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MINUTES OF THE OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 12, 1945

Institute of Jewish Affairs
1334 Broadway
New York 23, N. Y.

PRESENT:	DR. KUBOWITZKI	RABBI MILLER
	DR. ROBINSON	MRS. KNOPFMACHER
	DR. PERLZWEIG	MR. USISHKIN
	RABBI FEDERBUSH	DR. JACOBY
	MR. ZUCKERMAN	DR. SINDER

3. Dr. Robinson's Report -- Continued

Problem of the United Nations Organization

From the beginning, we took the attitude that the UNO is an important factor in our activities, and in retrospect, with all our cautious approach, we were probably the only ones in San Francisco to contribute certain ideas, at least in the discussions on the Charter. After San Francisco, there was a meeting in London of the Executive Committee of the Preparatory Commission of the First Assembly of the UNO, on whose report I submitted my observations which were circulated, so that we need not review this phase of the work now. But there are a number of points of a practical nature which I would like to discuss. It should also be recalled that in the meantime the Preparatory Commission has had its meeting in London. The Preparatory Commission is not at all bound by the decisions and recommendations of the Executive Committee. All the ground-work done by the Executive Committee is now being reworked by the Preparatory Commission.

Our ideas concerning our future activities in connection with UNO may have to be revised in the light of the decision of the Preparatory Commission. Even the Preparatory Commission's decisions are not final since they will have to go before the Assembly (to start on January 10, 1946) for further discussion.

UNO is a going concern that will continue to function for a long time, and we should have a sustained interest in it and continued cooperation with it. In London we should have a sufficiently competent personnel to deal with UNO developments. The JTA yesterday reported one development which

convinced me once again that we have nobody in London:

"London, December 7, 1945: At the same time the Steering Committee denied the request by the World Jewish Congress that it be given copies of the material prepared by the Preparatory Commission. British Delegate Philip Noel Baker said that while such material can be made available to governments such as Sweden and Switzerland who are not members of the United Nations Organization, it cannot be given to private organizations."

We learn from this that our London Office is certainly completely unequal to the demands of necessary political work. When the report of the Executive Committee of the Preparatory Commission came out (as a "restricted" document), an excellent digest of it was printed in the London Times -- and not a single person in our office caught it. I jumped on it, twelve days later, and complained to our people. They explained that only one of the men reads the Times and he did not realize the importance of this report. They promised me to try to get the text. But I also requested it from our other friends and, within half an hour I got two copies, one from Kenen and one from the Board of Deputies. Our people do not have the most fundamental contacts. Writing official letters cannot possibly net any positive results -- and we should have learned this long ago.

I see nobody in our entire set-up there who is adequately equipped from the viewpoint of an understanding of UNO's implications for Jewish affairs. This situation cannot be continued. Of course we can give up our interest in the UNO and our consideration of the World Jewish Congress as an international Jewish body -- because of the lack of competent people. And so, drawing a conclusion of a practical nature, we must have a department on UNO and if we do not have anybody in London (and I do not think we have), we must find them here and send them over, whenever necessary.

We must also organize an Information Service to include the activity of the Commissions of the UNO.

I have been waging a fight against "memorandumania" which we must not give up.

I refused in London to start working on a memorandum for the Assembly before I knew of the decisions of the Preparatory Commission. The view of our London friends is that a memorandum is the important thing! I insist that we should not come to the Assembly with a memorandum at all. It is a very fluid and flexible organization. What we need is a very watchful group to follow developments. The Assembly is no longer a constituent assembly. We should have daily reports of developments as they arise submitted by our person or persons in London assigned to this task.

On April 25th the Second Section of the First Assembly will convene, probably in San Francisco. This will be a very short interruption in UNO activities, between the two sections of the Assembly.

If we are committing ourselves to cooperation with UNO, it is certainly a continuous job for months and perhaps years to come.

Peace Treaties

Here too the "memorandumania" I spoke of is again evident. The memorandum of the Board of Deputies which I found already completed when I arrived in London was a shame and a disgrace, and certainly not the sort of thing to submit at all. Not much better was the Draft prepared by the "Research Committee" in London. Of course, it was an internal memorandum. We worked on it a great deal and made a number of recommendations. I am satisfied that we know what the Rumanian and Bulgarian Jewries want included in their respective peace treaties. It was wise on our part to consult with them before rushing into activity on their behalf. Our policy is that the final decision must be left to our discretion, but we must consult the Jewry concerned and take their wishes into consideration.

Educational and Cultural Commission

What was done in this regard is an example of how things should not be done.

We have nothing to look for from the Educational agency. The World Jewish Congress, cannot prove itself to be a specialized educational agency. This hue and cry that went up: We must be there! is silly and indiscriminate.

Steinberg, a confused mind with tremendous qualities of character and ethical nature and with an excellent Jewish knowledge, but completely blind to the realities of life, was the author of a memorandum which contained such statements as that the whole interest and concern of the Jewish world is with the Educational Organization; that we have suffered the complete destruction of our culture and cultural institutions and only through the UNO Educational Organization can we hope to revive it and so on. It did not even contain any formulation of demands.

The memorandum prepared here in New York considered the problem in the light of a constitutional convention, and submitted amendments which we desired to be included.

We also had an observer at the Educational Conference -- much effort having been exerted to obtain one seat among the public... The question is: Now what? Are we going to follow it up? In San Francisco, there was something we are asking for. Here we have no basis for demands.

We ran like journalists, crazy with success because we submitted our memorandum. In many months from now Steinberg will send us some kind of far-fetched report, while you can get the full report of the proceedings from the Department of State Bulletin.

We must do something about the diletantism of the World Jewish Congress.

Intergovernmental Committee

The memorandum for the Intergovernmental Committee was written twice. London, a sovereign state, wrote one; The headquarters in New York, a second sovereign state, wrote its own.

The time of the meeting of the Preparatory Commission in Paris was spent in a discussion of budget and its relationship with UNO. Emerson's speech was a remarkable masterpiece during which the words "Jew" and "Palestine" were not once mentioned.

(Dr. Kubowitzki explained that the memorandum we prepared was done at London's request. Unfortunately, it was received too late.)