

NEWS

MIZRACHI WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Major Women's Religious-Zionist Group in the U. S.
242 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y. • GRamercy 7-4720



THE MIZRACHI WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA IS AN OFFICIAL AGENCY OF YOUTH ALIYAH.
AUTHORIZATION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE TO CAMPAIGN FOR FUNDS IN THE U. S.

Convention Headquarters,
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Marc Siegel, Publicity Director

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Nov. 9-- Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota tonight called on the new national administration to make good its campaign pledges by drastically amending the McCarran Immigration Act.

Addressing the keynote session of the 27th annual national convention of the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America, which opened here today, the senator declared that "the American people will now expect the new administration and new congress to act early in the session to make our immigration laws more democratic, more humane and more consistent with our liberal traditions."

After hearing Senator Humphrey describe the act as "dangerous to our American tradition," more than a thousand delegates, representing 50,000 Mizrahi Women in every section of the country, directed a telegram to President-elect Dwight Eisenhower, urging him to support changes in the controversial immigration act "at the earliest possible opportunity."

In his first public statement since the election, Senator

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Humphrey also called for national unity behind the new administration.

"As President of the United States," Senator Humphrey declared, "Mr. Eisenhower will be my president."

"I believe it is the responsibility of liberals today, as always, to place the interests of our country above that of parties, and to support Eisenhower as the leader of a united nation."

(EXCERPTS OF HUMPHREY SPEECH ATTACHED)

Convention Saddened by Death of Weizmann

Senator Humphrey shared the speaker's platform with Mrs. Bessie Gotsfeld, of Tel Aviv, honorary national president of Mizrahi Women, and Mrs. Joshua L. Lewis, of Brooklyn, N.Y., national president of the women's religious-Zionist organization, at the opening session of a convention saddened by the news of the death of Chaim Weizmann, first president of Israel.

Delegates stood in solemn silence as memorial prayers for the late head of the Jewish State were offered. Mrs. Gotsfeld, who flew here from Tel Aviv to participate in the four-day meeting, expressed the grief of "all Israel" at the death of "the architectural engineer of the State of Israel."

"Our greatest memorial to this leader of his people," she declared, "is the rededication of our lives to the speedy upbuilding of the Jewish State."

Reporting on the child-care, social service and vocational training programs of Mizrahi Women, which she has guided since their inception 27 years ago, Mrs. Gotsfeld likened Mizrahi Women's work to "a great bridge which extends from America to Israel."

"No-one who does not understand that the traffic on this bridge goes in both directions has fully grasped the significance of the establishment of Israel for the Jewish people as a whole," she declared.

"What goes across that bridge from America to Israel is material aid, moral assistance, technical and industrial information and the best in America's democratic faith.

"What comes across the bridge from Israel to America is the rebirth of a tradition-- the cultural and spiritual stability which can reinforce American Jewry's sense of security, of pride and of faith."

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Announces Allocation of Tract in Negev

Stressing the close correlation between training programs for religious youth in Israel and the changing needs of the Jewish State, Mrs. Gotsfeld announced that 1,500 dunams of land in the Negev had been allocated by the Israel government for cultivation by young farmers of the Children's Village and Farm School, in Raanana, Israel, one of the projects erected and maintained by Mizrachi Women.

Industrial and agricultural training, conducted in an atmosphere of traditional Judaism, is the key to integrating recent immigrants from Yemen, North Africa and the Middle East to a cultural level with newcomers of European origin, she stressed.

"East and West must be brought together in Israel," Mrs. Gotsfeld declared, "and the most effective single common ground educationally is the common denominator of our religious traditions."

Mrs. Lewis Outlines Organizational Growth

In a presidential report, Mrs. Lewis outlined organizational growth during the past year. Thirty new chapters of Mizrachi Women have been organized, and 5,000 new members recruited since last November, she reported.

Summarizing activities of the organization in Israel, she announced the completion of nine new projects in the past twelve months and reported that Mizrachi Women are now aiding, through a three-fold program of social services, vocational training and child restoration, the largest number of newcomers and children in the twenty seven years of the organization's existence.

"Forty-five hundred human beings now benefit from our work," she said, "but the needs-- particularly the need for training young people in the skills of industry and farming, and the need for social services-- are growing."

President Truman Sends Greetings

Earlier in the evening, delegates heard Mrs. Eli Resnikoff, of Brooklyn, N.Y., convention chairman, relay greetings from the President of the United States, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Monnet Davis, Israel Ambassador Abba Eban and other governmental and religious dignitaries.

"The work you are doing," Mr. Truman wrote, "will, I am sure, eventually result in a stronger and a more prosperous Israel. Such

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increased stability should bear fruit in promoting the cause of peace in the Near East for which we all earnestly pray. It has long been my hope that Israel and her neighbors would settle their differences around a peace table and thus move forward into an era of cooperation among Israelis and Arabs alike, to the mutual advantage of the whole Near East."

Meeting Continues Through Wednesday

Tonight's session was the first of three public sessions of the convention to hear authorities on Israel. The meeting will continue through Wednesday, electing national officers and adopting a budget for the next twelve months before adjournment.

Rabbi Moshe Shapiro, of the Rodeph Sholom Synagogue, delivered the invocation at the keynote session, and Cantor Paul P. Carus of the Community Synagogue, chanted the memorial prayers for the late Chaim Weizmann.

Tomorrow, the delegates will participate in business sessions throughout the day, and meet tomorrow night to consider problems of absorption and training of Youth Aliyah (immigration) children in the Holy Land.

(EXCERPTS OF GOTSFELD AND LEWIS ADDRESSES ATTACHED)

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Excerpts from Address Prepared for Delivery

by

SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY

Member of the U. S. Senate from Minnesota

Keynote Session
27th Annual National Convention
Sunday, November 9, 1952, 8 p.m.

Breakers Hotel
Atlantic City, N. J.

The new administration now has the responsibility to carry through on its campaign pledges to drastically amend the McCarran Act. During the time that we debated this bill in the Senate, those of us who opposed the McCarran Act were in a minority. During the campaign, both parties have pledged drastic amendments of that act, and have now seen in the light of further time and study that the act is dangerous to our American tradition. I am sure that the American people will now expect the new administration and the congress to act early in the session to make our immigration laws more democratic, more humane and more consistent with our liberal traditions.

* * *

The people have spoken in overwhelming numbers. It is a personal tribute to Mr. Eisenhower and an expression of confidence in his leadership. I believe it is the responsibility of liberals today, as always, to place the interests of our country above that of parties, and to support Eisenhower as the leader of a united nation, in the trying days ahead.

* * *

Our task is to attain world peace with honor through the resistance of Communist aggression. As President of the United States, Mr. Eisenhower will be my president. It is my hope that Mr. Eisenhower will continue the bi-partisan foreign policy which he helped to formulate. I am prepared to give my assistance in reaching that objective. The most important issue we face is that of foreign policy.

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