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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRITISH O.R.T.
HELD IN THE SECOND FLOOR COMMITTEE ROOM, WOBURN HOUSE,
UPPER WOBURN PLACE, W.C.1, at 5.45 P.M. on THURSDAY,
10th DECEMBER, 1959.

Present:- Mr. A. S. Diamond - in the Chair
Mr. V. Allen
Mrs. R. Asserson
Mrs. J. Cassen
Mr. & Mrs. J. Cohen
Mrs. A. S. Diamond
Mr. A. L. Dollond
Mr. G. Ellenbogen
Mrs. R. Freedman
Mrs. J. Hyman
Lady Henriques
Mrs. J. Kahan
Mr. G. Lipton
Mr. V. Lucas
Mr. G. Moseley
Mrs. M. Myers
Mrs. L. Rene-Martin
Miss R. Pitt
Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Reigate
Dr. M. Sandler
Mr. & Mrs. L. Shalit
Mr. R. Scharf
Dr. M. Schaul
Mr. & Mrs. G. Stone
Mrs. A. Tasher
Mrs. H. H. Wingate
Mrs. C. Zimmerman

and

Mrs. V. Fridjohn
Mr. H. Goldberg
Mrs. M. Hetherington

Apologies:- The Chief Rabbi
Mr. K. Bohemen
Mr. Edmund de Rothschild
Sir Louis Gluckstein
Mrs. Mary Gaddum
Mrs. E. Ivens
Mr. Barnett Janner
Mrs. N. Laski
Mr. M. Lipton
Alderman A. Moss
Mr. H. C. Seigal
Mrs. E. Solomons
Mr. W. Tellerman
Miss R. Teper
Professor J. M. Yoffey
Mr. H. Wolf

MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S
REVIEW OF THE
YEAR

In his opening remarks the Chairman said that the money spent by World O.R.T. last year amounted to nearly 2½ million pounds but that more would be required this year to meet the requirements of the different schools and the expansion of the programme.

British O.R.T.

The Chairman was of the opinion that reasonable progress had been made during the year. Many more people in Britain now knew about the work of O.R.T.

Concert

Mr. Diamond mentioned the Concert in the Royal Festival Hall on January 29th and said that the success of this concert had been mainly due to the amount of hard work put in by Mr. George Stone. He also thanked Miss Fred Pitt for her help.

Gigi

He also mentioned the premiere of the film Gigi which had been for the benefit of O.R.T. and the Friends of the Hebrew University and was mainly due to Mr. H. H. Wingate.

Year Book

The publishing of the British O.R.T. Year Book was brought to the attention of the meeting. Mr. Diamond said that next year this book would be larger. He expressed the gratitude of the Executive to Mr. Gabriel Sacher, Chairman of the Year Book Committee, to Dr. M. Schaul and Mr. R. Scharf for all they had done to make this book possible and to Mr. George Him who was responsible for the setting up of the book and for some of the reading matter. A net profit of approximately £1,500. had been made.

Ball

Mr. Diamond also mentioned the recent very successful Ball at which approximately £4,000. had been raised. He congratulated Mr. Walter Tellerman, Chairman of the Ball Committee, on the result of his untiring efforts. Mr. G. Lipton and Mr. H. Oppenheim were thanked by Mr. Diamond for the work they had done in running the very successful raffle. Not only had they coped with the work in connection with the raffle, they had also donated the prizes.

C.O.R.R.A.

Mr. Diamond said that, largely due to British O.R.T. the Humanitarian Trust had given £10,000. to C.O.R.R.A. (the name given to the combined effort of British O.R.T., C.B.F., and O.S.E. under the auspices of World Refugee Year) and it was hoped that further large donations would be received in the near future.

The Chairman said British O.R.T. had been a member of the Council for Refugees in this country for many years and that on this Council O.R.T. was represented by the untiring Lady Henriques. It was only natural, therefore, that when World Refugee Year came into being O.R.T. should take part in the Appeal. Mr. Goldberg had been travelling round the country visiting many places on behalf of C.O.R.R.A.

Congress

Mr. Diamond said that every five years World O.R.T. had a Congress and that next year it would take place in London. He pointed out that this would publish the work of O.R.T. to many in this country.

Staff

Mr. Diamond thanked Mr. Goldberg, Mrs. Hetherington, Mrs. Fridjohn and the rest of the staff for their work during the year.

Poland

In answer to Mrs. Reigate Mr. Diamond said he believed that the Polish Government did not contribute to the work of O.R.T. in Poland. Mr. Moseley asked if there was any guarantee that O.R.T. would be allowed to carry on its work there but Mr. Diamond said that there were only hopes. Mrs. Wingate explained that there were no full time courses in Poland so that if there was any change in circumstances O.R.T.'s loss would be limited.

FUNCTIONS

Mr. George Stone, Vice-Chairman of O.R.T. and Chairman of the Functions Committee, said that he started the arrangements for the Concert in the Royal Festival Hall with some misgivings but it had proved a great success and it was hoped to repeat this/

PUBLIC
COMMITTEE

BRITISH
WOMEN'S
O.R.T.

this success when the opportunity offered. O.R.T. was in close touch with Sir Thomas Beecham and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and, although the Royal Festival Hall is booked for some two years ahead, it was hoped that, through Sir Thomas, it would be possible for a Concert to be arranged.

It was the opinion of Mr. Stone that there were too few people to cope with the work necessary to carry out a function successfully, there were too few functions and too little was collected at the functions arranged.

Mr. Stone said that Mr. Gabriel Sacher had done a tremendous job of work on the Year Book and that more men like him were wanted in O.R.T.

He reported that some functions had been arranged in conjunction with C.O.R.R.A. He said it was hoped a large sum would be raised through C.O.R.R.A. and that Mr. Goldberg would be largely responsible.

Mr. Stone mentioned the Cocktail Party in the Ritz and the Dinner Party at the home of Mr. Charles Clore. He said that although the sum raised on these occasions would not appear in our financial statement he felt that they could be considered O.R.T. functions as we had made the arrangement with Mr. Charles Clore and had obtained the consent of M. Mendes-France to speak on both occasions.

Regarding the Congress, Mr. Stone said he and Mrs. Wingate had persuaded the World O.R.T. Executive to agree that this next Congress should be held in London. Approximately 500 Jews from almost every country in the world would come to London to attend the Congress and it would be a great occasion for British O.R.T.

On behalf of the other Honorary Officers of British O.R.T. Mr. Stone expressed appreciation of the work done by Mr. Diamond as Chairman.

It was the opinion of Dr. Sandler that it was unnecessary to have a soloist at a Concert conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham but Mr. Stone said the tickets would be costly and it was advisable to have a soloist.

PUBLICITY
COMMITTEE

Mr. Ellenbogen said we had benefited considerably by our association with C.O.R.R.A. due to the fact that circulars had been sent to many people who would not otherwise have heard of O.R.T.

He thanked Mr. George Him for designing the very attractive headed paper now used by O.R.T.

BRITISH
WOMEN'S
O.R.T.

Mrs. Wingate said a very successful Luncheon had been held at which Mr. Christopher Chattaway had been the speaker and at which the C.O.R.R.A. women's branch had been started.

A membership drive was in progress. Mrs. Wingate said she had been in Geneva in June to attend a Women's International O.R.T. meeting and the great stress had been on membership. Mrs. F. Bernard had stayed in this country for a few months to help with the membership drive and now Mrs. V. Fridjohn had taken over the duties of Secretary to British Women's O.R.T.

Mr./

Mr. M. Braude had visited this country and had addressed the women members of O.R.T.

Mrs. Wingate said a way had now been devised of showing films in the homes of members.

She said that it was all very uphill work at present but so far had been very successful.

Mrs. Wingate said one or two functions had been planned in conjunction with C.O.R.R.A. A theatre show was planned for January.

Mrs. Wingate reported that British Women's O.R.T. had adopted a constitution and said she would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Ellenbogen for all the help he had given in this connection.

Mrs. Wingate said that the committee was working rather differently now as there was a small Executive Committee and a larger General Committee. It was the opinion of members that this arrangement was working well.

She said that Mrs. Reigate and Mrs. Zimmerman were to be congratulated on the News Letter and she took this opportunity of thanking them for all the work they did for it.

Mrs. Wingate thanked the staff at South Molton Street for all their help.

It was Mr. Diamond's opinion that it would be a good idea if British O.R.T. produced a News Letter.

O.R.T.
AID GROUP

In asking Mrs. Rene-Martin, Chairman of the O.R.T. Aid Group, to make a report, Mr. Diamond said that one of the most important things was for young people to become interested in O.R.T. so that they might take the place of the older members in due course.

Mrs. Rene-Martin said that the O.R.T. Aid Group was in a most unsatisfactory state. On many occasions the meetings attracted as many as 80 people but they seemed to be mainly "hangers-on". Over the 18 months to September 1959 there had been only 12 paid up members but since 1st September 37 subscriptions had been received. Rooms were needed in which meetings could be held - she hoped British Women's O.R.T. would help. More members were needed and she hoped the members of British O.R.T. would encourage their young people to join. Mrs. Rene-Martin asked if a small space could be allocated in the British Women's O.R.T. News Letter to advertise the activities of the O.R.T. Aid Group.

Mrs. Rene-Martin thanked Mr. Diamond and Mr. Goldberg on behalf of the O.R.T. Aid Group Committee for all their help.

SHOWING OF
MELLAH ON
TELEVISION

Mrs. Freedman asked if it would be possible to get "Mellah" shown on television. Mrs. Wingate said Lady Balcon is going to speak to her husband about this. Mr. Diamond said that on four occasions we had tried to get it shown on television but without success.

It was the opinion of Mr. Reigate that the sound tract should be altered.

ACCOUNTS - 1958

Mr. Dollond moved the adoption of the accounts for the year ended/

EXECUTIVE

COUNCIL

M.H.

ended 31st December, 1958, and this was carried unanimously.

Mr. Dollond said that under the heading of subscription there was a figure of just over £2,000. and that was a figure which could be increased as it was his opinion that a minimum of £1. 1. 0. per head could be expected from members.

Mr. Dollond said that C.O.R.R.A. started on 15th April last year and that £70,000. had already been promised of which £32,000. had actually been received. O.R.T. receives 30% of all money received after any necessary expenses have been deducted. He pointed out that this was a trial period and that there was a lot to be said for and against carrying on the combined appeal. He felt that comments should be withheld until fuller details were available.

EXECUTIVE

The following were unanimously elected to the Executive Committee:-

Mr. A. L. Dollond	Mr. V. Lucas	Mrs. H. G. Reigate
Mrs. L. Rene-Martin	Mr. G. Stone	Mr. M. Wingate

COUNCIL

The following were unanimously elected to the Council:-

Prof. N. Bentwich	The Chief Rabbi	Mr. W. Frankel
The Haham	Mr. Walter Goehr	Sir H. D'Avigdor Goldsmid
Mr. Anthony Greenwood	Mr. Barnett Janner	Sir Keith Joseph
Mr. D. Kessler	Mr. Benn Levy	Hon. Ewen Montagu
Alderman A. Moss	Mr. L. Sainer	Lord Silkin
Sir Leon Simon	Dr. B. Stross	Professor J. Yoffey

Mr. Diamond said that Mr. Gershon Avner, the Israel Chargé d'Affaires, who had been expected to address the meeting, must have been unavoidable detained.

The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.

Leon Stone

M.H.