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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRITISH O.R.T.
HELD ON MONDAY, 18th APRIL, 1966, AT MICHAEL HOUSE,
67, BAKER STREET, LONDON, W.1. AT 6 p.m.

Present: Mr. Gabriel D. Sacher - in the Chair

Mr. Jeremy Barnett	Mr. J. Kahan
Mr. Irving Benjamin	Mr. Peter Levine
Miss Blewis	Dr. C. S. Lewsen
Miss I. Burnett	Mr. Victor Lucas
Master A.S. Diamond	Mr. F. Miller
Miss A. Earl	Mrs. J. Maran
Mr. G. Ellenbogen	Miss Moss
Mr. S. Freeman	Miss L. Pilsek
Mr. H. W. Futter	Mrs. L. Rene-Martin
Mr. Ismar Glasman	Mr. & Mrs. L. Rcw
Miss S. Glicksman	Dr. M. C. Schaul
Mr. H. Goldberg	Mr. G. Stone
Lady Henriques	Mr. S. Zimmerman
Mr. George Him	

Apologies:

Mrs. L. Ashley	Sir Barnett Janner
Mr. Denis Cohen	Mr. David Robbins
Mr. A. L. Dollond	Mr. Peter Ross
Dr. S. Gaon	Mrs. R. Soskin
Mrs. L. Greenfield	Mrs. L. Warshaw

In opening the Meeting, the Chairman apologised for the fact that, due to other functions being held that evening in Michael House, the room was not as attractive as those used on previous occasions for Annual General Meetings of British O.R.T.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 29th March, 1965, having been circulated to members and examined by the Executive Committee, were taken as read, there being no objections.

2. STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to all those present, and went on to comment on the work of O.R.T. in general and more specifically that of British O.R.T. The most important factor in the year under review was that the income of British O.R.T. was nearly £96,000 as compared with £90,000 for the previous year.

They had been particularly fortunate, having received a large donation from the Kessler Foundation of £32,500 which sum had been used to establish a Girls' School at Ramleh-Lydd, Israel. This money had been made available from a Trust established by the late Leopold Kessler very many years ago and O.R.T. were deeply grateful to the Kessler family. The Chairman recommended that a special letter of thanks from the Meeting should be sent to record their gratitude.

In Britain, O.R.T. was mainly a fund-raising organisation as there were no O.R.T. schools, but its work could not be described only in financial terms. The differential effect on those who receive instruction and those who do not, could be very tragic if one thinks in terms of the human beings involved, and it has been said that in neglecting a child's education for 5 to 6 years, a human being was lost for 50 to 60 years. In 1965, the enrolment in O.R.T. schools reached over 45,000 boys, girls, men and women. In Israel alone 25,000 enrolled, and numbers had increased generally throughout the world. The pattern of O.R.T. education today does not differ from previous years, but there has been more emphasis in Israel and in France. It had been expected that the demands in the Moslem countries would diminish in proportion to the Jewish people there, but it has not and the reason is significant, for the Jewish families have become convinced that when they emigrate they should take out in skill all they can acquire. This fact in turn strained the Central budget. The problems of

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education were very great. Normally, one of the problems was that of students who dropped out and disappeared, but in the case of O.R.T. it was the reverse, as they had the problem of students "dropping in". More and more people wished to avail themselves of educational facilities, often more than O.R.T. could accommodate. This placed the burden of finding the means to finance education to meet the demands. O.R.T. could be described as a catalyst because it released funds in other countries, very often from Government sources, which would not otherwise be available. If one reflected on the problem of education generally, it was interesting to consider that the President of the Council of Economic Affairs in the U.S.A. had estimated that out of the annual growth in their economic potential over the years, one-half is attributable to input of capital and the other is attributable to education, which was a tremendously significant factor. This could be seen in countries like Israel and others with a high standard of achievement, in comparison with the underdeveloped countries. O.R.T. is engaged in this activity and was transforming the countries in which it was active. In Bombay, the first class would soon graduate from the O.R.T. School, and over the next 3 to 10 years, a distinct change in the Jewish community in Bombay would become evident. This, he went on, was only the general background to O.R.T., but members should also bear in mind the social significance rather than the purely financial aspect. Nearer home, said the Chairman, he would like to thank all the members of British O.R.T. present - and those who were unavoidably absent - for their unstinted efforts and, in fact, everybody who had contributed to the 1965 result. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to his colleagues on the Executive for the considerable success that had been achieved, and especially thanked Miss Burnett, Mr. Goldberg and the staff of British O.R.T. who had laboured under not very comfortable conditions throughout the year with all the administrative problems and fund-raising efforts.

In conclusion, Mr. Sacher said that British O.R.T. was not only in the London area. Efforts were being made to launch programmes in the provinces, and a group had just been established in Wales.

If members had any specific questions to put, he would be happy to answer them before the close of the meeting.

3. PASSING OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 1965

In presenting the Accounts, Master Diamond said that Mr. Dollond had had to go to Israel in connection with the affairs of O.R.T., and had asked him to present the Accounts on his behalf, which he was very happy to do and to answer any questions on them. On the right-hand side of the statement, he drew attention to the figure of £89,500 which compared with the previous year's figure of £82,855 (which was then a record) showed a net increase of about £7,000 which was the largest sum they had as yet reached. From the financial point of view, the year had been very satisfactory. It would be remembered, he said, that World ORT Union must find well over £4 million to spend on the schools which it maintains to provide the education of students who numbered over 45,000; so there is a great deal of money to be found. However, it was satisfactory to have raised the figure to its present level.

Turning to the left-hand side of the Statement of Account, Master Diamond drew attention to the donation of £32,500 received from the Kessler Trust which the Chairman had already mentioned. There was also the donation of £10,000 from the Wolfson Foundation and O.R.T. had to express their thanks also for that gift.

The total product of British Women's endeavour amounted to £6,500 and this was a very considerable advance on the amount of £3,750 attained in the previous year.

O.R.T. '65, the Old Boys' Committee and the Aid Group had contributed generous sums and Master Diamond congratulated and thanked them for their efforts, and devoted work.

The expenses had been brought down from £7,383 in the previous year to £5,665. That was accounted for by a shortage of staff, there not being enough staff to do all that is desired and so the salaries had dropped. The other main difference was in Publicity and Promotion. He emphasised the importance of reaching people and publicising the work of O.R.T. amongst them, as distinct

from purely financial activity.

Master Diamond concluded by expressing the view that the Accounts showed a very satisfactory position in a year which was not the best of years, and asked that they be formally adopted. Mr. G. Stone moved the adoption of the Accounts, which was seconded by Mr. Ansel Harris.

QUESTIONS RAISED ON THE ACCOUNTS

Mr. Freeman said that he was surprised that in a year when subscriptions were much higher than before, expenditure on promotion was reduced. It seemed to him the wrong time to reduce promotion, as these days projecting an image is such an important factor. O.R.T. was one of the oldest Jewish organisations in existence, having been founded in 1880. This fact he had only recently learned, and had been under the impression that it was a post-war organisation. While in Morocco, he had seen the work being done in an O.R.T. School, and had been greatly impressed. He was in favour of giving it the widest publicity.

The Chairman agreed that they were not getting the image across as fast and as far as they would like. The movement in Great Britain was primarily restricted to London and Glasgow, and they had a few friends scattered around the provinces. There was not, however, enough publicity and the reason for this was that they had had difficulty in finding the right medium to do it. In the past they had relied on the Supplement to the Jewish Chronicle but were now doubtful of the value of this publicity. It was important to produce good pamphlets, and they had now engaged a very distinguished firm of Market Research Experts to guide British O.R.T. in its approach.

Mr. G. Him supported the view that an item for publicity was necessary in the O.R.T. budget and that a better, informative pamphlet was badly needed.

Mrs. Rowe said there was a large community in Manchester to whom literature should be made available, and also thought that efforts to publicise the work of O.R.T. should be extended to Brighton.

Mr. Futter thought that money should be spent over the years to publicise O.R.T. more widely.

Mr. Zimmerman raised a question arising out of the Kessler donation, which was an item which would not recur, and asked whether the meeting had envisaged some steps to counterbalance the drop in next year's receipts.

4. REPORTS FROM THE AID COMMITTEES

BRITISH WOMEN'S O.R.T. Mrs. Zimmorman, the Organising Secretary, reported that membership had been well maintained and enthusiastically supported. Most of their efforts had been devoted to raising £100 Scholarships, and since the inception of the scheme had resulted in approximately 50 scholarships. The past year had been exceptionally successful both for prestige and fund raising. The Associated Charities Committee had guaranteed to raise £5,000 over 3 years for O.R.T. Deaf and Dumb School in Casablanca, and had already handed over £600 towards their target of £5,000. The Arts Group, which was formed to give members an opportunity of seeing famous Art previews and collections, has a growing membership of nearly 90 at an annual subscription of £10. 10. 0 each, and through this medium £1,000 had been raised. Many scholarships had been raised by various individual and collective efforts including a Derby Day Picnic, a Dress Show, a Jewellery Show and highly successful Bring and Buy Sales, as well as many film shows.

Both the West London Group and the Glasgow Group had been most active, and new Groups had been formed in Hendon, Hampstead and in Manchester.

The O.R.T. film had been shown, with a speaker, both in public halls and in private houses which had resulted in a number of new members.

The O.R.T. Day had been a great success with a higher attendance than ever before, and the annual Autumn Luncheon, held at the Royal Garden Hotel,

attended by the wife of the Israeli Ambassador amongst other distinguished guests, was not only a notable prestige occasion with an attendance of 240, but financially most successful.

Dr. Anne Chain, sister of their Chairman, Mrs. Rence Soskin, loaned her penthouse at the Biochemistry Department of the Imperial College of Science for the premiere of the new O.R.T. film, and an appeal for Scholarships raised approximately £8,000 mainly in the form of Covenants.

As always, British Women's O.R.T. supported British O.R.T. in every possible way, selling tickets for the Gala Concert, the Raffle and the running of an outstanding Tombola at the Annual Ball.

Mrs. Zimmerman, in conclusion, expressed her great appreciation and thanks to Mr. Goldberg and Miss Burnett for their unfailing help in all the activities of Women's O.R.T.

O.R.T. '65. Mr. Peter Levene said that O.R.T. '65 had increased its donation to O.R.T. from £800 to £1,000. He recalled Master Diamond's remark that 1965 had not been an easy year, but nevertheless they had slightly increased the sum raised, and he hoped that the progress will be continued and improved upon in 1966.

O.R.T. OLD BOYS. Mr. H. W. Futter said they had approximately 30 members and although their means of raising funds was limited, they had organised a number of functions, social events etc., and the money thus collected was used to purchase machinery to be sent direct to O.R.T. Schools in Israel and elsewhere. £500 had been raised in 1965, and Mr. Futter felt confident they might exceed this sum in the present year.

O.R.T. AID. Mr. Benjamin apologised for having arrived late, as he had been out of town. In the past year, they had raised £1,500 which was an increase on the previous one and handed over a cheque for £1,250. In the coming year they hoped to double it. Meetings were held fortnightly, over 100 people attending. Their small dances were well attended. During 1966 they were hoping to organise a Variety Show on a Sunday evening, and also had plans for a trip to Paris or another European school.

Mr. Sacher said the Executive was extremely conscious of the valuable work being done by the Groups and they particularly appreciated the efforts of the younger members.

5. ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

The Chairman read the names of Members of the Council who, in accordance with the Constitution, retire in rotation and were eligible for re-election, and it was unanimously agreed they be re-elected "en bloc".

6. ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chairman stated that in accordance with the Constitution, the following members who retire in rotation, were eligible for re-election:-

Mr. T. Birks	Dr. M. Sandler
Mr. H. M. Oppenheim	Mr. R. Scharf
Mrs. L. Rene-Martin	Mr. W. Summerfield
Mr. D. Ross	

On the proposal of Mr. A. Harris, seconded by Mr. G. Him, it was unanimously agreed that they be duly elected.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

Mr. George Stone said he had a few comments to make especially about the Chairman. At the end of the last war, O.R.T. was a stillborn child until Master Diamond came along and breathed life into it, and as a result of the initial work done by Master Diamond, O.R.T. had been passed on to the present distinguished Chairman in a healthy condition and the present satisfactory situation reached. Nevertheless, education being very expensive, much remained to be done, and O.R.T. was in need of publicity, the cost of which must be provided for. The Executive Committee meets fairly regularly and they were pushing ahead in getting the public interested and in getting more money from different sources. What the Executive needed even more than publicity is for people to come forward who were prepared to devote their time and effort to work in the field. Mr. Stone said that on behalf of the Executive he thanked Mr. Sachor for the hospitality which he had extended to them that evening and for the encouragement which he gives to all by his enthusiasm, inspiration and generosity. He was also grateful to all those dedicated people who had done so much and had influenced others to do so. He thanked them most heartily and looked forward to the future with confidence.

There being no further business, the meeting then terminated.

Calvin Sachor

7th November 1966.