the presentation of the foregoing statement and subsequent thereto, it was suggested that the best plan for meeting the situation is to secure the cooperation of the national religious organizations in the United States, namely the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the United Synagogue of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was

RESOLVED, that a sub-committee to include the Assistant Secretary be appointed for the purpose of considering with Doctor Faitlovitch the present needs of the Falashas plans for the work to meet these needs, and a budget for this work for the next several years; that the sub-committee thereupon place itself in communication with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the United Synagogue of America, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, and other bodies, with a view to securing their cooperation on behalf of the Falashas through the medium of a joint committee, and that the work entailed be

done in the office of and at the expense of the American Jewish Committee.

The Committee; Doctor Adler, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Bernheim and the Assistant Secretary.

IV

PEACE CONFERENCE

DOCTOR ADLER and MR. MARSHALL made a statement of the work done at the Peace Conference on behalf of securing rights for Jews and other minorities, by the representatives of the American Jewish Committee and other bodies. It was the sense of the Committee that, at the Annual Meeting, a statement be made on behalf of our representatives to the Peace Conference; that this statement be confined to an account of what the Peace Conference has done on behalf of Jews and other minorities with special reference to the vital importance of the League of Nations for the security of the rights granted to these minorities; but that it is not advisable in view of the fact that the treaties are not ratified to go into any further details at the present time.

V

ANNUAL MEETING

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting be open to the public.

VI

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN stated that, in consultation with him, the Assistant Secretary had prepared the draft of the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Executive Committee, that copies of this draft had been sent to all the members of the Executive Committee for their criticism and had been returned by Messrs. Dorf, Cutler, Schiff, Cyrus L. Sulzberger, Mayer Sulzberger and A. Leo Weil.

After discussion of the draft, in the course of which various changes were suggested, it was approved for presentation to the Annual Meeting.

VII

OFFICE OF WAR RECORDS

The CHAIRMAN stated that he had received from Mr. Julian Leavitt, Director of the Office of War Records of the Committee, a report covering the work of that office during the past year, which would be presented to the Annual Meeting.

VIII

ANTI-JEWISH DISCRIMINATION

The Assistant Secretary reported that various affidavits charging the practice of anti-Jewish discrimination in offices of the United States Employment Service had been called by the Committee to the attention of the Director of the Service, the Hon. John B. Densmore who instituted an investigation of these charges and who reported that in a number of cases the complaints arose

from misunderstandings while in others, discrimination was not practised by the United States Employment Service but by employers of labor who made applications for help. The examiners of the United States Employment Service were strictly forbidden to make any inquiries regarding the race, religion, or nationality of applicants for situations but it was not within the power of the Service to stipulate the terms upon which employers might apply for assistance.

2. Discussion was had as to recent occurrences at New York University which had resulted in the creation of ill feeling between the Jewish and non-Jewish students and had culminated in what appeared to be the unjust expulsion of one of the Jewish students. This matter is now in the hands of the Kehillah of New York City and various conferences have taken place with a view to improving the condition of affairs. Mr. Marshall agreed to advise Mr. William Lieberman, the Counsel of the Kehillah, in this matter.

3. The Assistant Secretary reported that he had called to the attention of Mr. Schiff a letter appearing in a newspaper and evidently written by a female stenographer of the Jewish faith, alleging that she has been discriminated against in the matter of securing employment with

the New York Telephone Company on the basis of an anonymous communication. Mr. Felix Fuld, a member from Newark, New Jersey, had called the same matter to the attention of the Assistant Secretary.

IX

JEWES OF THE YEMEN

Upon motion it was resolved that the sum of \$5,000.00 appropriated in 1914, for the building of houses for the Yemenite Jews in Palestine be now paid over to the appropriate organization.

X

JEWES OF THE UKRAINE

Discussion was had respecting the condition of the Jews of the Ukraine in which region pogroms on a large scale has been reported. In August last, the Hon. Breckenridge Long, 3rd Assistant Secretary of State, had informed Mr. Fulton Brylawski, the member of the Committee in Washington, D.C., that a telegram had been sent to the American Minister at Copenhagen instructing him to ask the Danish government to conduct such inquiries as may be possible through the Danish Red Cross or other organizations in the Ukraine, in an endeavor to ascertain more definite information regarding the reported massacres. Since that time, however, no further word has been received from the State Department.

After discussion, the Assistant Secretary was directed to telegraph to Mr. Brylawski requesting him to inquire at the State Department whether any report had been received from the Danish Red Cross or any other official sources on this subject.

XI

IMMIGRATION

The CHAIRMAN stated that a number of requests had been received that the Committee use its good offices to facilitate the migration of relatives in this country who are experiencing difficulties in coming here because of the stringent passport regulations now in force. It was directed that all such requests for assistance be referred to the Joint Distribution Committee.

In this connection, MR. MARSHALL stated that a bill had been introduced in Congress by representative Albert Johnson of Washington, proposing to make the passport regulations in force during the war statutory for a period of one year after the declaration of peace. Mr. Marshall pointed out that if this bill becomes a law it will cause much hardship to many unobjectionable relatives of persons now residents in this country who are waiting for the opportunity to come here. Mr. Marshall was requested to make representation to the Committee on Immigration of the House of Representatives pointing out that while the Committee

agrees in principle as to the desirability of preventing the immigration of undesirable aliens, exception should be made in favor of innocent relatives of residents of the United States who are admissible according to the provisions of the immigration laws.

XII

MEMBERSHIP

1. A letter was presented from Mr. Charles Van Leer, a member of the Committee from the State of Delaware stating that in view of the fact that his term of membership in the American Jewish Committee expires this year, he deems it his duty to inform the Committee that in his opinion the successor should be elected from the city of Wilmington in which practically the entire Jewish population of Delaware is centered. The Assistant Secretary was directed to ask Mr. Van Leer to suggest the names of suitable persons in Wilmington, Delaware.

2. A letter was presented from Henry W. Braude, Secretary of the Jewish Community of Philadelphia stating that the Hon. Henry N. Wessel had been appointed by the President of the Jewish Community of Philadelphia to membership in the American Jewish Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Louis Edward Levy.

Upon motion the appointment of Mr. Wessel was ratified by the Executive Committee.

3. Upon motion the following resolutions were adopted and ordered to be spread upon the minutes:

"The Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee has learned with profound sorrow of the death of February 19th, 1919, of Louis Edward Levy who was a member of the Committee since 1914. Mr. Levy was a well-known inventor, was both as a member of the American Jewish Committee and as the President of the Jewish Community of Philadelphia, most zealous in cooperating in all efforts to relieve the distress of Jews both in this country and abroad, was extremely active in resisting attempts to restrict by arbitrary means the immigration of law-abiding and industrious persons and in general to maintain on a high plane the best principles of Judaism and Americanism. The Committee will for many years feel the loss of this active and loyal member and co-worker."

"The Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee wishes to give expression to its sorrow at the death of Maurice Stern of New Orleans, La. Mr. Stern, who was a highly respected banker and merchant, was a member of the Committee since 1910 and always responded cheerfully to all calls made upon him to aid the Committee both materially and morally in pursuit of its objects. He was a generous contributor to its funds and was especially helpful in the cooperation which he lent the Committee in its efforts to combat the arbitrary restrictions of immigration and to put an end, by the abrogation of the Treaty of 1832 with the former Empire of Russia, to the denial by that country to Americans of the Jewish faith of their rights as citizens. In Mr. Stern the Committee has lost an active and influential helper."

4. Upon motion it was resolved that the Executive Committee place in nomination for membership at large at the Annual Meeting, the names of the following: Herman Bernstein, New York; Judge Nathan Bijur, New York; Abel Davis, Chicago; Charles Eileenman, Cleveland; Abram I. Elkus, New York; S. Marcus Feohheimer, Cincinnati; Lee K. Frankel, New York; Herbert Friedenwald, Kew Gardens, L. I.; Louis E. Kirstein, Boston; Max J. Kohler, New York; Albert D. Lasker, Chicago; Judge Irving Lehman, New York; Jacob M. Loeb, Chicago; Oscar S. Straus, New York and Aaron Waldheim, St. Louis.

XIII AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK

The CHAIRMAN stated that through the amalgamation of the Bureau of Statistics of the American Jewish Committee with other bureaus into the Bureau of Jewish Social Research and Statistics, the question of the control of the American Jewish Year Book had been raised. This had, since 1909, been edited in the office of the American Jewish Committee by the secretary of the Committee or the Director of the Bureau of Statistics, after that body came into existence. MR. MARSHALL stated that he is firmly of the opinion that the Year Book should be kept under the control of the Committee. After discussion, it was resolved that the matter be referred to a sub-committee to confer with the

Executive Board of the Bureau of Jewish Social
Research.

XIV

FINANCES

The Assistant Secretary presented the
following statement of receipts and expenditures
from November 1st, 1918 to October 1st, 1919.

GENERAL FUND

Receipts

Balance on Hand Nov. 1, 1918	2230.96
Contributions received	18385.61
Refund from Bureau of Statistics	200.00
Appropriated from Emer- gency Trust Fund for Peace Conference Exp.	3608.75
Amount unexpended and returned	<u>500.00</u>
	<u>22694.36</u>
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR	<u>24925.32</u>

Disbursements

OFFICE EXPENSES

Salaries	4403.50
Books & Periodicals	81.40
Postage	645.98
Printing & Stationery	
Reprints 11th Annual Report	311.65
12th Annual Report	896.00
Reprints 12th Annual Report	150.00
Bulletins	149.00
Miscellaneous	<u>786.58</u>
	<u>2293.23</u>

BROUGHT FORWARD 7424.11

BROUGHT FORWARD 7424.11

24925.32

Telephone & Telegraph	149.12
Office Rent	855.05
Furniture & Fixtures	776.47
Clipping Service	
Yiddish	86.50
English	<u>248.40</u>
General Expense	334.90
	<u>349.00</u>
	9858.65

BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Expenses before
amalgamation.
(from Nov. 1, 1918
to Apr. 1, 1919) 2171.72
Appropriation Acct.
(\$5000 per annum) 2500.00

PEACE CONFERENCE 3608.75
UNEXPENDED SUM RE-
TURNED TO EMERGENCY
TRUST FUND 500.00

AMERICAN JEWISH CON-
GRESS 1250.00
EXECUTIVE & GENERAL
MEETINGS 265.85
TRANSPORTATION 191.06
20376.03

Balance on hand,
Oct. 1, 1919. 4549.29

TOTAL ACCOUNTED FOR

24925.32

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CASH

Petty Cash Fund	50.00
Union Exchange	
National Bank	960.82

Balance with Treas. 3538.47

4529.29

BALANCE IN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

4529.29

It was resolved that the Committee endeavor to raise for the budget for 1920 the sum of \$50,000.00

The Assistant Secretary was directed to have an expert audit of his accounts made.

XV.

THE DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was resolved that the next meeting of the Executive Committee be held at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 19th and the Assistant Secretary was directed to issue a notice to this effect.

Upon motion, adjourned.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
Meeting of the Executive Committee
October 19, 1919.

M I N U T E S

I. A meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee was held at the conclusion of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting on Sunday afternoon, October 19th, 1919, in New York City.

PRESENT: Doctor Cyrus Adler, in the Chair, and Messrs. Bernheim, Cutler, Dorf, Elkus, Marshall, Rosenwald, Schiff, C. L. Sulzberger, Weil and the Assistant Secretary; Judge Irving Lehman, who had been elected to the Executive Committee at the Annual Meeting for the term commencing January 1, 1920, was also present.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive committee held on October 12, had been prepared but that the time had not been sufficient for having them copied and issued to the Executive Committee.

II. PILENAS DOCUMENTS

The PRESIDENT reported on negotiations had with one, Casimir Pilenas, a Lithuanian, relating to various documents which he, Mr. Pilenas, stated were in his possession and which constituted

evidence of a conspiracy against the Jewish people. It had seemed undesirable to deal with Pilenas in the matter.

III.

MATTER OF MENDEL BEILIS

The Assistant Secretary presented a letter purporting to have been written by Mendel Beilis now in Jaffa, Palestine, who, in 1913, was the victim of an attempt to convict him of ritual murder in Kiev, Russia. The letter stated that Beilis is destitute and very much in debt and asked for advice and assistance of the American Jewish Committee.

After discussion, the Assistant Secretary was instructed to make inquiries respecting the condition of Beilis and to ascertain whether the American Jewish Committee had ever paid over any sum for his relief.

IV.

IMMIGRATION

The PRESIDENT reported that in accordance with the request of the Committee at the meeting of October 12th, that he make representation on the subject of a bill pending in the House of Representatives to keep in force the war time passport regulations, had sent the following telegram to the Hon. John J. Rogers, Acting Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs to which the measure in question had been referred:

"Congressman Siegel informs me that your Committee has kindly postponed consideration House Joint Resolution two hundred and five until tomorrow to enable me to express my views as President American Jewish Committee with regard thereto. After full consideration I have reached the conclusion that there can be no reasonably objection to the continuance for one year after the conclusion of peace of the terms of the act of May 22, 1915, on the assumption that the State Department shall have the power to make or modify regulations which shall in strict conformity with existing immigration legislation make it possible to reunite families, some members of which are here and others in foreign lands. Thus, for example, the father, son or brother of a family may have migrated to America before the war with the view of having his wife, children, parents or brothers and sisters subsequently join him here. The war has interfered with the accomplishment of this laudable and permitted purpose. In the meantime those left abroad have suffered and are suffering unspeakable privations and hardships. Now that it becomes possible their entry into this country should in the interest of humanity be facilitated. Should there be any doubt under the present act as to the power of the State Department to deal on a basis of liberality with such cases, that should be obviated in express terms. It is only in behalf of these meritorious classes of desirable immigrants that we are now concerned. It is of course understood that so far as relates to a permanent policy we are not to be regarded as favoring restrictions more severe than those now on the statute book."

October 13th, 1919.

In reply, Mr. Rogers had sent a copy of the Committee's report on the Resolution in which it was shown that the measure was intended only to give the Department of State power to prevent the immigration of politically undesirable aliens and that it would be administered solely with that end in view.

V.

MYSTERIOUS CASE OF K. OF K.

Correspondence was presented with the editor of "Popular Mechanics" whose attention had been called to the article in the March 1919 issue entitled "The Mysterious Case of K. of K." in which slanderous statements are made against leading Jews of England.

Mr. Marshall had written a letter to the Editor suggesting that the article was not based on facts but on hearsay; the Editor had stated in reply that he had proof of all the allegations made in the article and threatened to publish these proofs if he was annoyed by further complaints; to this Mr. Sulz-

berger, in the absence of Mr. Marshall who was abroad, had replied that if he had such proofs he should, in fairness to all concerned, publish them. No further word had been received from the Editor.

Mr. Rosenwald offered to go into the matter further in view of the fact that the editorial offices of the magazine are in Chicago.

VI.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was decided that the next meeting of the Executive Committee be held on Sunday, November 16th next.

On motion, adjourned.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Meeting of the Executive Committee

November 16th, 1919.

M I N U T E S

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee was held on Sunday, November 16, 1919, in New York City.

I **PRESENT:** Doctor Cyrus Adler, in the chair, and Messrs. Dorf, Elkus, Lehman, Marshall, Rosenwald, Schiff, C. L. Sulzberger and the Assistant Secretary.

Excuses were received from Messrs. Bernheim, Cutler, Sobel and A. Leo Weil.

II **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on October 12th and 19th last, were approved as issued to members.

III **MEMBERSHIP**

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY reported that all persons elected or re-elected to membership in the Committee at the Annual

Meeting on October 19th had agreed to serve.

IV

JEWS OF THE UKRAINE

Communications received by the President from S. Zarchi, Counsellor of the Ukrainian Delegation in Paris, were ordered filed.

Discussion was had respecting the mourning procession and mass meeting in protest against anti-Jewish massacres in the Ukraine which are being arranged by various persons in New York City and which are planned to take place on November 24th next. It was the sense of the Committee that the course to be adopted in relation thereto be left in the hands of Mr. Marshall and Mr. Schiff.

V

JEWS AND BOLSHEVISM

The CHAIRMAN called to the attention of the Committee a cable dispatch printed in the Philadelphia Public Ledger of November 10 last, in which an extract from an editorial in the London Times is quoted to the

effect that there are indications that the Prinkipo Conference proposed by the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference was concede "by prominent Jewish financiers in New York whose interest in Trotsky and his associated is of old standing." To a request that further information concerning the prominent Jewish financiers in New York, the editor of the London Times replied: "I do not care to say anything further at this time, but I have what I consider most excellent authority for making that statement."

It was the view of the CHAIRMAN that the editor of the "Times" should be challenged to name the source of his information but the Committee deemed such action inadvisable.

A letter from Mr. A. J. Sack, Director, of the Russian Information Bureau in the United States, to Mr. Schiff respecting the attitude of Admiral Kolchak on the Jewish Question was presented and ordered filed.

YEMENITE JEWS IN PALESTINE

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY stated that in connection with the resolution of the Executive Committee that the sum of \$5,000 appropriated in 1913 for the benefit of Yemenite and Moroccan Jews in Palestine, be now paid over, he had found that the original resolution of the Executive Committee provided that this appropriation was to be regarded as a loan to be repaid within eighteen years. In view of this stipulation the PRESIDENT had directed that payment be deferred until reconsideration by the Executive Committee.

Upon motion, it was resolved that Mr. C. L. Sulzberger be requested to take up the matter with the Joint Distribution Committee with a view to having the payment made through them or if possible out of the funds of that Committee.

THE FALASHAS

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY reported that Doctor Jacques Faitlovitch had left the United States on November 14

last for Abyssinia via Italy and that he had requested that the Committee place the sum of \$5,000, of the amount to the credit of the Falasha Fund, at his disposal for use in connection with the educational work in Abyssinia.

Upon motion it was resolved that in view of the fact that Doctor Faitlovitch has actually proceeded to Abyssinia, the sum of \$5,000 appropriated by the Executive Committee at its meeting on March 7, 1915, be paid over to Doctor Faitlovitch for use in connection with his educational work among the Falashas of Abyssinia.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY reported that in accordance with the resolution of the Executive Committee, a letter approved by the President and the Chairman of the Executive Committee, has been sent to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, the United Synagogue of America and the United Orthodox Rabbis of America and the Rabbinical Assembly of the Jewish Theological Seminary

of America inviting them to cooperate with the Committee in its work on behalf of the Falashas.

VIII

THE BEILIS CASE

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY reported that upon examination of the records he had found that although the consent of the Executive Committee had been secured by correspondence to an appropriation from the Emergency Trust Fund of a sum not exceeding \$5,000 for the relief of Beilis, no payment had actually been made. The Hilfsverein, der Deutschen Juden, had raised 13,800 Marks for this purpose and it had been suggested that the Committee contribute an equal amount which, at that time, would have been equivalent to \$3,500. Several cablegrams to the Zionist Relief Commission in Jerusalem, both from the Office of the American Jewish Committee and from the Zionist Organization of America, requesting information respecting the condition of Beilis had not yet been answered. It was the sense of the Committee that further action be deferred

until this information is received.

IX

OFFICE OF WAR RECORDS

A report was presented from Mr. Julian Leavitt, respecting the work of the Office of War Records giving detailed figures of the number of records actually in the files. Mr. Leavitt requested advice as to the best program for him to follow in view of the fact that the collection of new names is bound to become less fruitful as time goes on. He presented for the consideration of the Committee three programs for further work, namely: 1. the desirable program; 2. the abridged program; 3. the minimum program.

Upon motion, it was resolved that the "desirable program," to continue the work intensively until the 200,000 records are secured, thoroughly verified and ready for publication, be adopted and that the President and the Chairman of the Executive Committee be requested to take up with the Jewish Welfare Board the matter of securing the funds necessary for this program.

Letters were also presented from Mr. Leavitt requesting an increase in salary and permission to devote part of his time to work for the Joint Distribution Committee.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee was requested to arrange with the Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee for a proper distribution of Mr. Leavitt's time and for the payment of a proper salary by both organizations.

X
THE AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK

The CHAIRMAN reported that in accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee an arrangement had been entered into with the Bureau of Jewish Social Research according to the terms of which the American Jewish Year Book would continue to be edited in the office of the American Jewish Committee, and the Bureau of Jewish Social Research would receive for its 1920 budget a contribution of \$2500 from the American Jewish Committee instead of \$5000 as in 1919. The

Bureau is further to supervise the collection of statistics for the Year Book and to have published an article about its work in that volume.

IX

FINANCES

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY presented a report of Mr. Theodore Levine, Certified Public Accountant, who had audited the books of the office. The chief exhibits of this report are given herewith.

Statement of Cash Receipts & Disbursements for the year ended October 31st, 1919.

BALANCES NOVEMBER 1ST, 1919

Union Exchange National Bank
State Bank
Petty Cash

1474.32
1520.33
50.00

TOTAL CASH BALANCES

3044.65

Brought Forward

3044.65

RECEIPTS

Contributing Members	1284.95
Sustaining Members	<u>19245.41</u>
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	20530.36

Refund from Bureau of Statistics	200.00
From Emergency Trust Fund for Peace Conference Trip	3608.75
Refund from Peace Conference Expense	<u>500.00</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS

24839.11

TOTAL RECEIPTS AND CASH BALANCES

27853.76

DISBURSEMENTS

For General & Administrative Purposes

Salaries	4868.00
Books and Periodicals	82.05
Postage	702.40
Stationery & Printing	
Reprints 11th Annual Report	311.65
12th Annual Report	896.00
Reprints of same	150.00
Bulletins	224.00
Miscellaneous	<u>796.23</u>
Telephone & Telegraph	2377.88
General Expense	156.24
Rent Office	388.45
Clippings	938.39
	<u>359.74</u>

TOTAL GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

9873.15

Total General & Administrative F'd'd.

9873.15

For Special Purposes:

Bureau of Statistics:

Before Amalgamation 2171.72

Appropriation \$5000
per annum 2500.00

TOTAL - Bureau of Statistics 4671.72

Transportation 191.06

Executive & General Meetings 265.85

American Jewish Congress 1250.00

To Acquire asset of Furniture
and Fixtures 869.47

Appropriated for Office of
War Records 713.69

Peace Conference 3608.75

Unexpended sum Returned to
Emergency Trust Fund 500.00

TOTAL SPECIAL PURPOSES 12070.54

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 21943.69

BALANCES OCTOBER 31ST, 1919.

Union Exchange National Bank 1156.85

State Bank 4733.22

Petty Cash Fund 50.00

TOTAL CASH BALANCES OCTOBER 31st, 1919 5940.07

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS AND CASH BALANCE 27883.76

Statement of Income & Expenditures for the year ended
October 31st, 1919.

INCOME:

Contributing Members	1284.95
Sustaining Members	<u>19245.41</u>

TOTAL INCOME

20530.36

EXPENDITURES:

General & Administrative Expense

Salaries	4868.00
Books & Periodicals	82.05
Postage	702.40
Stationery & Printing	2377.88
Telephone & Telegraph	156.24
General Expense	388.45
Rent	938.39
Clippings	<u>359.74</u>

TOTAL GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE

9873.15

OTHER EXPENDITURES:

Bureau of Statistics	2171.72
Appropriated to Bureau of Statistics	2750.00
Transportation	191.06
Meetings	265.35
Furniture	869.47
Appropriation to War Service	
Statistics	713.69
American Jewish Congress	<u>1250.00</u>

TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES

9211.79

BALANCE SHEET

NOVEMBER 1ST, 1919.

ASSETS:

Cash in Union Exchange National Bank	1156.65
Cash in State Bank	4733.22
Petty Cash Fund	<u>50.00</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

\$5940.07

LIABILITIES & SURPLUS

Appropriation to Bureau of Statistics	1250.00
Due October 1st, 1919.	

Surplus Nov. 1, 1918	3244.65
" for 1919 as per	
Exhibit "B"	<u>1445.42</u>

TOTAL SURPLUS NOVEMBER 1, 1919.	<u>4690.07</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & SURPLUS

\$5940.07

EXHIBIT "C"

Upon motion, it was resolved that the salary of the Assistant Secretary for the fiscal year beginning on November 1st, 1919 be \$4,200.00 per annum and that the Chairman be empowered to adjust the salaries of the other employees of the Committee.

XII

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Committee be held on December 14th next.

Upon motion, adjourned.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
Meeting of the Executive Committee
December 14th, 1919.

M I N U T E S

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee was held on Sunday, December 14th, 1919, in New York City.

- I. PRESENT: Doctor Cyrus Adler, in the chair, and Messrs. Dorf, Elkus, Lehman, Marshall, Rosenwald, C. L. Sulzberger, A. Leo Weil and the Assistant Secretary.

Excuses were received from Messrs. Bernheim, Cutler, Hollander and Straus.

II. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on November 16th, 1919, were approved as issued to the members.

III. JEWS OF THE UKRAINE

A letter was presented from Mr. Lucien Wolf on behalf of the Joint Foreign Committee of the Jewish Board of Deputies and the Anglo Jewish Association, dated November 18th, 1919 communicating copy of a letter received by that Committee from the British Foreign Office in reference to a proposed commission

of inquiry into the pogroms in the Ukraine in which the Joint Foreign Committee had been invited to participate by the Government of the Ukrainian Republic. In view of the opinion of the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that such a mission would be inadvisable and would "merely excite passions which have already been strained by the long conflict," the Joint Foreign Committee had declined the invitation of the government of the Ukrainian Republic, but had asked that the British High Commissioner on South Russia be instructed to make inquiries into the pogroms. The Assistant Secretary was requested to acknowledge receipt of this communication.

The PRESIDENT reported that as a result of the mass meeting held in New York City on November 24th, to protest against the pogroms in the Ukraine, a delegation had called upon the Hon. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, with a view of presenting to him such information as had been received respecting the pogroms together with a petition praying that our Government use its good

offices on behalf of the Jews of that region. Mr. Lansing had stated that while our Government viewed with horror the outrages complained of, it was not in position to take any official action because of the total absence of any diplomatic relations with any of the various groups which are now struggling for supremacy in the Ukraine; our Government is sending a consul to Odessa which is instructed to do everything possible to remedy the situation; to a suggestion that the United States request Great Britain, France, and Italy to join it in sending an international commission to the Ukraine, Mr. Lansing had replied that while the United States Government is averse to participation in such commissions, the suggestion will bear consideration. Several days after this interview Mr. Marshall had received a communication from the State Department suggesting that the greatest circumspection be used in the selection of the personnel of any Jewish Relief commission to go to the Ukraine.

JEWS OF RUSSIA

On behalf of Mr. Schiff, a letter was presented from General Jadwin, a member of the American Mission to Poland, dated November 1, 1919, informing Mr. Schiff that while he, General Jadwin, was in Kiev, he was approached by several persons who asked him to bring to Mr. Schiff's attention the expression of their hope for a free access to all the United States for Jewish citizens of Russia; "if that cannot be obtained the hope for access to some of the southwestern states, and if not that at least permission may be given for those families to go who already have a relative in the United States."

The Assistant Secretary was directed to communicate with the persons in Kiev to whom General Jadwin referred, through the Jewish Territorialist Organization in London, informing them that according to the laws of the United States no distinction is made between intending immigrants on account of race and that the immigration laws apply to all the States alike; also that this Committee is at

work in an endeavor to facilitate the immigration of persons who had relatives already in the United States.

V. OFFICES OF THE COMMITTEE

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY reported that the owners of the building in which the Committee has its offices desire to revise all leases in order to make them date uniformly as of February 1st, 1920. At the present time, the Committee occupies three suites, one of which is used as the Secretary's office and the other two by the Office of Jewish War Records. The first suite now rents for \$1,000. per annum and is offered from February 1st, for \$1200; the other two suites are being held for \$3480. and are being offered for \$4560 from February 1st. After discussion it was agreed that the Committee renew the leases on the space it now holds, with the understanding that before the expiration of the new leases the question of suitable office space at moderate rentals be taken up.

VI. OFFICE OF WAR RECORDS

A report was presented from Mr. Julian Leavitt, Director of the Office of War

Records. Mr. Leavitt dwelt especially upon the necessity of the settlement of the question of adequate funds to carry out the program for 1920 which had been endorsed by the Executive Committee. Judge Lehman stated that he believed that this matter would be definitely decided by the Jewish Welfare Board within the next few weeks.

VII.

FINANCES

The Assistant Secretary presented the following statement of receipts and expenditures as of December 1st, 1919.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 1st, 1919.

GENERAL FUND.

Receipts.

Balance on Hand November 1. 4733.22
Received from Contributors. 1520.50

TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR

\$6253.72

Disbursements

Drafts during the month of Nov.

Office Expenses	750.00
Salary - Assistant Secretary	350.00
Expenses - Annual Meeting	335.70
Appropriation to the Bureau of Jewish Social Research	1250.00
Exchange on Country Checks	<u>1.52</u>

Total Disbursements	2687.22
Balance on Hand Dec. 1.	<u>3566.50</u>

TOTAL ACCOUNTED FOR

6253.72

OFFICE OF WAR RECORDSReceipts

Balance on Hand Nov. 1.	3198.27
Received from Jewish Welfare Board	<u>5000.00</u>

TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR

8198.27Disbursements

Drew for Office Expenses	
November 11.	2000.00
November 20.	<u>5000.00</u>

Total Disbursements	7000.00
Balance on Hand Dec. 1	<u>1198.27</u>

TOTAL ACCOUNTED FOR

8198.27

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY reported that shortly after the meeting of the Executive Committee on December 16th, a cablegram had been received by the Zionist Organization of America stating that Mendel Beilis and his family were destitute and that in the opinion of the Palestine Relief Commission, seven thousand dollars is required to establish Beilis on a farm on a self-supporting basis. It was the sense of the Committee that the sum referred to is too large an amount to be expended out of relief funds for a single family and that in view of the fact that the Committee had pledged a contribution for Beilis' support, it should now pay over the amount pledged. It was resolved that the appropriation of \$5,000 from the Emergency Trust Fund which had been authorized by the Executive Committee by correspondence, in December 1913, be applied for the benefit of Beilis.

JEW OF THE YEMEN

MR. SULZBERGER reported in the matter of the appropriation for the Jews of Yemen in Palestine that he had referred it to the Joint Distribution Committee which had in turn referred it to its Sub-Committee on Palestine which is expected to report shortly.

THE FALASHAS

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY report that in accordance with the decision of the Committee invitations had been issued to various Jewish religious organizations inviting them to confer with a view to cooperation in the work of aiding the Falashas. Replies had been received from the United Synagogue of America which had named a conference committee and from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis which had agreed to give consideration to the matter.

NATIONAL INFORMATION BUREAU

A communication was presented from the National Information Bureau "a cooperative effort for the standardization of national, social, civic and philanthropic work and the protection of the contributing public," re-

questing the Committee to furnish various items of information with respect to the organization and, if it so desires, to become a member of the Information Bureau. After discussion it was agreed that the Committee does not belong to the class of organizations in which the National Information Bureau is interested.

Upon motion, adjourned.