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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRITISH ORT HELD ON MONDAY, 11th MARCH, 1963, AT MICHAEL HOUSE, 57 BAKER STREET, LONDON, W.1. AT 5.45 p.m.

Present:-

- Mr. G.D. Sacher (in the Chair)
- Master & Mrs. A.S. Diamond
- Mr. D.R. Davis
- Mr. K. Danzig
- Mr. A.L. Dollond
- Mr. G. Ellenbogen
- Mrs. R. Freedman
- Mr. I. Glassman
- Mrs. C. Hyman
- Mr. & Mrs. J. Kahan
- Mr. B. Litvinoff
- Mr. H.N. Lewis
- Mrs. J. Maran
- Mrs. L. Rene-Martin
- Miss N.H. Nicholls
- Mr. & Mrs. L. Rowe
- Mrs. H.G. Reigate
- Mr. & Mrs. A. Simons
- Mrs. P. Spiers
- Dr. M. Sandler
- Mr. H.C. Seigal
- Mr. R. Scharf
- The Jewish Chronicle Representative
- Mr. H. Goldberg
- Miss I. Burnett
- Mr. M. Alkin Chairman, Junior ORT
- Mr. M. Cohen
- Mr. E. Grodzinski
- Mr. P. Goldbart
- Mr. H. Lament
- Miss L. Lincoln members of Junior ORT.
- Mr. H. Peters
- Mr. J. Rosenbaum
- Mr. R. Rosenbaum
- Miss R. Silver
- Miss D. Shott

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present and said how delighted he was that they were able to attend this Annual General Meeting of British ORT.

Apologies:-

Apologies for non-attendance were received from the following:-  
Mrs. E. Ashley, Mr. Theo Birks, Lady Henriques, Prof. J.M. Yoffey, Mr. George Him, Mr. & Mrs. G. Stone, Dr. M.C. Schaul, Mrs. H.H. Wingate, Mrs. Bournstone, Mrs. Eriscoe, Mr. A.E. Brotman, Mr. D.H. Cohen, Mr. M. Demant, Mr. Andrew Goldsmith, Mr. M. Goldsmith, Mr. S. Myer, Mr. J.E. Nash, Mrs. R. Nabarro, Mr. A.P. Rudolf, Mr. Isidore Wartski.

1. Minutes.

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on the 12th March 1962 had been examined by the Executive Committee in April 1962, and passed as being a true record for submission to this Meeting.

It was unanimously agreed to take these Minutes as read and they were duly approved and signed by the Chairman. Copies were available on request.

2. Chairman's review of the past year.

Mr. Sacher commenced his report by saying that 1962 had been a year of steady but unspectacular progress. The total income had risen from £37,000 to £42,000, the main items being:-

Subscriptions and Donations	£27,700
Functions	11,100
Year Book	3,600

Unfortunately, expenses had increased and this was a matter which the Honorary Officers proposed to watch most carefully during the coming year.

At the Executive Meeting of World ORT Union last July, the delegation from British ORT had proposed to raise an extra £10,000 in 1962, to help French ORT cope with the situation which had arisen from the influx of Algerian Refugees.

It was subsequently discovered that the Central British Fund was about to launch a national appeal for Algerian refugees and therefore ORT came to an agreement with them in order to avoid duplication, to defer making a special appeal for Algerian refugees in 1962, the Central British Fund to provide from their appeal, the £10,000 promised at Geneva.

The benefit from this agreement has not fully matured, for to date ORT has only received £3,000 but the balance will be paid over the next two to three years.

An agreement has also been entered into with the Freedom From Hunger Campaign who have adopted a joint project - that of training African students as Agro-mechanics at the ORT Centre at Natanya in Israel. It is anticipated that it will be an eighteen months course and that 20 students will mean an outlay of £20,000, of which £12,500 has already been subscribed. Donations to the Freedom From Hunger Campaign could therefore be earmarked for this special ORT project.

During the course of the year, many meetings have taken place, where ORT films have been shown and a special supplement on ORT printed in the Jewish Chronicle in January, in order to spread the story of ORT.

As to the provinces, a start has been made in the North-East, Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough have been visited and interest roused, which it is hoped will lead to fund-raising.

There is an active Women's group in Glasgow and through it the nucleus of a Men's group. There is also a Scottish Year Book, under the aegis of Mr. F. Miller.

Belfast has made a contribution and will have an appeal later on.

The work of ORT has continued on a world wide and increased level. Schools are currently operated in Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Holland, France, Italy, Morocco, Tunis, Iran, India, Poland, Israel, and Switzerland. The most important area of activity is Israel where some 55% of those receiving vocational training in the country receive it from ORT, and where 40% of World ORT's budget is spent. Altogether some 20,000 students are trained in this country.

France has grown substantially in importance and will continue to grow over the next few years.

He had been fortunate enough to attend the opening of the ORT Marseilles school which has been entirely re-equipped to handle 600 boys and girls. It is a very impressive institution and one was only sorry that more could not be done.

The ORT India programme has now commenced in Bombay under the direction of Mr. Robin Gilbert.

Apart from these schools, ORT has entered into an agreement with the American Government in their scheme for aid to under developed countries whereby ORT will establish vocational training schools in Mali and Gabon staffed by ORT teachers mainly recruited from ORT Israel schools. This is done entirely at the expense of the American Government and must have a beneficial effect on the relations between Israel and these countries.

But to understand ORT and its great work the schools must be visited and therefore everyone should take advantage in their travels abroad, of any opportunity afforded them of seeing ORT centres. The ORT offices will be happy to provide any information.

Mr. Sacher concluded his report by thanking the staff of British ORT for their efforts during the year, under not particularly pleasing working conditions, and also his colleagues on the Executive for their help, consideration and kindness during the year.

3. Treasurer

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3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 1962.

In presenting the accounts for 1962 Mr. Dollond stated that the figures showed a gratifying increase, but the question was, whether ORT has succeeded in widening the basis of its appeal, to ensure an increase in every year.

The general expenses had risen, Publicity and Promotion being largely responsible for much of the increase, but this was a matter of policy, for the community must be made aware of the work of ORT. ORT had suffered in the past by not bringing its need before the public. Mr. Dollond thanked Mr. Ellenbogen for giving so much of his time to ORT's publicity, and doing all the ground-work which it entailed.

Each year, some three or four major functions were held, but it is essential to reach a wider public, and in this connection, the Honorary Officers would welcome new ideas to increase both the variety and the scope of its functions.

Mr. Dollond concluded by saying that Master Diamond's early work had put ORT on a sound foundation and thanks to him, the benefits were now being reaped.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr. I. Glassman and seconded by Master Diamond.

4. British Women's ORT.

Mrs. Reigate apologised for the absence of Mrs. Wingate who was indisposed and gave a brief report of the past twelve months, which had been a period of progress. There were now seven groups and membership had risen by over 60%. The knowledge of ORT was being spread over a wider area, not only to the women, but also to their husbands and friends. They looked forward to further progress and increased membership during the coming year.

5. Election to the Council

A proposal by Mr. Kahan, seconded by Mr. Seigel that the Council members be re-elected en bloc, was unanimously agreed.

6. Elections to the Executive Committee.

The Chairman stated that the following members retired in rotation and were eligible for re-election:-

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| Mr. Eric Alexander | Mr. Jonathan Sofer   |
| Mr. Theo Birks     | Mr. Walter Tellerman |
| Mr. Victor Lucas   | Mr. M. Wingate       |
| Mr. Leon Shalit    | Mr. J. Kahan         |
| Mr. David Ross     | Mrs. H.G. Reigate    |

To fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Leon Shalit who has taken up residence in Israel, the name of Mr. Denis Cohen was proposed by Mr. Sacher and seconded by Mr. Alexander.

On the proposal of Mr. H. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Scharf, it was unanimously agreed that they all be duly elected.

7. Vote of thanks.

Master Diamond, in proposing the vote of thanks to the Chairman, said it gave him great pleasure to do so, not only for his graphic and moving report of the year's activities, but for his interest and enthusiasm which had produced the excellent results shown.

In seconding this vote, Mr. Ellenbogen remarked that it really needed none, but he welcomed the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Sacher for building up so solidly the foundations laid by Master Diamond, and also for bringing greater glory to ORT.

There being no further business, the Meeting then closed.