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March 28th,

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S. Schneier, Esq.,
President, ORT-OZE South African Branch,
Johannesburg.

Dear Friend,

I enclose copy of letter addressed to your office by the United Committee under the date of March 6th and write these lines to impress upon you very strongly the advisability of the Conference suggested therein.

The suggested Conference appears advisable under any conditions. The fact alone that your organization will have decided ~~xxxxxxx~~ to convene a conference under the slogan "ORT-OZE and the Jewish War Victims" will not fail to influence very considerably the progress and the results of your negotiations with the South African Board of Deputies, if such negotiations are indispensable. But quite apart from that, the Conference will not remain without result from the organisational viewpoint. It will surely contribute to bring the friends of the ORT-OZE dispersed in South Africa nearer to each other and to your Committee in Johannesburg. Nor will it fail to give you the publicity which you need, and which you deserve as the only Jewish body in South Africa permanently connected with relief work in Europe.

It may be useful to invite to the Conference also representatives of the Board of Deputies and the President of the Zionist Federation.

I know that a campaign of the Keren Hayessod is imminent in South Africa. Nevertheless, I think it is advisable and admits that you should convene the Conference at this moment, seeing that its purpose is not to proclaim immediately an ORT-OZE campaign, but merely to respond to the wishes of hundreds of ORT-OZE organizations who look forward to a definite promise from you to come to the help of the Jewish war victims as early as possible.

You may say, when you address your invitations to the Board of Deputies and the President of the Zionist Federation, that you have no intention of undertaking immediately something

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S. Schneier Esq. (cont'd)

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which might interfere with the success of the campaign of the Keren Hayessod, but merely to decide when, and in what form, the South African ORT-OZE will be able to bring their contribution to the great work of rescuing the war victims undertaken by their European organizations. I think that the ORT-OZE in South Africa is entitled to take the initiative ~~in organizing~~ the matter of organizing support for the war victims in your country, and I have no doubt that such initiative will also bring palpable material results, whether you may have to envisage an autonomous ORT-OZE campaign or an eventual Joint Appeal. In the first case it will contribute to its success, and in the second eventuality it will, no doubt, help you to secure an adequate and substantial quota of the total proceeds.

I would like, further, to call your kind attention to the fact that the question of the South African campaign for the war victims must, generally, be cleared as soon as possible, since we cannot postpone much longer to give some definite information about the date of the campaign to the gentleman who has accepted to lead a serious campaign on our behalf. The personality in question cannot be available for us at any time, and it is necessary that we shall be able to secure his final agreement for a definite date as early as possible.

A copy of this letter is being sent by me to our friend Mr. R. Feldman.

With kindest regards and best wishes to yourself and family, I am,

Very sincerely yours,


(Dr. A. Syngalovski)