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MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRITISH O.R.T. HELD ON MONDAY, 5th May, 1969
at MICHAEL HOUSE, BAKER STREET, W.1.

PRESENT: Mr. G. D. Sacher (in the Chair)

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| Mr. I. Benjamin | Mrs. I. R. Henry |
| Miss G. Bower | Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Lyons |
| Mr. F. Cahn | Mr. A. J. Marks |
| Mrs. G. de Cent | Mrs. L. Rene-Martin |
| Mr. Stanley Clark | Mr. Michael Naughton |
| Mr. A. S. Diamond | Mrs. M. F. Nicholls |
| Mr. G. Ellenbogen | Mr. R. Scharf |
| Mr. H. Futter | Mr. Alan Scott |
| Mr. J. Gestetner | Mr. J. Sofer |
| Mr. B. Goldschmidt | Mrs. R. Soskin |
| Mr. I. Glasman | Mr. and Mrs. G. Stanton |
| Mrs. L. Greenfield | Mr. George Stone |
| Lady Henriques | |
| Mr. V. Lucas | |
- Mr. Hilary Goldberg)
Mr. B. D. Davies) in attendance
Mrs. C. Zimmerman)

APOLOGIES Mr. D. H. Cohen Dr. M. C. Scheul
Mr. A. Dollond Mr. and Mrs. L. Warshaw
Mr. P. M. Ross

M. NUTES:
The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, having been circulated were confirmed and signed.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT:

Mr. Sacher reported that 1968 had been a year of progress for British ORT. £88,000 had been raised against £85,000 the previous year. Taking into account the economic situation in the U.K. and the many demands on the Jewish Community, there was cause for modest satisfaction. Without the loyal support, energy and enthusiasm of all those present, this could not have been achieved, especially as there had been an increased number of functions during the year.

The efforts of British Women's ORT, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Soskin, had been a source of inspiration. ORT Aid, under the Chairmanship of Mr. I. Benjamin, had also been a source of stimulation. Mention had to be made of the OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION, with whom relations had been happy and prosperous. In particular he thanked the Chairmen of the various functions in 1968, who had undertaken an enormous burden; Mr. Jeffrey Sterling and his Committee for the success of the Ball, Messrs. M. and I. Benjamin and J. Sterling for their untiring efforts with "Golden Boy", Mr. Michael Naughton for introducing ORT to boxing with great success, Mrs. H. Recanati and Mr. H. Goldberg for promoting the Hans Erni Exhibition, Mr. Stone, as always, for his repeated success with the Concert and the many others who had helped. Their efforts, however, would have been far less effective without the tremendous help given by Mr. H. Goldberg, Mrs. C. Zimmerman and their assistants in the British ORT Office.

British ORT was primarily a fund-raising organisation, but they were always mindful of the functions of World ORT Union, i.e. the Congress in Montreal with a gathering of some 500 ORT delegates from all over the world. One of the outstanding things that occurred in Montreal was the stimulating discussion, spearheaded by Mrs. Soskin on the education that ORT students should receive, a question not yet resolved.

If members would visit ORT Schools when they were travelling abroad, it would be of supreme interest. Arrangements could be made through the British ORT Office.

PROSPECTS FOR 1969

The Chairman reported that Lord Mountbatten had been Guest of Honour at the Boxing Match, so successfully chaired by Mr. Naughton, at which £10,000 had been raised. A small luncheon at the Dorchester, with General Herzog speaking, had raised £3,500; and there had been the Hans Erni Exhibition at the O'Hana Gallery which sold only 60 copies, a preview of an Impressionist Sale at Sotheby's, the Concert and, later in the year the Ball would take place.

ORT had been fortunate in being promised a substantial donation from the Sherman Trust of £25,000 for a project in Israel, and another from the Norman Laski Charitable Trust for £5,000 for part of the school in Ashdod.

Mrs. Soskin raised the question of attendance at the Annual General Meetings. She thought an invitation should be issued to every subscriber to ORT. No invitations had been issued to members of British Women's ORT.

Mr. Goldberg pointed out that members of the Executives of each Group had been invited, but it was agreed that in future invitations should be sent to every subscribing member of British ORT and the AID Groups.

Mrs. Soskin pointed out that many members of the Executive Committee were not working members. She suggested that the list of members of the Executive should be examined with a view to its revision.

After discussion, it was agreed that this should be done at the next Executive Meeting.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1968

Mr. Naughton presented the Accounts for 1968. In 1967 £82,000 had been raised. The target for the current year was £100,000 and so far £89,000 had been raised. World ORT raised \$17 million (£6½ million) and British ORT's contribution was just over 2%. There had been increased contributions from the various Groups: British Women's ORT's and ORT Aid's particularly. This year something like £130,000 would be raised. Overheads were, as always, kept to the absolute minimum.

REPORTS FROM THE AID COMMITTEES:

British Women's ORT: Mrs. Soskin reported that despite a difficult year, their target had been exceeded in fund raising. There were 11 groups in various parts of London, but growth had not been as rapid as the Hon. Officers could have wished. There was an increasing difficulty in getting people to work. Functions during the year included an ORT Day, show of models from ORT Schools in Israel, various visits to the country, the annual lunch; the Arts Group run by Mrs. Recanati had been extremely successful.

The previous Sunday a workshop had been opened at the "Eder Farm", built and equipped by British ORT, but attendance had been disappointing.

Mrs. Soskin took the opportunity of thanking all members of the staff for their help.

ORT AID: Mr. I. Benjamin reminded those present that he had wished to resign his Chairmanship the previous year, but no replacement had been found. His Group hoped to emulate the amount raised the previous year of £8,000. The problems were the same as 1967, namely that marriages decimated their Executive and they were considering setting up separate groups, rather than keep a large body, in order to bring in new workers. Meetings continued to attract large numbers as did socials but a more ambitious programme was envisaged for the future. National newspaper publicity has increased as a result of famous speakers and it was hoped that such publicity should continue for the benefit of ORT generally and also of the Group, though perhaps not of such a sensational variety.

Mr. Benjamin thanked Miss Ruth Silver, who had been of great help since the inception of the ORT Aid Group as its secretary, and Mr. Barry King, who had done so much work. He also thanked the British ORT Executive for their support and the members of the office staff for their help.

Friends of British ORT: Lady Henriques reported that it had been found desirable to recruit new members of ORT who could only play a small part in fund-raising. A Membership Organiser had been appointed sixteen months ago and ORT had provided the necessary literature. 18,000 people had received the magazine RepORT and many people had expressed their interest in learning about ORT activities. So far 500 members had been recruited who would pay a small subscription. Expenses had amounted to £3,980 up to December 1968, but against this £1,560 had been taken in subscriptions. The Committee of the Friends felt that it would be possible to meet this deficit and even make a surplus if they were helped to continue. Lady Henriques urged that British ORT should give financial support to the Friends for the coming year.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Davies suggested a resolution that British ORT continue to give full moral and material support to the Friends of ORT during the year 1969/70 but this was not approved. A resolution was, however, moved by Mrs. De Cent that the Officers of British ORT would consider and decide whether Friends of British ORT should continue. Mr. Benjamin seconded the resolution which was carried.

ORT OLD BOYS Mr. Henry Futter said that Old Boys continued to send equipment and machinery to ORT Israel during the last 12 months. 17 items of equipment had been sent, totalling £ 1,200. Since the group had been founded, 79 items of workshop machinery, totalling approximately £8,600 had been supplied.

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chairman proposed that the Executive Committee be re-elected en bloc.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

Mr. Ellenbogen said that nominations could at the moment only be made on the recommendation of the Council and this could be changed only if the abolition of the Council as such was considered.

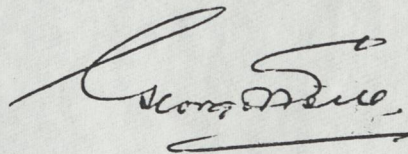
The following modification to the Constitution was put to the meeting:

That the Society may acquire and hold investments, which may be registered in the names of Trustees or nominees, and any trustee or nominee who is a banker may accept instructions as to the disposal of any investment from those persons who are from time to time authorised to operate the Society's banking account.

Mr. George Stone seconded the resolution and it was passed unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Stone proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Sacher for his Chairmanship of the Meeting and for his many services to British ORT during the past year. Mr. Stone also thanked Mr. Goldberg for his invaluable help with the Concert. These votes of thanks were carried unanimously.



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