

**REPORT ON  
THE WORLD ORT UNION  
CENTRAL BOARD MEETING**



1880

**London  
England  
August 21-24  
1983**



CENTRAL BOARD MEETING - AUGUST 1983

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1880

**UNION MUNDIAL ORT****איגוד עולמי אורט**

## **CALL TO THE CENTRAL BOARD**

We are living through difficult times - the developed world is struggling through an economic crisis which has brought recession, unemployment and social anguish to many countries of the Western world. Nor have the very poor, living on the margins of society in the Third World, been spared, for their countries have seen their fragile economic and industrial structures shattered by what would appear to be money and trade markets gone out of control.

It is in such a climate that strife, prejudice and hatred are fostered and unless countered by enlightenment and good will, can flourish and grow. It is in such a climate that men and women have only themselves - their identity, their dignity, their own capacity to work well and the independence this brings - as a defence to gain more than survival, to gain a life. Only with that life and that freedom, can the individual turn to help his fellow, play a constructive role in the community and contribute his part towards an independent and free society.

For over a century, ORT has been striving in the service of the Jewish people, giving men and women the tools to ensure them these vital capacities. From its beginnings in 1880 when its first workshops and co-operatives enabled Jews to leave the ghettos of Tzarist Russia to earn a better living, through the Russian Revolution and the times of great change in Eastern Europe, amid the horror and desolation of the Holocaust and its aftermath, in the centre of the founding of the State of Israel and the rebirth of a nation and a people, in poverty and in prosperity throughout the Diaspora, ORT has developed the schools, the training centres, the educational structures to bring life to the Jewish people in State and community. In the small community, ORT's presence can mean survival; in the areas of larger Jewish population, it brings a strengthening and a growing of communal identity, for ORT's programmes are a potent mixture of Jewish, general and technical education. Through its network of schools and membership organisations, ORT has created an international family, a tough fibre woven into the fabric of the Jewish communities of many countries round the globe.

In the last two decades, ORT has expanded its programme, offering technical and vocational training assistance to the developing nations in short and long-term projects, forging links and initiating new understanding between the Jewish people and the Third World. Through its Technical Assistance, ORT has acted as one channel to transform a little of the wealth of the Western World into the most practical aid that exists - the training of men and women to improve, maintain and build the infrastructure, industry, agriculture and services of their own country.

As we race towards the 21st century along an economic, social and technological road which, without the illuminating clarity of education and information, is obscure, seeming to lead to confusion, doubt and fear ORT stands, as strong and resilient as in the past. It faces a future for which it is currently educating over one hundred and five thousand young people and adults annually in 64 branches of technological and vocational skills in 19 countries. For its workers and supporters, and for those Jewish and non-Jewish organisations with whom it co-operates in assistance programmes, ORT is a beacon lighting the way toward a realistic future for its students, showing how men and women can live with the year 2,000.

From August 21st to 24th, the World ORT Union Central Board will meet in London to deliberate and decide on the directions the Organisation will take over the next years.

The Chairman of the Central Board calls all members of this body to come to London for this meeting whose conclusions will reinforce ORT's timeless identity as a movement in Jewish Life.

18th April 1983

**AN ANCIENT PEOPLE — A MODERN VISION**

World ORT Union Central Board - 21-24 August, 1983, Royal Garden Hotel, London



CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING AT ROYAL GARDEN HOTEL, LONDON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1983

The Credential Commission Constituted as follows:

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Mr. E. Mortara         | President      |
| Mrs. F. Feldman        | Vice-President |
| Mrs. B. Silver         |                |
| Mr. J. Leopold-Metzger |                |
| Miss B. Fox            | Staff          |

According to Article 9 section 1-7 and rule 9 section 3 of the ORT Constitution and By-Laws dated June 4, 1980 reviewed the list of delegates present in order to verify their right to vote.

- The quorum is reached
- The total accredited delegates present at the opening of the Central Board amounts to 100.

*Henry*  
*Yi*  
*Freda Feldman*  
*Barbara Silver*

London, August 21, 1983



WORLD ORT UNION CENTRAL BOARD  
OPENING PLENARY  
SUNDAY 21 AUGUST 1983  
LONDON

OPENING REMARKS BY SHELLEY APPLETON, CHAIRMAN

It's a great, great, great honour to open this the first full Central Board meeting in the second century of ORT. It is customary at the beginning of these meetings to have an 'in memoriam'. We have received from the various national organisations lists of those of their colleagues, active members of ORT, who died since the last Central Board meeting. The lists, unfortunately, tragically, are very, very long. I will not read them, but I will, for the purposes of the record, say that the names of all of them are inscribed in the annals of ORT, and inscribed in our hearts.

I do want to say a few words, though, about two who passed away in the last few years. One, Max Braude, who died just less than a year ago in Jerusalem during an Executive Committee meeting of the World ORT Union, epitomised ORT. ORT grew into the great international organisation it is during the years when he was Director General. He was the heart, the soul and the spirit of this organisation for a great many years. His passing away left a great void. Those of us who knew him still miss him deeply, and still talk of him always. The other one is Jacob Oleiski, a pioneer, the builder of ORT Israel, who devoted his lifetime to this organisation, and also left an unfillable gap. For those two and for all the others, who gave of their devotion, passion and love to this organisation, let us stand for a moment..... Thank you very much.

I have some messages. The first goes as follows:

"To my friends on the Executive Committee from all over the world, to the friends of ORT who are presently in London for the traditional meeting of the Central Board. I was in your midst for many years, and I am well aware of the important work that you are doing on behalf of Jewish and technological education. This time your deliberations centre around World ORT's plans for the year 2,000. You are doing the right thing, since the end result of a correct action lies in its foresighted beginning. The youngsters joining the educational network today will influence our existence in the 21st century, despite the difficulties of predicting in these dynamic times how the world will look in the year 2,000, and how it applies to the study programme. Yet it can be done by anticipating the overall needs of the Jewish people in the diaspora and in the State of Israel. I was glad to hear that you will approve the construction of an international college at Carmiel. You are taking an important step by setting up an additional objective of ORT in the State of Israel.

- A. It will draw youngsters from the ORT centres of the world, who will come to study together with the youth of the Gallilee.
- B. Together they will learn about Jewish values, about Israel and technology. They will influence one another, and out of this friendship will grow a new and fresh course for the development of the Gallilee.

My friends, I would have liked to be with you as in the past, and you may be assured that I am thinking of you, and of the friendship that has developed over the years between us. On the eve of the New Year I send my warm greetings to the Central Board, to you and your families, and to all those you represent in ORT, in the world and in Israel. May the coming year be a year of peace and of social and economic prosperity for Israel and for the world, signed, Chaim Herzog, President of the State of Israel."

Our good friend, and old colleague, President Herzog, is anticipating an action we have not yet taken. This body will have before it the proposal he refers to for an international school in the Gallilee. Hopefully, this body will accept the recommendation. We don't want to disappoint the President of the State of Israel. At any event, on your behalf I will thank President Herzog for his warm, benevolent, fraternal greetings to us.

We also have a message from the Minister of Education and Culture in Israel, a very important gentleman in our organisational lives, and I will read this message to you:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to wellcome all the participants of the meeting of the Central Board of the World ORT Union. You are coming here from the diaspora, and from Israel to serve a central interest of the Jewish world. You represent Jewish education in the diaspora as well as in Israel. World ORT Union founded, in cooperation with ORT Israel and with the close collaboration of the Ministry of Education and Culture, a magnificent professional educational system. I know that you were involved with interesting developments in the field of technological education. Your debates are about ORT in the year 2,000. This is a true headline for a system foreseen, as the students of today are the adults of 2,000. The Jewish humanitarian elements and the technological ones which are moulded today will bear fruit in the year 2,000. I wish all the visitors to the convention of World ORT Union fruitful debate and successful planned assignment for the development of the education system in the diaspora and in the State of Israel, signed, Zevulun Hammer, Minister of Education and Culture."

We also have many, many other greetings. We have greetings from the Chief Rabbi of England; we have greetings from the Jewish Colonisation Association and its President, the Hon. Leonard Cohen; and we have a message from the Hon. Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P., President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and President of the Commonwealth Jewish Council. Those greetings will be in the minutes, and I will thank all of them on your behalf.

This meeting is an historic one. It is not only the first meeting in the second century of ORT, it is the first meeting of the Central Board since our move to London from Geneva. The last three years have been very difficult ones. They have been difficult ones for the World ORT Union; they have been difficult ones for our national organisation, but there is surely no doubt, as you will learn from the proceedings here in the next few days, that the situation is immeasurably improved over what it was three years ago. We are in a position once again to make great forward strides, to build anew, to develop new programmes, to institute new projects, to start new schools, to develop new creative pedagogical techniques, to develop learning and teaching centres, not all at once - our resources are still limited - but we are in a much better position, and hopefully we will be in an even

better position as time goes on from here on in. We can start planning for the future. The year 2,000 is the theme of this meeting. We are privileged, I think, to participate in this process. All of us here should be thankful that we are here, thankful that we are part of this great, vital organisation in the Jewish world and thankful that we have the opportunity to assist in this great work of ours.

We have a guest speaker today. He's a very special guest speaker. On the wall of his study in Jerusalem there's an inscribed photo of David Ben-Gurion, and the inscription reads:

To the spokesman for the  
Hebrew nation with thanks  
and affection.

and that's what he is, and has been for three or four decades. He is the spokesman, not only for the Hebrew nation, he is the spokesman for the Jewish peoples of the world. He is the most articulate voice that the Jewish peoples have. He has articulated our needs, our desires, our problems, our position vis-a-vis the rest of the world, as Foreign Minister of Israel, as the most brilliant ambassador to the United Nations any country ever had. He has spoken for us passionately, eloquently, with conviction and with sincerity. He is a very, very special adornment for us Jews, and it is a great privilege for me to present to you Abba Eban.



WORLD ORT UNION CENTRAL BOARD  
OPENING PLENARY  
SUNDAY 21 AUGUST 1983  
LONDON

SPEECH BY ABBA EBAN, MK, GUEST OF HONOUR

I am very grateful to you, Shelley Appleton, for the warmth and sincerity of your welcome. I listened to your remarks about me with very close attention and with general agreement. Everything this afternoon has gone well, so far. Distinguished Jewish leaders have been presenting me to audiences for many years, and they are getting better and better at it all the time. It might seem at first sight that no lecturer is ever likely to suffer great harm at the hands of his Chairman, but that is an illusion. There is sometimes grave cause for apprehension. I have seen this recently in the United States, when I was presented to the audience by the President of one of its great oil companies. He was a man of few words, which were however more than adequate to cover the entire range of his thoughts. He presented me to the audience with the following words: "You are now going to hear Abba Eban. Some of you have heard him before. Some of you have not. Those of you who have not heard him before are no doubt looking forward to it eagerly." You will understand why, after that traumatic experience, I listen to Chairmen's introductions with initial tension but with ultimate relief, and as today, with deep gratitude and appreciation.

My tribute of thanks goes out to all of you for having invited me here this afternoon. I am no stranger to your movement. Two decades ago, I presided over the Israeli educational system as the Minister of Education and Culture. I came to that task with grave apprehensions, arising from the eloquent definition of education that I have heard in my student days from one of the great figures in Cambridge University life, Professor Lord Keynes. He had defined education as follows: "the inculcation of the incomprehensible into the ignorant by the incompetent". Since then the prestige of intellectual pursuits has risen. Most governments, however convinced of their own omniscience, do have recourse to the advice and counsel of academic authorities. I can testify that even for a working politician, a discreet measure of literacy is no longer an insuperable obstacle. It can with time and patience be lived down. But another difficulty in Israel was the reserved position of pioneer Zionism towards intellectual pursuits. Let us be frank with each other. There is an anti-intellectual motif in pioneer Zionism. The aim was to bring an excessively academised Jewish people out of the libraries, out of the laboratories and into contact with the soil, with the primary sources of production and manual labour. The hero of the Zionist saga in those days

was the Professor of Mathematics milking a cow on a collective farm.

This transformation had its logic in terms of the social vision that inspired the Zionist enterprise in its formative stage. Today in the technological age, it would be regarded as an inexcusable waste of brainpower and human resources. The only greatness that Israel can ever achieve lies in those domains in which matter and quantity are transcended by mind and quality. And so we find a constant thread running through the sombre tapestry of our nation's history: the few against the many, the small against the great, spirit against matter, quality against quantity. We can never rival our neighbours in territorial expanse, or in demographic strength, or in monetary and mineral wealth. It is only by an intense vitality of spirit allied to the enhancing power of science and technology that we can create a compensating dimension of strength. Do not therefore ask if Israel is rich enough to afford a large expenditure on education. Israel is too poor to afford economies in that crucial field. For generation after generation, the Jewish people marches across history bearing its message of order and progress in the universal design. Its road falls and rises between deep chasms of grief and great peaks of exaltation. And yet at every stage it is accompanied by a sense of the limitation of material dimensions, the ability of mankind and of the invincible human spirit to overcome the limitations of physical size.

Now, these reflections bore strongly upon me when I first came to face with ORT. In Israel, education was always associated with abstract thought. There was even an issue of social discrimination. It was regarded as an insult to suggest to a young man, and especially to his parents, that he devote himself to an educational process that had some concrete technological result. I could only remember the days in which abstract thought was enthroned as the summit and aim of education. Another great Cambridge figure, Rutherford: "Thank God", he said, "that we never learn anything in this laboratory that can ever have any practical application. Three years later, the atom was split in his laboratory, and the nuclear age had dawned. I am aware that there is an austere theory of purity in science which sets the scientists on a pedestal in an ivory tower, immune from the concerns, the anguish and responsibilities of daily life. Our age cannot afford that division. The subject matter and theme of science is the spectacle of nature, but science has a human origin and a human destination. The scientist and the technologist cannot avoid his obligation to the society which put him upon his high status and which endowed him with the skills which he has an obligation to distribute and to share.

Thus, in the Israeli educational story, it was ORT which broke down the prejudices and the traditional inertia which stood in the path of technological education. Today I believe that the breakthrough is irrevocable and complete. 75,000 vocational students, 50,000 of them in ORT schools, paralleled in all the countries here represented, emphatically in France, in Morocco and now in England with welcome governmental support. The citizen of the future must understand the sources of energy and productivity which the technological revolution has put within his power. He must live with these new realities. He must restrain his destructive potentialities and turn them to the service of a creative and peaceful human order.

Another domain in which you deploy your activity is what is called the Third World. I say "what is called" the Third World because nobody has ever claimed to belong to the First World, and there are certainly no declared candidates for the Second World. In a sense, each of the three Worlds is the creative imagination of the two others. The Third World today is an idea and an ambition. It is not yet a vital force, largely because the scientific and technical revolution has been the monopoly of the Northern, advanced world. Third World leaders are not blameless for this condition. A great gallery of charismatic leaders in Africa, Asia and Latin America has been brilliantly successful in overcoming inequalities of juridical status between nation states. Forty years ago, sovereignty applied to only a minority of the human race. Tens of millions lived outside the context of sovereign power. Today for the first time in history, 98% of the human race lives under sovereign flags. The international community has proliferated from the original 50 founders of the United Nations to the 163 members today; at least that was the number when I left my hotel this morning. Hardly a day goes by without a new addition to this tapestry. But once institutional, freedom was achieved. Few of the leaders of the Third World showed much interest in banishing the inequalities of rights and opportunities that convulsed their own domestic harmony. States had to be equal in the international community. Citizens did not have to be equal in their societies. Charismatic leadership, claiming obsequious obedience, worship of authority and repression of dissent, do not create the intellectual climate in which the scientific enterprise can flourish. And thus, after the great celebrations of independence, there is a sombre pathos that now pervades the countries of the Third World. Their imagination and pride have been excited by the emblems of their sovereignty: the flags and the stamps and the constitutions and the places in international organisations. But the flags are not enough. They awake on the morrow of their independence celebration to understand that their institutional freedom has not been accompanied by a corresponding liberation in the social and economic fields. Their success in the political

domain has not been accompanied by such triumphs. In fact their anguish has sometimes been aggravated. A great destiny awaits the first Third World leaders who will turn aside from the allurements of international diplomacy and the seductions of weaponry in a prosaic effort to assert the principle of equality within their own social order and economic structure.

ORT, therefore, is an expression of international solidarity. I wish you well and assure you of Israel's affection and respect. I summon you to intensify devotion, responsibility and sacrifice in this cause. I do this on a sad day when the Israel government has thought it necessary to curtail the budget for learning and post-primary education by 20%. How can we possibly compensate for this cruel reduction of our future, except by appealing to the compensating solidarity of Jewish communities across the world. Sooner or later our country would come back to an elusive view of its priorities. Israel must come home to itself, away from the murderous cross fire of the Chouf mountains, away from Maronite quarrels and Falangist vendettas, away from the corruption and contention of a turbulent Beirut, away from incursions in Arab population centres, away from any assertion of unilateral and exclusive rights, go back where we belong, back to the original sources of our creativity, back to Israel and its inexhaustible Jewish vocation. It is the greatest hope for Israel in the coming year that we may be able to put the blood-soaked arenas behind us and to return to our own business and to our own challenging destiny.

A traditional Jewish saying accompanies us at this stage of the year: "May the declining year end with its curses, and may the New Year with its blessings begin." This has never had to be taken with literal accuracy, not every declining year is laden with tragedy and not every coming year is aglow with promise. And yet this year in my prayer and cry for our beloved country, that it may never, never know a year so heavy with tragedy as that which we have lived, from the sadness caused to us from hundreds of graves, from recollections of slaughter, from the ruins that shattered hopes, surely we may pray that such a year will not be lived again. And if that prayer is to be fulfilled, the first of our tasks is to put Lebanon behind us. That name will linger in our nation's history like a haunting nightmare, worse than a nightmare, for after a nightmare there is an awakening, into an unchanged world. Here there is an awakening into the shadow of the 517 Israeli graves, most of which would not have existed if it had been possible to avoid the war, or at least, to confine it to its early and limited objectives.

And thus there is in Israel a sombre taking of accounts. It sweeps over political barriers. It now drives us into a new

consensus of self-appraisal. After 15 months, we find that we have lived for a whole year in a greater, not a lesser vulnerability for Israeli life. We find Syria more potent militarily and more influential politically than before, Soviet commitment and intrusion more pronounced, Palestinian radicalism more extreme, terrorists more ubiquitous, lethal and versatile in their methods. Our young men are being killed more often by Lebanese than by Palestinian assailants in recent months. There is a danger that the Egyptian peace treaty, the greatest achievement of the Israeli government and nation in recent years is degenerating into a cold armistice, with all its human content excised. As our economy reacts against years of uncontrolled consumption and expenditure, more and more Israelis in all political camps are asking searching questions about the burdens which weigh upon us, adding financial pressure to political and military complications.

My Friends, we are over-extended. There are too many burdens upon our narrow shoulders. We are exercising jurisdiction by consent over our four million citizens, and jurisdiction perforce without consent over 1¼ million Arabs who live without our democratic context, and now over 750,000 Lebanese, Shi'ites, Falangists, Moslems, Druzes, Christians, in the area below the Avoli river, where the wealth of our people is now being poured into a new line, which by common agreement of our parties, must be short-lived. Here then is a situation in which our country will have to take harsh and incisive decisions. It is absurd to imagine that Israel, one of the strongest countries in modern military history, cannot find a way of concerting its security without some relief from these vast burdens. Without their becoming permanent, under the influence of time and inertia, in the next year we would really have to sort ourselves out. And to disengage ourselves from this expanding sense of burden, we must be, become and remain a Jewish democracy, not a policeman of Lebanon. And our decisions will have to be our own. The United States has given us friendly counsel in swift succession. But let us remember what those counsels have been: first don't go in. Second, don't stay. Third, don't leave. Fourth, leave before everyone else. Fifth, stay around until the Messianic era when the Syrians and Palestinians leave as well. It is far easier to pay tribute to the basic goodwill of our American friends than it is to observe any coherence in this diplomacy. These contradictory and confusing counsels do not add up to the most distinguished era of Western or American statesmanship. Israel therefore will have to take lonely decisions. We will try to coordinate what we do with the United States, with the Lebanese government, if there is such a thing, with the Lebanese army, if it ever comes into existence. But in the final resort we must assert our sovereign interests. And I would say this, in all friendship to our American friends, if you are disturbed by the vacuum created by our irrevocable decision to depart from the Chouf mountains, I can give you brief advice. If you do not like the vacuum, fill it yourselves.

We will accompany the efforts of the Marines and of the national force to help the Lebanese army to keep order with every good wish. We cannot be the permanent guardians of Lebanese destiny. We are not the arbiters of its rancours. We are not the trustees of its hatreds. We cannot commit the lives of our youth permanently to what is a jungle of rival antagonisms and hatreds. What we should derive from Lebanon above everything else is the lesson of its experience. For many decades, the word Lebanon was the synonym for a compact, Christian national community in Mount Lebanon. And then in the 1920's and 1930's, the tutelary power of the French government, for reasons of its own, expanded the frontiers of Christian Lebanon and created what it called Greater Lebanon, le Grand Liban. But in adding territory to Lebanon, it also added hundreds of thousands of Moslems, who felt no sense of devotion or allegiance to the idea of a Christian home. Lebanon therefore became greater in size, but it was an act of suicide. From that moment on, its disintegration goes forward without interruption. Today, there is no such thing as Lebanese nationhood. Christian against Moslem, Maronites against Druzes, Greek Orthodox against Shi'ite, Falangists against militias. We learn from that example that by preferring territorial expanse to national cohesion and social harmony Lebanon lost its Christian vocation. It could happen to any country. If I were to hear that Holland were to increase its territory by incorporating 4 million Germans into its midst, I would deduce not that those who accepted this solution were patriots, but that they were off their minds. When after the First World War Denmark was offered the restitution of territory in Schleswig-Holstein, but with a million more Germans, they had the pragmatic wisdom and genius to refuse the offer.

This then is the great dilemma. The gravest threat that now faces Israel, perhaps greater than any external threat, is that which would arise if we were condemned to the permanent incorporation of 1½ million members of a foreign nation into our own structures. It has to be solved in some method which will leave our Jewish character and our democratic structure intact. It is a dilemma. It cuts across our country, right through the middle. It is responsible very largely for the intensity of the national debate. We are forced above everything else to assert the legitimacy of dissent. I find our Jewish friends in the Diaspora in all affection sometimes to be impossible people. They always greet me with two exclamations. First, isn't it wonderful that Israel is a democracy. Second, how come that all Israelis are not unanimous on all the intricate questions that face them. Well we are not unanimous because we are a democracy. Do not be ashamed of our lack of unanimity. Bulgaria is unanimous. Uganda is unanimous. Poland is becoming increasingly unanimous. In 1947 we were summoned by the international community not to establish the State of Israel, the name of which was not known on the morning of our independence. We were asked to establish a Jewish State. Well, how can you be a Jewish State and also unanimous?

Scepticism, a refusal to accept dogmatic authority, an insistence on knowing the causes and motives of action. These are the marks of a democracy. We reach our decisions not by blind acceptance of dogma or authority, but by the interaction of alternative and contradictory choices. By this we create a solidarity with all across the world who uphold democracy as the highest expression of man's social responsibility. It is of course for Diaspora Jews to decide their own place within this atmosphere of debate. Do not be disconcerted by the diversity of our views or the intensity of our debate. Diversity and dissent are not a burden to be reluctantly borne, they are the saving grace and the crowning glory of a free and open society. You all know what the dilemmas are. What do we do with the 1¼ million inhabitants of Judea and Samaria. Do we integrate them into the political structure in full enfranchisement? If so, they become the lords of our destiny. All of Jewish politics will be nothing but a restless pursuit of Arab votes. Imagine if you will an Arab party of 30 members of the Knesset. Who will have the balance of power? It will not be the balance, it will be the power. But the balance of power in our system can now be exercised by small groups of four members, who in the equality of the two major political groups can secure the fulfillment of their views. Imagine a situation in which a large Arab parliamentary representation was the final arbiter and decider of the greatest use of our defence, our education and our culture. Do we then decide to exclude them from integration into our central political structure? In that case we face the sombre anti-climax of a Jewish state, in which citizens do not all live on the same level of rights and obligations, in which there are those who elect and those who do not elect, in which there are those who are chosen and those who are not elected, in which there are those who are subjected to the intensive scrutiny of our democratic judicial system, and those who are not. This duality would cut across one of the greatest visions that have inspired our new era of independence. We cannot imagine a Jewish state which is not democratic. This people that has never bowed the knee to any despotism, this people that has risen up against all the tyrants of history, how can such a people not assert the principle of equality among all those who lie within its jurisdiction. This, then, is the dilemma, and brings me back to the central theme of Israel's emergence. We must find a way of harmonious separation from those who do not owe or give allegiance or devotion, to our flag, to our faith to our tongue, to our recollections, to our experiences, to our Zionist vocation and to our Jewish solidarities. We must find a way of combining secure boundaries with a relationship of harmony with the immediate neighbouring world. But to say this is to say that 35 years after the establishment of Israel, and 16 years after the great War of Israel's deliverance, the central issue of Israel within the regional context remains to be solved, but it is an urgent theme both of international discussion of regional controversy, and above everything else, it perturbs and it agitates our own people within their own domestic context.

We must have respect for the past without being enslaved by it. We must look with disquiet upon a situation in which so many burdens fall on Israel's shoulders for the 1½ million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza, for the 750,000 Lebanese on the Awali River at a time when Israel's educational structure is endangered for a lack of resources, at a time when the Negev is beginning to languish, when the Moshav movement enters upon a period of crisis. More than ever before we have to face the question of our priorities and our resources. These are issues which the Israeli nation must resolve by its own bold decision. We must resolve it ourselves. We must do so within the context of our democratic and parliamentary institutions. We must listen with care to the opinions of others, especially those whose opinions stem from the common wells of our Jewish solidarities. But if anything goes wrong and if advice turns out badly, if there has to be sacrifice of blood and life, it will be sacrifice of Israeli life, and Israeli blood alone. Because we are alone in the sacrifice of blood and life, we must claim solitude for our power of decision, concerning the minimal decisions essential for our security. We must understand that the security of a nation depends not only on its geographical configuration, but also on the coherence of its human composition, on the unifying energies which draw its citizens together, in experience, in recollection, in responsibility and in sacrifice. If such a peace is not available now because of the uninterrupted folly and myopia of Arab leaders, we must at least keep the future open for peace and for reason. If the controversy about Israel's future territorial configuration is somewhat muted, it is because our neighbours have not done anything to make it relevant. If they refuse to create a negotiating context, many of us in Israel ask ourselves, "Why should we tear ourselves apart in order to discuss negotiating positions in respect of a negotiation which does not exist. And therefore the refusal of Jordan and the Palestinian leadership last year to come to the negotiating table is the single most salient and conspicuous reason for the present deadlock. If there are those who would want to exercise influence to break the deadlock, let them break the deadlock in the arena of Arab obduracy. It can be said of the Palestinians that they have never missed a chance of losing an opportunity. Time and time again they reject plans conceived largely in their interest in order to look back upon them nostalgically when they have receded from view. Thus they emerge from every crisis with a new nostalgia, but not always with a new wisdom. And the greatest of all their follies was the refusal to understand that the Camp David agreement is not an anti-Palestinian or an anti-Arab document. It could in fact be the charter of liberation for the Middle East as a whole. It defines by the consent of all its three signatories, Egypt, Israel and the United States, that the West Bank and Gaza are territories of indeterminate status, whose status cannot be unilaterally determined, by any of the signatory parties, but only by the agreement between Israel,

Jordan, the Palestinians themselves. It lays down a pattern of autonomy, not as a final solution, but as an interim stepping stone towards the final adjudication, the adjudication will be by a group that is not only Israeli but also Egyptian, American, Jordanian and Palestinian. In order to convert this doctrine into the theory of an unacceptable solution, a vast failure of the imagination was necessary. But the Arab leaders were capable of that vast failure of imagination. They prefer no bread at all to 90% of the loaf. For them, the criterion is not what any solution gives to them, but what any solution denies to Israel. And if a solution fulfills their legitimate aspirations, but also shows deference and respect for Israel's security and Israel's integrity, it must be rejected on negative grounds. Their mentality has always worked as a zero sum. Whatever is potentially acceptable to Israel must by definition be unacceptable to them. And thus the deadlock continues. The Israeli task is not to lose the vision and the hope of the peace which will enable our boundaries to be improved without laying upon us the burden of a coercive jurisdiction over a foreign nation. Israelis will have to solve these problems. The pride and the name of the Jewish people, however, are also engaged. At issue is the question of our Jewish character and our democratic destiny. But those who ask Jews abroad to keep out of the debate are in effect saying that we want your gifts of money and political support, but we do not ask you for any gift of judgement. The Jewish contribution to Israel must be a financial and a political, but not an intellectual contribution. If we say this, Diaspora Jews will probably accept our veto and subside into silence, but Israel will have lost an enlarging dimension.

The intellectual community in Israel will have to play a large part in these decisions. The role of the intellectual in Israel is not to be on one or the other side of the inter-party frontier. It is to be on both sides, but in support of order and reason. So many elements in Jewish life and experience stress the passionate, the emotional, the mystical and the metaphysical elements, that the role of the intellectual community is to supply the balancing dimension of rationality. We are entitled to appeal to Diaspora Jews for unconditional solidarity and for fraternal counsel. Whatever your views on this or the other policy advocated within the Israeli parliamentary context, there is such a thing as Israel that lies beyond and above all party divisions, and it is to that Israel, to its flag, to its faith, to its tongue, to its future, that your solidarity is unconditionally owed. It is on behalf of that Israel that I come here today to tell you that our burdens are heavy. We cannot bear them alone. The vast burden of defence, 20% of the national revenue, the burdens of administration, the burdens of regional conflict, the burdens of a war for which we have not yet found an agreed or satisfactory conclusion, the burdens of bringing our resources and our consumption into some degree of harmony - we have not achieved

any such equilibrium in our economy. This does not mean to say that Israel's economic history is a failure. Six billion dollars are earned by Israeli industry and agriculture, probably the highest per capita proportion of exports to population in any part of the world.

I would ask you to liberate yourselves from the caricature of Israel, always portrayed in somewhat melancholy terms. Yes, we are a small nation, we are a poor nation, we are a new nation - we are not all that small, we are not all that poor, we are not all that new. A small nation? There are 83 members of the United Nations with populations smaller than ours. A new nation? Most of the world's nations are younger in their sovereignty than Israel. We were the 59th member of the organised international community, which now numbers over 163. It is other nations who have to ask Israel for recognition. I am appalled by the formula that Israel should have to ask anybody to recognise its right to exist. Israel's right to exist is independent of anybody's recognition of it. A poor nation? Our per capita income and other indicators of economic energy place us in the first league. We do not have the same per capita income as North America, although my friend the Governor of the Bank of Israel says that we live as though we do, but we are certainly on the high European level. An undeveloped nation? Of the 163 members of the international community, more than 150 would envy Israel its scientific and technological manpower and infrastructure. We must therefore emerge out of self-pity into a due understanding of our enhanced role in the general hierarchy of the international system. There was a caricaturist in one of our afternoon papers, called Dosh, who used to present Israel as a small boy with a , puny, with thin legs, always being trodden on by vast forces, outraging his rights. This is not a convincing picture of Israel today. And in fact the learned caricaturist himself no longer portrays the little "Dosh" character, and he himself no longer publishes the cartoons. He has, I understand become a Cultural Attaché in an embassy, which is the nearest thing to disappearance from the human race than anybody can imagine, because it is not convincing any longer. We do not claim that we are always right. In the first volume of his memoirs, Secretary Kissinger, I think on page 1350 - I wrote in my own review of that book that I do not know if Henry is a good writer, but if you read this book you have to be a great reader - he writes about my definition of objectivity. He writes as follows: "Eban's definition of objectivity is the blind acceptance of all Eban's views. " Well that's fair enough. I don't believe that anybody else has a different definition of objectivity. He certainly hasn't.

But even if some of our judgements are questioned, I appeal to you to understand that in general terms, we emerge with a proclamation of rectitude. The right is on our side. There is nothing exaggerated in what we seek. All that we seek is our little plot of freedom in what is all that remains to the Jewish people after the havoc and the debris and the anguish of its martyrdom. This is not too much to ask, that Israel be left to pursue its vocation, in serenity and peace.

I know that many of our friends in the international community are sometimes puzzled by what they call our "obduracies". But these are nothing but the reaction to the most implacable hostility by which any society has ever been assailed. One of our friends, the Foreign Minister of a European country asked me the other day why Israel always "bristles". I told him that a porcupine is not agreeable to embrace, but it has a good chance of not being devoured. And so long as we stand in danger to our very existence, we must be prepared sometimes for solitary decisions. And we must ask you for your fraternal support. Our credentials for that appeal are the memories of what you and we together have accomplished, the State that we have built, the society that we have fashioned, the kinsmen that we have gathered in, the landscapes that we have quickened into life, the deserts that we have redeemed, the culture that we have renewed, the graves that we have dug, the tears that we have shed because of them, the passions that have been roused, the inexpressable hopes that have been kindled. All this is part of our common recollections of these 35 years, and now those years are over - over and yet in a sense unending and for ever alive, for as those years sink down beneath the horizon, they leave behind a twilight streaked with the eternal fire that will live on and on, deep in the hearts and minds of our nation, as long as any memory of the past endures. These four decades with their joys and sorrows, their unendurable pathos, and their stark and rugged splendour have entered the Jewish consciousness until the end of time. A new dimension has been added to our nation's history and the exploration of it has taken many years. Do not abandon us in the middle of the way. Stand with us unflinching, united in conviction, steadfast in resolve, until the obstacles are surmounted, and the task is done.

WORLD ORT UNION CENTRAL BOARD  
MONDAY 21 AUGUST 1983, LONDON

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY DAVID YOUNG, CHAIRMAN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Let me welcome you all to London, where we have met many times in the past, last at our Central Board in 1977. Since that time London has become the home of the ORT Union. Since that time much has happened.

It is not my task today to speak of all that has transpired since we last met in London, or even since we last met at our Centenary Congress in Jerusalem three years ago.

No, my task is to spend a moment or two looking at where we are, and where we are going. To look at the world around us, and to look at what lies ahead.

For we are the generation that has been charged with the responsibility of taking the ORT Union into the next Century

And that means that we are the generation charged with laying foundations, strong secure foundations, upon which those who follow us will build. That is not a small responsibility, nor is it one to be discharged lightly. It is one that only time will tell, and those who follow us will judge.

But of that in a few minutes. Where are we and what are the challenges that lie ahead.

First I must tell you that we are as relevant today as we were on the day that we were founded, now so very long ago. Of course our problems were different then. Then we were preparing our people for a life outside the Pale, for a life as full citizens of the world, not one confined to restricted occupations in restricted areas.

That was before the concept of our own state grew, from a religious desire, to a political aim, and then into a concrete reality.

But it grew out of the same roots, the same origins, the same need, for acceptance as a normal people.

And in some ways we are in the same position today. But this time it is not a particular Jewish problem. It is a problem that has emerged around the whole industrialised world as we come into the new industrial revolution.

Why should this affect us, who have always seen our primary role in the less fortunate part of our communities around the world.

Well I must tell you that in ORT to-day we are not only the people of the Book, we are also the people of the technical manual!

The lesson that we have painfully learned over the years is simple - how to introduce the very concepts of Technical and Vocational Education Education to a people without that tradition.

And as a result of our efforts know how to combine general studies with the ability to earn a living. We know how to provide an education that leads to a full and rewarding life. And what we know we must use, both within the network and outside.

I do not say this lightly. Even the United Kingdom, a country that boasted of universal education before we were founded, has lessons to learn from us. We are now introducing a nationwide system of Technical and Vocational Education in our Schools system that owes its very concepts to us. And it is a debt that is acknowledged.

Why should that be? Well the industrialised world is changing around us.

The very methods of production are reeling under the onslaught of the silicon chip and the robot.

In the United States in 1970 one quarter of the workforce was employed in Manufacturing - by the end of the Century less than 4% will still be there.

In my own country we have lost over one in five of our Manufacturing jobs in less than four years. And the losses will continue.

And the spectre of Youth Unemployment is with us everywhere. It is not enough to have just a good general education. It is not enough to confine education to the few years before work.

Education to-day is about providing a good foundation, a foundation of skills and abilities that can cope with a fast changing world.

As the inexorable shift goes on, from the Manufacturing to the Service Sector, from unskilled manual work into skills unknown only a few years ago, from low technology to high, so will the demands of education and training escalate.

And it is to be welcomed not feared. It promises relief from toil and drudgery that will open up new horizons. The additional wealth and leisure will be there to be enjoyed - if we have but the wit to use it well. And this is the path to a more caring society.

And the challenge to us is to appreciate that these new demands will not end at 18, or at the end of formal education.

Everyone, including our own, will need to acquire new skills throughout their working lives.

Everyone, and that includes those in work and not just the out of work immigrant, or the un-employed school-leaver.

And it is a challenge that will effect our peoples around the world just as it will effect the general community. And it is a challenge that is only now being recognised.

But the problem is still the same as it was at our foundation. How to prepare our people for a full life. A life in which they can hold their heads high, face the future with certainty.

And then bring about that greatest of all aims, the end of the need for Tsedoko, for charity.

So we are gathered here today from all corners of the Jewish world to take stock.

First where we have been.

These have not been easy years. We have had many problems. But these problems are now behind us.

Joseph Harmatz has distinguished his first three years as our Director-General in the manner in which he has tackled all our problems - problems of finance - problems of organisation - problems of programmes.

He deserves our thanks and our gratitude. He does not expect them.

What he expects from us is guidance and commitment for the future. And that is what I hope that we will give him.

Now, where are we.

My friends, we are stronger to-day than we have been at any time in the last ten years.

I do not say that we are strong. But we are over the worst.

We are no longer in crisis. We no longer have to live from day to day. We can now begin to plan ahead.

So where are we going.

Where we go depends upon the decisions that we will make in the days ahead.

If we so decide, and I hope that we will, we might proceed with the International School in the Galilee. This is a project as exciting, as imaginative, as innovative, as any in the ORT history.

It will be a challenge, a chance for us to really extend ourselves. But the prize when we succeed, as I know we will, that prize will be worth winning.

And perhaps we should also consider how we can strengthen our organisation in London. We need a secure base for pedagogical developments for the future. We should not have just a head office but an exciting nerve centre of the whole network. A wheel without a strong hub and firm spokes does not last. What we learn around the world must be nurtured and developed.

The lessons of one country must be made available in another. And so I believe that we should consider the establishment of a resource centre in London that will be worthy of our reputation.

And we must consider the developments that are planned in the United States. Since we last met as a board we have opened in Miami and we will in the next few days talk of a new project in Los Angeles. The need is there, the commitment is there, the operation will follow. And it will not affect the continuing help that we receive from AOF and WAO.

In France we will hear of a new project in Marseilles. It cannot wait, for the young grow up either with us or without us. And we are determined that they will grow with us.

And there are many more projects that cry out for help. In Israel, in South America, where ever we operate. There always will be more projects. We must not be afraid.

We have many exciting plans that we wish to share with you in the days ahead.

But we must also be bold and resolute in our recognition that all these developments require resources.

Those who came before us could not take no for an answer - and neither shall we.

This is our task in the days that lie ahead. This is our task, not only here, but when we go home.

I hope that this is the message we shall spread around our world, a message of hope and confidence to all our peoples.

We met in Congress in London in 1960. At that Congress, and after a long debate, we decided to go into Technical Assistance. We see to-day the fruits of that decision.

May our decisions in the next few days bring similar rewards - for us, for our people, and for the whole community of Nations.

REPORT BY WORLD ORT UNION DIRECTOR GENERAL

TO THE CENTRAL BOARD

ROYAL GARDEN HOTEL

LONDON, 21 AUGUST 1983

Dear Friends,

The fifth commandment says

"Honour thy father and mother, that thy days may be long upon this earth".

And to quote an Israeli poet, "If you want to know which way to go, first learn where you have come from".

Before I present my report, may I therefore remember two of my teachers and rabbis, both my predecessors, who have passed away since we last met.

The man whose life, for me, was more than any other a testimony to the ideals of ORT, was Jacob Oleiski. This great and brilliant man was born in the little town of Shaki in Lithuania. In 1927, he joined ORT in Kovno. A year later, he became Director of all ORT schools in Lithuania. These were years of shortages and emergencies. Demand outgrew supplies, and there Oleiski concentrated all his energies - and by God he had some - into raising money for the programmes under his responsibility. He would travel from town to town, stetl to stetl, speaking about ORT, visiting community leaders, insisting and persisting. I remember my parents saying "Oleiski should be helped, he looks after orphans". This was ORT in the 1920's.

For the Lithuanian Jewish community, war broke out in Summer 1941 when Germany invaded Russia. By Autumn of the same year, the majority of the Lithuanian Jews had been massacred. The survivors were herded into a few ghettos. Within the ghetto of Kovno, Oleiski established an ORT vocational school and continued until the ghetto was liquidated in 1944, when he was transported to the Dachau concentration camp in Germany.

Following the Liberation in 1945, he organised vocational courses for displaced persons in the DP camps, starting in Landsberg and later spreading out to 60 centres training 30,000 people.

In 1949 he came on Aliyah to Israel. To me his journey was comparable with that of his namesake, the Patriarch Jacob, crossing the river of Yabboq, and his Aliya like the conversion of Jacob's name to Israel, after he had wrestled with the Angel. For Jacob Oleiski too had contended with God and man and prevailed: "ki sarita vatochal".

Oleiski became the first director of the ORT vocational high school on Prophet Street in Jerusalem, to which his name is linked today, and rightly so. In 1950, Oleiski was appointed Director General of ORT Israel until his retirement at the end of 1966. It was he who laid the foundation of ORT Israel, understanding the needs of the new state and how to integrate vocational training within the existing educational system. He was the man who designed the 3- and later 4-year vocational high schools, which are today the core of ORT Israel.

It is thanks to this visionary outlook, which has influenced the entire Israeli educational system, given vocational training its status and prestige and enabled it at a later stage to double and triple the existing numbers and add apprenticeship centres, factory schools and many other different schemes based on that accumulated educational capital.

As far as I am concerned, Jacob Oleiski was the giant of our era, symbolising ORT activities between the two world wars, during the holocaust, in the DP camps and then in the independent Jewish State.

Oleiski was a distinguished and faithful son of Lithuanian Jewry and served them to his last day as Chairman of the Lithuanian Jews Association in Israel.

In the words of Chaim Herzog:

Oleiski will take his place in the gallery of the great leaders of ORT who in the course of a century strove and endeavoured to give to the Jewish people something of enduring value.

We shall remember him as he was, in gratitude, in appreciation and with affection.

Born in Pennsylvania of parents with a profound Jewish background, who had emigrated from Libau in Latvia, Max Braude had already graduated university and become the registrar of a yeshiva by the age of 19. Ordained as a Rabbi in 1941, Max became Chief Chaplain to the 7th US Army and when the war ended, took on responsibility for the spiritual needs of the displaced Jews in camps throughout

Europe. This led to his work with JDC, HIAS and eventually to ORT.

Max was blessed with a sense of presence and a sense of timing. during the aftermath of the Second World War in Germany, when he was with the US Army, Max was ready to provide help and assistance to Jewish needs and causes whenever called upon. His assistance in helping thousands of people to leave Germany and cross borders is well known and documented.

In his last report to the Central Board in 1977, here in London, he tried to summarise the highlights of his career with ORT, and humourously called the highlights accidents. He referred to the meeting with Mo Beckelman, which resulted in our agreement with the JDC in 1953, as an accident. The meeting with Giora Josephthal and Yigal Allon, and the resulting establishment of the apprenticeship centres in Israel he called a coincidence, as he did the meeting with Aranne, and the resulting doubling programme, and the establishment of the Technical Assistance Department. And so on.

It was certainly neither a coincidence nor an accident. It was just necessary to bring in all these programmes in response to social, structural, ethnic and economic needs. It was Max's destiny and our - ORT's - good fortune to have had him in the right place at the right time.

We worked together through good times and bad, and there were plenty of both. And as well as all that, Max was a good personal friend. Despite the years of living far apart in different environments, when a certain distance develops, on the last Saturday before his death, when we visited him in hospital with Paul for hours, and he would not let us go, it seemed like the good old days, laughing joking and enjoying ourselves.

His wealth of life experience, combined with a warm personality and a unique intelligence, produced a man of such quality that one feels privileged to have met him and enjoyed his friendship during his lifetime.

Even the timing of his demise was endowed with the perfection to which only Tzaddikim are entitled.

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Dear Friends, on behalf of all of us Londoners, may I extend to you all a warm welcome to the Central Board. The Centenary Congress in Jerusalem has passed a series of resolutions relating to every field of our activities. We have tackled them all, some successfully, and others less so. Yet taken into consideration the fact that World ORT Union has been moved to London and replanted in an entirely different environment, with a different language, people and culture, transferring only two of the 65 personnel who had worked in Geneva, and leaving behind over 300 years of experience; cash flow arrears of over \$5 million, with interest of up to 18%, no balance sheets, credit blocked and over \$10 million of commitments, all of which we kept, for the construction of the schools in Jerusalem, Buenos Aires, and Choisy-le-Roi; a collapsed accounts department, unable to collect about \$5 million in debts because it could not present bills.

Yet we did not cut national budgets and except for a few late payments, everything worldwide continued undisturbed. And this is how ORT Israel continued to play its vital part within the national education system, and expand its pioneering role in developing technological and vocational systems in Israel.

Since the time of the Congress, new buildings have been constructed and new schools opened at Lod Aircraft Industries, Tel Nof, Bat Yam, Zrifin, Periclas Industrial School in the Negev, Natanya, and Beth Yehoshua in Tel Aviv. And of course we inaugurated the Second Phase of the School of Engineering in Jerusalem.

Departments for data processing, architectural drawing, authomation and control, electricity and secretarial skills have been introduced in many of our schools, new micro-computer courses and robotics have been introduced, girls have been encouraged to break into traditionally male areas of study. Extra-curricular activities have been developed, teachers have been trained and upgraded, teacher seminars organised and adult education expanded.

The number of students has increased by 7,000, 70% youngsters and 30% adults, which, my friends, means 230 additional classes. 46,804 students were in our network in Israel as 1983 began.

We are happy to report to the Central Board that this year we have managed to increase the annual allocation to ORT Israel by 10%, with the intention of boosting the re-equipment of the network.

This is not the only additional sum ORT Israel has had. They have received various sums of money whether for construction or scholarships, as well as quite significant sums of un-earmarked money from legacies and donations, coming from abroad directly to ORT Israel.

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We have saved and cut every possible expenditure, but our Latin American programmes in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay have flourished during the past three years, with a strengthening of our relationship with additional Jewish schools, by introducing creative education programmes.

New buildings in Brazil and Argentina have been constructed, dedicated on time, financed by the World ORT Union within the commitments we had.

Cooperation with new schools in Mexico has been well received by the local community, and it is only a pity that this expansion has indirectly cut the support of ORT Mexico towards our general programme. We hope that the Mexican Jewish community does not expect ORT Israel or ORT Morocco to support their schools.

Jewish education is the cornerstone of the schools in Chile, with up to 11 hours, and Peru, with up to 8 hours a week, and has assumed its rightful place in ORT Uruguay thanks to our energetic Director, Mrs de Grünberg.

Computers have been introduced in all the schools for students of all ages.

Dr Abraham Magendzo is handing over the headship of the ORT Chaim Weizman school in Santiago to Mr Lippman this year. May we express our thanks to Abraham for all he has done for the progress of the school, and wish Mr Lippman success. Abraham will continue as the school's educational director.

ORT has also been involved in technical assistance projects in remote parts of Argentina and Peru, training in agricultural skills and in the slums around Lima, in a project aimed at pre-school children and their mothers. These projects are run in cooperation with the local governments and the Van Leer Foundation. In conjunction with the Brazilian government and the German development ministry, a project of Distance Learning in Brazil's provinces is also being run. Not only have we financed the construction, maintenance and development of the Latin American programme on time: God and Wand-Polak know that most of the budget was financed far in advance. I know too.

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Efforts have been made to upgrade Jewish education in ORT France by recruiting higher level teachers, improving teaching resources and including Modern Hebrew as a State examination subject.

Most significantly, ORT France has made major investments in modern equipment and introduced the disciplines of data processing, office automation, robotics and microprocessor applications. Links between education and industry have been reinforced in the fight against unemployment. Graduate placement has been comparatively easy, thanks to ORT France's technical committees, alumni groups and over 10,000 firms which pay ORT their Apprenticeship Tax.

The World ORT Union has encouraged and undersigned the contracts of association agreed with the French government to ease ORT France over a difficult period financially. By now their situation has improved and they are ready to move ahead on certain projects, such as the expansion of Marseilles.

A number of seminars have been held for teaching staff, inkeeping with the emphasis which World ORT Union are placing on teacher training.

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In Italy, ORT activities are concentrated in Rome and Milan while educational services are also provided to the communities of Leghorn, Florence, Turin, Genoa and Mantua. The Business and Language School in Rome qualifies students for careers in services and industry, having offered them a good grounding in general education, economics, secretarial

and administrative skills.

The schools have now been equipped for courses in informatics, and teachers have been appropriately trained.

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ORT's programme in India has had considerable impact on the Jewish community of Bombay. Our graduates have all found jobs at relatively good salaries, and their situation is in stark contrast to the poverty which plagues their country. ORT India has moved into the high technology age with the installation of a microcomputer laboratory and provision of a robot, which will make great impact on courses. Computer education will be provided for both boys and girls, by a teacher trained on the World ORT Union Computer Literacy Course.

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Political and economic circumstances in Morocco have encouraged young Moroccan Jews to pursue their studies abroad, and many opt for countries with an ORT network. Simultaneously the population is ageing and the birth rate is low. In the ORT schools, computer literacy courses have been introduced, attracting more Jewish youngsters towards ORT.

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In South Africa, World ORT Union last year carried out a feasibility study on the introduction of computer courses in Jewish day schools, and a project has been set up, involving the King David Jewish day schools in Johannesburg, whose students will have the opportunity to study computers to matriculation level.

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ORT has appointed the Head of the Science and Technology Division of the Jewish High School of South Florida in Miami. A computer lab has been designed, and equipment, software, books and advice have been provided. New courses are being planned in physics and electronics.

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On the British scene, we have reestablished an ORT operational presence with the opening of the Manchester ORT Training Centre, training young people in woodwork, office work, painting and decorating, community care and kosher catering. Rahel Randall, who is sadly no longer with us, was the driving force to establish ORT in Manchester. Without her, I doubt whether the project would have got off the ground. Two months ago, Morton Creeger and I visited Rahel at her bedside, and she said to us, " You have no idea what we have done. We have given these youngsters self-respect, encouragement, understanding of team work. It was not a wasted effort", she said, "really not". And then she looked up at me and said "Mr Harmatz, one more link and the whole chain continues." Rahel passed away last month. Our centre in Manchester will never be the same without her.

An ITEC - Information Technology Centre - has been established in Manchester in cooperation with GEC - the General Electric Corporation. The ITEC provides training and work experience for young people.

We are in the process of signing an agreement with the Open Tech, having submitted a project proposal for running open learning courses in robotics. This is a million dollar project.

We have set up a computer lab in the Hasmonean Boys Grammar School in London, and the Girls' School will follow soon. The Mathilda Marks Kennedy Primary School is queueing up, with others probably close behind.

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The one operation dear to us, important and of great significance, which we were forced to abandon, was our programme in Ethiopia.

It happened in the Summer of 1981, after four years of intensive efforts to provide the Falasha community in the Gondar area with a vast infrastructure including skills training, Jewish education, synagogue buildings, road construction, developing, equipping and maintaining clinics, drilling wells, buying agricultural equipment and oxen.

This programme, run by us in cooperation with the JDC with the assistance of other sponsors, was interrupted for political reasons, harming the Falasha community as well as the Ethiopian citizens in the area. The official reason given to this hostile move was that ORT teachers had helped the illegal emigration of Falashas to Israel.

Recent visitors to Ethiopia, both individuals and representatives of organisations, including Knesset members, have returned expressing great appreciation for the work done by ORT during our time there, making a lasting contribution to the community.

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Many of the achievements which I am able to report to you would not have been possible without the constant support of our sister organisation, the JDC.

In times of emergency, and modern Jewish history does not want for such times, the JDC has continually found the means to assist ORT in its work of rehabilitating the Jewish people. To train and educate the Jews, and to provide them with Jewish education, has been the JDC's aim, with ORT as a committed partner.

This blessed partnership with the most prestigious Jewish welfare organisation has helped millions of Jews worldwide for decades.

May we express to the JDC, Henry Taub, Ralph Goldman and the entire JDC family our appreciation for their unfailing support, particularly for assisting us during our recent years of financial emergency.

S'Char Mitzvah, Mitzvah - the reward for the good deed is the good deed.

The other traditional partner of ORT who accompanied us almost from the beginning, and along our geographical journey, was the Jewish Colonisation Association. Although their own organisational and operational problems have prevented them from offering significant financial assistance to ORT, we still feel as though we are closely related and are thankful to the JCA for continuing with their long-standing tradition.

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From 1982, when we optimistically wanted to believe that we could see a ray of light at the end of the tunnel, we started to plan the future aims of the World ORT Union, including Jewish Education, Technical Education, Organisation and so on.

Today, our Technical Department is working on curricular design, equipment evaluation, research related to the needs of national organisations and individual schools, advises them and provides them with technical back-up. The department is designing learning systems beginning with concepts, down to detailed laboratory planning. Comparative operational studies are made, and experience is shared.

Teacher training is one of our top priorities. A laboratory with a network of computers, robotics and video equipment has been set up at ORT House, where teachers frequently attend formal and informal training sessions, individually or in groups.

A nucleus of a resource centre was set up a few months ago in order to accumulate, adapt and distribute the enormous

amount of technical and other relevant information relating to equipment, software, books, journals, etc. We are currently working on a database of ORT schools intending to gather full information on each operation for speedy access.

Some highlights of the Department's activities have been:

- a computer literacy course, currently running in many of our schools.
- a robotics literacy course, now being introduced.
- a course for Administrators, in preparation, and studies for courses in CAD and energy sources are under way.

We are working on the development of thinking potential.

In view of the pace of technological change, we want to ensure that our students are offered an enhanced capacity to acquire new subjects and make good use of problem-solving techniques, requiring creativity and imagination. We believe in this and are committed to creating practical and effective methodologies to this end.

"The sign of wisdom is the ability to discern the extraordinary in the ordinary", said Ralph Emerson.

Our technical publications are numerous, professional and comprehensive.

We speak and write of the new technologies not only because our educational system has to be geared to meeting the manpower needs of those new and updated industries, but also because of the necessity of creating a general awareness of the impact of the new technologies. In an era when knowledge

and technological processes are opening up a new society, the information society, the sources of data and information must become accessible to every single person. Without this awareness, it will be difficult to encourage the candidates, raise the motivation necessary for lifelong education, training and re-training, as well as gaining the cooperation of governments, local education authorities, industrialists, unionists, and within our own organisations, be understood by our own members.

This is the reason behind my office publishing and distributing, by every means possible, news and information of new developments.

We should be as advanced as possible in every field of science, technology, educational method and approach, using the most up to date tools and equipment.

Technical Literacy will be of the greatest importance and hence our concentration on literacy courses in the different skills. Computer literacy, robotics literacy, fibre optics, CAD, all based on the concept of simulation, to bring it as close as possible to the manufacturing or managerial reality.

And more is yet to come:

Lasers are becoming the supertools of science, medicine and communications systems.

Many of the researchers believe that the electron on which the electronics industry is based will be replaced by the photon (the particle of light energy) and, presumably, the photonics industry.

Another field of computer processing of pictures, called image processing, has a wide and expanding range of applications in medicine, digital TV systems, astronomy, industrial robot assembly machines, checking of agricultural products, reading machines for the blind and satellite imagery analysis. Successful uses have included exploration for oil, water, and other minerals, and prediction of weather and crop growth.

All these industries, producing excellent and expensive products, based on the new technologies, now need, and will in the future, highly-skilled technicians and workers. The changes we are facing now are fundamental and unless we recognise and accept this development, we may condemn future generations to the fate of being unproductive, disappointed and unemployed.

May I just mention, en passant, the British Government's efforts to introduce a new technical and vocational education initiative, inspired and engineered by David Young, a real breakthrough, in spite of some opposition on the part of the educational establishment. It is certainly a challenge and David has accepted the risks. Good luck, David.

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We have been lucky enough to persuade Moshe Davis, who is Director of the Chief Rabbi's office in Britain, and of the Jewish Education Development Trust, to serve the World ORT Union Jewish education activities in an advisory capacity. Moshe's approach to Jewish education is profound and understanding.

Our Jewish education orientation, as guided by Moshe, is aimed at making our pupils "knowledgeable of our Jewish hertiage, proud of our achievements, and committed to our future. For some, this may mean performance of Mitzvot, for others it may mean activities in Israel or on behalf of Israel. The choice should be that of the pupils conditioned by their home background and modified by their personal experience".

Guidelines are being established and programmes coordinated with the aim of widening the teaching of Jewish subjects and reinforcing the Jewish way of life in the schools. This is being done in coordination with the chairman of the Jewish Education Commission, Dr Grynfogel.

I believe that over the last few years, we have succeeded in placing Jewish education high on the agenda of ORT schools. It is no longer one of the second rate subjects to be taught as an afterthought.

As a result of this, our national directors, as well as our teaching staff and committee members are conscious of the problems related to Jewish education, and are doing all they can to increase teaching hours, improve programmes, discuss Jewish heritage, and become familiar with the different problems relating to Jewish communities worldwide, and in particular in Israel.

May this effort, and the efforts to be made by our membership organisations, halt the decline in the size of the Jewish communities in the Diaspora.

Three seminars have been held during the period since Congress, bringing together the top professionals of ORT, representing its countries of operation. They have been held in France, Israel and the USA, and dealt broadly with the themes of Jewish Education, Technology in Education and Educational Technology.

Each seminar had its own special character and all have taken place in the framework of exchange among professionals, educators and engineers, in the attempt to crystallize a professional leadership which can share and exchange their experiences, and give them a feeling of belonging to one family and getting to know one another more closely, so that they in turn will understand the importance of bringing together their students and teachers to meet.

May we express our thanks to the Wingate family for their continued support in this project.

Student exchanges have continued with French and Moroccan youngsters completing their studies in ORT Natanya, Israelis coming to London to work on their diploma projects within British firms, as well as the Chileans in Kiryat Bialik. An Italian group from Rome also visited their young colleagues in Paris.

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The Technical Assistance Department disappeared during the move to London, with only one officer left, the newly-appointed Director, Simon Feldman, since the former Director took seven personnel across the road to the competition. Today we have a department alive as never before, with twice as many projects as we had before the department collapsed, providing developing countries with assistance in various fields and skills, according to their requests.

Recent and current projects have included training in Rural Development, Industry and Urban Development, Vocational Education, Agriculture, Roads and Transportation, and Services in Burma, Burundi, Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Zaire, Peru, Botswana, Guinea and Madagascar. In addition personnel from Indonesia and Cameroon have been trained in Europe in the field of Civil Engineering and Highways.

May I pause for a moment and invite you to have a glimpse of one of our operations:

Zaire ... a population of 27 million, literacy among males is 40% and 15% for females. Life expectancy is 44 for males and 48 for females.

You drive out of Kinshasa on a road called Mama Mobutu, leading to Nijili, and you learn that this road was built by ORT in the course of a training programme for road technicians. The man in charge of the project, Mr Offner, is with you, and whenever you stop for a moment to have a look at the different aspects of the training programme, bridges and drainage channels, you are surrounded by men, women and children, praising our man, calling him Papa Offner, expressing their thanks for bringing them closer to the city and making it possible for them to deliver their produce conveniently on foot, by bicycle or some other means of transport. We heard from the management that not only was it a good quality road, but very cost effective. At the beginning of the construction of the 10 km strip, the budget per kilometre was 3 million Zaires, (the local currency), whilst even today, even with inflation, the costs are 930,000 Zaires per km.

Another gentleman of ours is in charge of directing purchasing and storing the entire road equipment of the Highway Authorities with stock valued at \$100 million.

One more ORT gentleman is in charge of the entire training system of the above institution, while yet another is responsible for all the ferries without which road communication in Zaire would be impossible, and they cite 326 ferries, with 1200 people working for them.

In Lubumbashi, formerly Elizabethville, the capital of the Shaba region, previously Katanga, an excellent training centre is run by ORT, financed by USAID, and is well organised,

effective and well equipped. Were it not for the national flag with the burning torch, you would think you were visiting a training centre in the USA or Switzerland.

All of us, but particularly the developing societies, face problems of wars, revolt, famine, race, unemployment, "stamm" problems, but few of us are aware of the basic problem of tremendous population growth and an overpopulated globe. At the turn of the century, world population was 1½ billion. By 1960 this had doubled to over 3 billion. Today we are approaching 5 and will have passed 6 billion by the end of this century.

If the communities, societies and relevant regimes and leaders do not pay sufficient attention to the problem, and find the right solutions, even ORT will not be able to help.

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We have established an Organisation Department and appointed a Director, Mel Galun, knowing how good the Americans are at Organisation. The Chairman of the Organisation Commission is Ruth Eisenberg and together we are trying to organise stronger presence for ORT, through structuring organisations based on members and encouraging active participation in the different fields in which ORT is interested.

Our aim is to have the entire communities involved in our work, led by recognised leaders.

We are lucky to have made the friendship of Max Feffer, who has given his commitment towards the leadership of ORT's future activities in Sao Paulo, one of the most important Jewish communities in Latin America.

Steps have been taken to strengthen our organisation in Mexico. More will be done in other Latin American countries, in the years to come.

Mel Galun will be going to Australia in October with the aim of establishing an ORT committee in that part of the world. Activities among alumni organisations are being sponsored, and different ways of strengthening our organisational base are being investigated and implemented.

Efforts have been made by Eitan Shafir to re-establish a committee in Holland under the chairmanship of Professor Cohen (whom we are glad to welcome here today).

In Norway, we have a new Chairman, Dr Berthold Grünfeld and we are looking forward to increasing our activities in that friendly country.

At this gathering of the Central Board, we are initiating one more structure, an international, Jewish scientific, technological, academic board, whose exact name is still to be determined. This will in no way conflict with the constitutionally-elected executive organs of the World ORT Union.

It would consist of a group of distinguished thinkers and researchers who would look ahead towards the coming decades in order to formulate and answer questions relating to the present position of ORT and its future. This would ensure that ORT continues to lead in the field of technical education and will be able to adapt to the future scientific, technological and cultural developments, as well as playing its role in Jewish life, according to our needs and aspirations.

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There is one very important subject which we are stuck with, all of us, and this is fundraising.

In 1958, the Russians launched the first earth satellite. President Eisenhower declared that "national security requires that prompt action be taken to improve and expand the teaching of science and mathematics," and backed his declaration with a programme worth one billion dollars.

Today, 25 years later, President Reagan declared that one of his major goals would be "a quality education initiative to encourage a substantial upgrading of maths and science studies".

"The past does have a way of repeating itself", said Jim Wright, the Democratic leader of the House. "This time we are falling behind with the Japanese".

It reminded me of the story of the History professor who came to see the then Finance Minister, Sapir, and told him, "Mr Sapir, I have just found proof that history repeats itself".

"Yes," I know, said Sapir, "the trouble is that each time it does, it gets more expensive".

The American State and Federal Authorities and private foundations will probably find ways of financing this new educational effort, as they did 25 years ago, because you simply cannot be first, either in defence or in industry, if you are not first in education.

For us ORTists, it is crucial. We know very well of our shortcomings and needs in the various fields of education, whether scientific, technological or Jewish, and we know the requirements for recruiting excellent teachers, retraining the existing ones, continually acquiring and replacing sophisticated equipment, and all understand the need to enlarge our network, with the aim of reaching more and more students.

We do not have a Congress or a Senate. We are not a government. But we do have a Central Board, an Executive Committee and National Committees worldwide, we have hundreds and thousands of friends, and we have to find the means to enable us to fulfill our duties and meet our challenges.

If we are not the first in education, technical education, we will not be ORT.

For the last four years our central fundraising income has been almost the same figure.

We cannot afford to continue with the trend which our income is following, almost paralysed, and with inflation taken into account, it is worse than stagnation, there has actually been a fall in income.

It is the responsibility of the Central Board to seek ways and means of ensuring a smooth operational capability for our organisation. We are today not only the largest Jewish organisation in the field of vocational training and technical education, but we are also the largest international educational movement, represented by schools or organisations or both, in almost every Jewish community worldwide.

Though previous generations established the foundations of our organisation, the decades of activities have brought us, after more than 100 years, to a new point of departure, a new fabric to be woven to strengthen the links between the diverse Jewish communities and generate the vitalising force intrinsic to a movement such as ours.

This opportunity must be grasped, for if we miss it, neither we nor anyone else will be able to recreate it.

And I truly hope that when our offspring ask us one day what we did in the days when ORT was struggling to preserve our Jewish heritage and reinforce our economic independence, that each of us will be able to look them in the eye and know that we offered all we could, to the limits of our means and energies.....

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

All the good and creative deeds which I have reported have been, and are being implemented by dedicated and excellent people, of whom four we take our leave today.

Michael Avitzour, the outgoing Israeli director of ORT, with whom I personally worked, and enjoyed his collaboration during many years in ORT Israel.

Bernard Wand-Polak, the outgoing Director for Latin America leaves behind a rainbow of achievements, and I am sure he enjoyed every day with ORT.

The Central Board has designated two sessions in tribute to these two ORT officers, chaired by Vice-Presidents of the World ORT Union, and I do not wish to steal their show. May I simply wish Michael and Bernard and happy retirement and bid them au revoir.

A man who is leaving our office after four years to return to Israel is Gabriel Meyassed. Gaby came to London in order to help reinforce the Technical Assistance Department in difficult days, and finished up dealing with the Falasha programme in Ethiopia, and many other projects to which he became a father: Italy, Ireland, Manchester, the link to

Jewish Education, Denmark, Norway, Australia and recently India and Morocco have been in his brief.

Gaby served the World ORT Union with selfless dedication focussing on the educational aspects of our activities. We thank you, Gaby, and wish you success with your future projects.

Dido Willcox is going on Aliyah, after having been with us for many years, of which the last three have probably been her most effective.

Dido was responsible for our news magazine which was of a high standard and eagerly expected and appreciated by its readers. She was also the person who dealt with the different aspects of organising our meetings and collecting and distributing data - in short our information/organisation officer. Dido was one of two persons who stayed with us when we moved from Geneva and the information she accumulated was of great significance to the new office. She was a hard worker and the office in London will miss her and feel her absence when she leaves us.

I also know, Dido, that you will miss the London office, which, in spite of exploiting you, has also given you the opportunity to prove your ability and freedom in most of your initiatives, including meshugassen. Thank you, Dido, and good luck.

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The people leaving have been appropriately replaced and no gaps have been left.

The Administration of the World ORT Union is set to meet the future challenges which David has presented, and more. Thank you.

WORLD ORT UNION CENTRAL BOARD  
TRIBUTE LUNCH  
TUESDAY 23 AUGUST 1983

FAREWELL SPEECH BY MICHAEL AVITZOUR

Let me begin by expressing thanks to the Administrative Committee for their decision to hold this luncheon. I tried to dissuade Joseph from this idea; as you may see, without success. But then it's difficult to dissuade Joseph from any idea. Nor was I consulted regarding the menu; I may have advanced some of my own thoughts. And so here we are.

I was advised that I should take part in the luncheon, not only by eating but also by addressing this illustrious gathering and telling you a little of my ORT experience. Please relax.

Ladies and Gentlemen; I came to ORT 27 years and 7 months ago. I came for one month stay but overstayed by 27 years and 6 months. It was a long stay and a happy and gratifying experience in my life. I was accorded a unique opportunity to participate actively in the writing of a great chapter, a dramatic chapter in ORT's history in the last quarter of ORT's first centenary, the saga of the house of ORT in Israel.

I'll begin by quoting two sets of statistics. In 1956 we had 20 schools, less than 3,500 students and about 350 people on our staff. In 1983 we reported 95 schools, 47,000 students and 4,000 people serving the network.

I began my work under a great and dynamic leader, Jacob Oleiski, a man of vision and determination, a man of unlimited energy and faith in the importance of our work. Our chairman was Joseph Shmuel Shapiro, a man of great experience and of absolute integrity. His deputy was Eliezer Lewin Epstein, who was to become his successor.

At the helm of World ORT there stood Bill Haber and it was the beginning of the directorship of Max Braude, the man who put ORT on the world map.

I was privileged to work with them for many years to come and learned from them a great deal. I learned that ORT means courage, hope and optimism. There were of course many others, but to name them all would be a mission impossible; fortunately they are still with us today; nor am I here to evaluate Joseph's contribution to making ORT Israel what it stands for today.

In 1956 ORT Israel was still at the starting point of a period of great development and expansion. It was the time of lathes; today we are in the midst of micro-electronics, computers and robotics.

Now in case you don't know or do not remember, ORT was not received with open arms in Israel. ORT came late and many people still recalled ORT's non-Zionist past. ORT changed course and soon became an integral and important part of Israel's national system of education and its goals. The national system of education of Israel did not begin on May 15th 1948. Education has always been of greatest importance in the minds and in the hearts of the Jewish people; in fact one could say that it is thanks to education that we owe our survival over the centuries.

Its basic foundations were laid down 2,000 years ago in the days of the Hasmonean dynasty at the time of the second Temple. Education was made compulsory, people were advised not to dwell in towns lacking proper educational facilities, fathers were told that those who did not teach their sons a trade were preparing them to end up as robbers. And so when the State of Israel was born we inherited from pre-state days an excellent educational system from Kindergarten to university. The newly born state was being put to test, its very existence at stake and in jeopardy. The War of Independence was followed by the Sinai Campaign in 1956, the Six-day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973. And everytime Israel had to stand up to a challenge, rise to the occasion at a heavy price.

It was a time of great waves of new immigrants reaching our shores to settle and be absorbed. It was also a time for search in finding the true meaning of practising independence. Immigrants came from all over the world, most of them from countries in the East and North Africa. All were to be moulded into one people with a common background, common motivation, purpose and goals. Century long gaps were to be bridged and education was the best course for action.

Where was ORT all that time, what was its role and how did it happen that ORT became the leading factor in the field of vocational education in Israel? What was the secret behind the amazing growth of ORT in Israel and its development?

ORT Israel was everywhere and grew thanks to hard work and thanks to ORT's ideas and an original philosophy developed in the particular circumstances of Israel's growing statehood and needs.

It is through ORT's addiction to vocational education that ORT won its place, general acclaim, respect and recognition.

ORT revolutionised Israel's system of education and it is largely thanks to ORT that vocational education became the main trend in Israel's post-elementary education so that today 2 out of 3 students turn to vocational education in Israel of their own will and accord.

As it happens occasionally, history has again played one of its tricks and it is the irony of history that ORT in Israel today is the true expression of Israel's Zionist dream to build a working society taking care of all of its needs.

Of course, ORT Israel would have and could have never accomplished whatever was achieved without the massive and continuous assistance received from the many friends outside Israel via W.O.U. We could have never built the Syngalowski Center, built by WAO, which became a turning point in the history and the development of vocational and technological education in Israel, we would have never started the building of the Jerusalem School of Engineering which may in the future become a most important technological centre in computers and robotics and software, we would have never started the doubling program, the apprenticeship program and the massive procurement of modern equipment, etc., etc.

To relate the whole saga of ORT Israel would require many hours and it should best be written by expert people.

But the work isn't over yet and the tasks lying ahead of us are immense and so don't let's rest on laurels gained in the past.

Jewish demography today is in a most precarious situation and the diminishing numbers must be set off. The main hope is Israel where 40% of all Jewish children are born, raised and educated as Jews. The age-groups are growing and before this decade is over our network may grow by 50%.

Will ORT rise to the occasion and meet the challenges in the future? This body may have to provide the answer.

It wasn't always a bed of roses and we had our disappointments and frustrations. There were disillusionments but over 200,000 people in Israel who went through our schools will bear evidence to a great feat. They are to be found in every walk of our life, in every field. We even provided the State of Israel with the recently elected President.

ORT's work was always based on a deep conviction that we are serving in the best way possible Israel's national goals and the renaissance of the Jewish People in its historic homeland and shaping its future. The goal was and still remains to ensure a healthy tomorrow and brighter prospects to young and adult alike. It was and still is the work of love, devotion and sacred duty to the next generation.

As one who took an active part in directing ORT Israel's activities for many years, I feel it my duty to thank ORT for this opportunity accorded to me to be part of this magnificent organisation. The proper running of accounts is most important in a large organisation but unfortunately no balance sheet shows the love and affection, endeavour, vision and undying friendship that will remain when all pennies are accounted for by auditors and chartered accountants. And even my friend Zvi Luboshitz who is not known for his generosity in dishing out compliments had to admit in the recent report submitted to our Executive in his capacity as chairman of the audit sub-committee that progress has been made in our administration.

To conclude, I should like to make a wish. Many happy returns to this Central Board meeting, more pages to be inscribed and added to a glorious past and many, many more accomplishments to ORT in the future.

To my successor, Israel Goralnik, busy days and occasionally a sleepless night.

To my chairman and friend, Uzi Steinberg, thanks for chairing this function and his kind words.

Long live ORT in the service of the Jewish People. May it never cease serving, may it never complete the task.

Dear Friends,

Happy New-Year to all of you and your families.

WORLD ORT UNION CENTRAL BOARD  
LONDON, TUESDAY 23 AUGUST 1983

REPORT OF THE CONTROL COMMISSION OF THE WORLD ORT UNION

The last report which you had from the Control Commission was at the Congress in 1980 in Jerusalem. This extensive report was delivered by our former Chairman, Claude Bigar, and in preparing this report, we have been conscious of his recommendations and grateful for his work.

The Control Commission is required to review the activities of the Union with particular reference to the implementation of the Congress resolutions. Since June 1980, this Commission, whose five members are geographically very widely spread, endeavoured to fulfill the obligation placed upon it by Congress. We attended Executive Committee meetings, met the Officers and staff of the Union, and among ourselves.

There is one observation which needs to be made, namely that this Commission has felt throughout its term of office that it should now be a forward looking body, seeking to aid the continuing growth and success of the Union, along with its function to oversee and rectify where appropriate questions may arise in respect of the Union's operations. In this respect, we are particularly indebted to Zvi Luboshitz who has engaged in a most comprehensive survey of the financial affairs of the Union, from 1976 onwards.

Please allow me to put before you our remarks and notes in three parts:

- A. Pension Fund
- B. Union Budgeting and Accounting
- C. The application of the Jerusalem Congress Resolutions

A. Pension Fund

The recommendation of Congress has been carried out. The independent Fund has been duly formed in Geneva under the title of "Caisse de Pensions de l'Union Mondiale ORT". The trustees of the Board on the Fund are as follows: David Young, Joseph Harmatz, Ian Engel, Simon Feldman, Nathan Rozen and Victor Smaga. Both the employers and employees are represented on this Board. We are advised that all the funds are properly invested. We have received the audited accounts as at 31st December 1982, by Swiss Auditors recommending the approval of the 1982 accounts.

## B. Budgeting and Accounting

I now turn to budgeting and finance, and I am glad to report that the cash flow of the Union has improved by reason of tighter financial controls. We live by fluctuating overdraft and costly Bank loans. A great handicap for the Administration is created by the time lag between pledges and payments, which creates an additional burden of financing which ORT Union has to carry, a point which we urge you to be aware of before formulating your resolutions.

During the move to London, far too great a time lag between the completion of the Union's financial year and its accounts for the period being audited, occurred, and this has not yet been fully corrected. I am glad to say that the auditing process has been considerably improved, but we still have reservations about the time taken to complete audited annual accounts. In our opinion, they should be completed within 6 months of the end of the financial year. Interim periodical financial statements should be made available to the Administrative Committee.

The Administrative Committee some years ago asked this Commission to give its views on an internal control system. This Commission and indeed the leadership of the Union are grateful to Zvi Luboshitz for the immense work he has done to work out the internal control system which the Union auditors some time ago recommended be introduced. This has been done. We are advised that the internal system has been generally accepted; and will be revised as time goes by.

The audit of the 1981 Accounts has just been completed without any qualifications from our Auditors, Loeb & Troper.

## C. Application of Jerusalem Congress Resolutions

I now turn to the activities of the Union and for this purpose refer to its traditional role in providing vocational skills, and the more recent growth of technical assistance. For details please refer to the Three Year Report that is in your hands. This Commission has been anxious to ensure that the operations of technical assistance are not a drain on other activities of the Union. We have in the past shown concern as to the burden on the Union's cash flow to finance its overseas technical assistance operations. We are advised that the amount of funds now required for this purpose has been considerably reduced. I am glad to report that whilst we are not yet wholly satisfied that the function of technical assistance for accounting purposes has been fully separated from other parts of the accounts, it seems that ORT Union is not subsidising technical assistance. We shall continue to monitor this situation.

Let me turn to the resolutions of Congress:

Resolution XV - Membership Organisations - progress has been made under the inspired leadership of Ruth Eisenberg. I refer again to the Three Year Report from the national organisations. The Commission feels that further efforts by all member countries are required.

Resolution XVI - Public Relations - great progress has been made in the United States and specifically in Great Britain, where we have had remarkable success with the British press, and once again I refer to the Three Year Report.

Resolution XVII - Fundraising - our friend Michael Naughton has a very difficult task under present economic conditions and we wish him well. Our income is static. We have inflation in all the countries in which we operate. An increase in fundraising is essential, and different and innovative methods must be exploited in order to keep up continued progress in our schools. This activity must have the support of all of us and we know the Director General and his staff are actively engaged to help in every way.

Resolution XXVII - Jewish Education - ORT institutions have increased the hours devoted to Jewish education and are following resolutions formulated in articles 2, 3 and 4. All this is naturally an ongoing process. We had International Seminars, attended by top people in Jewish Education in various countries. Study sessions, workshops, conferences and discussions were attended by experts from the Hebrew University, Yeshiva University, the Board of Jewish Education in New York, the Chief Rabbi of France and other authorities in the teaching of subjects such as Jewish History, the Hebrew language, the Bible and Jewish culture.

In connection with Jewish Education, mention should be made of a co-ordinated project between ORT Israel, Jewish organisations dealing with Hebrew teachers for the Diaspora, and the ORT National Directors.

A well-known adviser, Moshe Davis, has been appointed to increase and re-evaluate our programme of Jewish Education, not only in schools, but also for adults.

Resolution XXVIII - Technical Education - the Commission is satisfied that excellent progress has been made in technical education and great attention has been given to the rapid changes in Technology.

The Control Commission can report on the following progress in this field over the last three years:

- A Technical Department was set up in London to advise and help all ORT schools in solving problems related to the teaching of high technology. This has proved to be a highly successful support, and is directed with enthusiasm and competence.

- In 1980, the number of computers in all ORT schools was approximately 50, in a very few countries. In 1983, the number was approximately 450, now spread throughout the network. By far the biggest increase has been in microcomputers. Over the last three years, steps have been taken to enable all ORT students to have at least some computer literacy. In addition, development seminars are now operational throughout the whole network.

- Robotics is a new area now being taught in numerous ORT schools. This is also true of courses in new energy sources, microelectronics, communication and distance learning. CAD and CAM are also being developed for future introduction into the schools.

- The teaching of software has been considerably broadened and a very major step in this field is the opening of the BRANCO WEISS Institute.

- The education of teachers and the training of staff is a serious problem that is being tackled insofar as is possible, by reason of the modest accommodation available.

The Control Commission can state that the recommendation concerning the development of education in high technology areas has been most satisfactorily accomplished in the 1980/1983 period.

The importance of dispensing such education is such that the Control Commission feels it appropriate to recommend the allocation of funds as a priority both for re-equipment of our schools to keep pace with new advances in technology and the provision of necessary facilities to retrain our teachers.

I would like to express my thanks to the Members of my Committee for their patience and endurance. We are obliged to the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the Chairman of the Administrative Committee, and to the Director General and his staff, and the National Organisations, for their cooperation and help.

Bearing in mind the financial limits under which the Director General and the Administration have to work, we consider they have done the utmost to carry out the resolutions of the Jerusalem Congress and I beg to move that this report is now adjourned until the next Congress where a more extensive account of ORT Union and the National Organisations will be given.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE WORLD ORT UNION CENTRAL BOARD

24th AUGUST 1983

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I

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHAIM HERZOG

The World ORT Union Central Board with deep pride, conveys its heartiest congratulations to Chaim Herzog, who was elected the 6th President of the State of Israel in May 1983 while serving as President of the World ORT Union. We take note of the significant contributions he made during his many years of devoted service to the global ORT program. We know that he will bring the same dedication and qualities of leadership to his new office. We wish him well.

II

RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE ON ISRAEL

"Thy beauty, O Israel, upon thy high places is slain!  
How are the mighty fallen!"

2 Samuel I.19

No nation should have to fight continually for its right to exist. Yet the State of Israel, from the moment of its rebirth, has had to do so again and again, and in so doing has suffered irreparable loss.

Few families in Israel have been left untouched and, as Israel is central to Jewish life, each community of the diaspora shares in the loss and is diminished by it.

The family of ORT mourns for all who have fallen in defense of Israel, but remembers with particular poignancy and pays special tribute to the ORT students, graduates and staff whose lives have been lost in battle. We mourn not only for what they were, but for what they might have been -- for the potential never to be realized and forever lost.

III

APPRECIATION OF THE ORT STAFF

The World ORT Union Central Board

recognizes that the strength of ORT in its activities and services in many lands consists of the 4,000 men and women who have identified with its mission. By their work within their specialities they have given high calibre professionalism and that special human quality that is the bench mark of ORT. They have helped to establish standards that have raised ORT to its present level, and continue to face the challenge of the future.

The World ORT Union Central Board

expresses deep appreciation to Joseph Harmatz, Director General of the World ORT Union, for his outstanding achievements in the first three years of his administration.

The World ORT Union Central Board

extends its deep gratitude and appreciation to the directors, teachers, the technical and administrative staff of the national organizations and of the World ORT Union for their dedication and for the professional skill with which they perform their tasks.

The World ORT Union Central Board

expresses deep appreciation to Bernard Wand Polak, Director General of ORT Latin America, upon his retirement from ORT after 36 years and to Michael Avitzour, Director General of ORT Israel, upon his retirement from ORT after 27 years. Both men have devoted their lives to ORT and have made lasting contributions to the ORT world. We are gratified that they will continue to make their accumulated years of experience and wisdom available to ORT in the years to come.

The World ORT Union Central Board

expresses warm appreciation and gratitude to Dido Willcox for her many years of service to ORT as Information Officer of the World ORT Union.

#### IV

The World ORT Union Central Board

expresses its appreciation and takes particular note that the international character of the World ORT Union is fundamental to its tasks and to its role in Jewish life. The global nature of the ORT program rests upon the cooperation of its affiliated national organizations and it is this working together toward common goals that helps to assure the fulfillment of the role of the World ORT Union in its services to the Jewish people. The growth of activities, organizational development and funding capacities of the national ORT organizations are basic to the ability of ORT to meet current and future needs.

## V

### ON JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

The tie that has bound ORT to Jewish organizations has been an essential expression of ORT's integration with Jewish life throughout its existence and in all parts of the Jewish World.

On the occasion of this Central Board Meeting, the World ORT Union offers its deepest gratitude to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for its financial support for the ORT programs, its sympathetic understanding, as well as for the many ties that have given strength to our cooperative endeavors in the service of our people.

In addition, the Central Board welcomes the opportunity to express ORT's warmest appreciation to the Alliance Israelite Universelle, the Baron de Hirsch Fund, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Combined Jewish Appeals in France, Latin America and other areas, the Council of Jewish Federations in the U.S. and its community affiliates, the Israeli United Appeal of South Africa, the Jewish Colonization Association, the United Jewish Appeal, the Jewish Agency, VSJF (the Swiss Organization for aid to Jewish Refugees), and all other Jewish organizations cooperating with and assisting ORT's work.

## VI

### ON SOVIET JEWRY

The plight of Soviet Jewry, which is characterized by discrimination and persecution, is the outstanding example of anti-Semitism exercised as national policy. The Soviet Authorities continue to suppress the Jewish religion and culture and endeavour to force assimilation which conflicts with the Soviet Union's own constitution and flagrantly violates the Helsinki accords on human rights to which it is a signatory. It is noted with alarm that the Soviet Union has virtually stopped Jewish emigration.

The World ORT Union Central Board

expresses profound concern as to the future of the Jews of the Soviet Union. Both as Jews and as members of the ORT family, we express our solidarity with Soviet Jewry. We urge the free countries of the world, and all international bodies to exert pressure on the Soviet Union to recognize their humanitarian responsibilities to their Jewish citizens.

## VII

### ON SYRIAN JEWS

Jews in Syria are a hostage community, living under the most restricted and threatening circumstances. We urge all governments and the United Nations to act to enforce the Helsinki accords to secure for Syrian Jews their human rights, including the right to emigrate.

VIII

ON ETHIOPIAN JEWRY

We stand committed with World Jewry who wish to see the Jews of Ethiopia reunited with their fellow Jews and thus realize their dreams and the achievement of their historic right to return to the land of their forefathers in Israel.

IX

THANKS TO ASSISTING GOVERNMENTS

The World ORT Union Central Board

expresses its gratitude to the governments of the countries of ORT operations for their understanding, cooperation, and financial support extended to ORT programs.

X

APPRECIATION TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTIVE OF THE  
WORK OF ORT

The World ORT Union Central Board

expresses its appreciation for the understanding and valued support of non-governmental philanthropic and humanitarian organizations. We take particular note of the Danish Refugee Council, the Evangelische Hilfswerke, Migros of Switzerland, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Radiojalpen of Sweden, the Swissaid, and the Van Leer Foundation.

XI

APPRECIATION TO GOVERNMENT BODIES FOR AID TO ORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The World ORT Union Central Board

wishes to convey its deep appreciation for the support to ORT Technical Assistance by the governmental bodies concerned with programs of modernisation and manpower development. We take particular note of the Asian Development Bank, CIDA of Canada, DANIDA of Denmark, the Development Agency of the Swiss Government, the German Ministry of Cooperation, SIDA of Sweden, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the World Bank.

XII

PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL CENTRAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

It is recommended that William Haber, Honorary President of the World ORT Union, be co-opted as a member of the Central Board.

## XIII

### FUTURE PERSPECTIVES - ORT IN THE YEAR 2000

Today, in the 2nd Century of ORT's existence, the ORT program is characterized by the ascendancy of science and technology in the work-place. ORT plays a vanguard role in vocational and technical training for the careers of today and tomorrow. This role must be seen in the context of contemporary Jewish life, particularly in Israel, where a failure to confront technological realities can threaten survival. Throughout the Jewish world, social dislocation coupled with the ever-present threat of anti-Semitism, invests vocational and technical education with an historic responsibility for Jewish survival.

In order to remain relevant and concerned with Jewish life around the world; to recognize the impact of technology on society; to recognize the centrality of Israel to Jewish survival and to insure Jewish continuity in lands where survival is threatened by growing anti-Semitism, the Central Board recommends:

1. that a permanent committee be established to review the rapid technological changes taking place and periodically evaluate the need for change and adaptation of ORT programs in the light of current developments; furthermore that this committee seek advice and counsel outside the network itself.
2. that ORT establish a modern methodology for training teachers who will have an educational background in a wide spectrum of subjects; that it establish as well a systematic method for retraining the ORT educational staff and keeping them abreast of the latest developments in their fields.
3. that ORT revise the syllabi for teaching technological subjects, as many such fields have gone through drastic changes. For this purpose high level professionals outside of the organization should be consulted.
4. that ORT increase the number of students in its Technical Junior colleges and establish additional institutions.
5. that in the light of current world economic conditions and unemployment, ORT increase its short term courses for training and retraining of adults.
6. that in this modern technological world, young people also be educated in the humanistic and moral values of our Jewish heritage and tradition.
7. that all ORT institutions be called upon to encourage young women to enter new high-tech fields and provide educational opportunities for them.

8. that the Max Braude International ORT School be established in Carmiel in the Galilee, an area of concentrated high-tech development. The school shall be a technical junior college offering courses based on the latest scientific developments and industrial needs. Funding shall be an international responsibility.
9. that ORT schools be adapted to meet current needs in the new era. The ORT school in Marseilles must be enlarged and modernized.
10. that an ORT technical school be opened in Los Angeles, California, USA.
11. that new programs in Jewish day schools in Latin America be developed.
12. that the possibility of establishing an ORT operational program in Canada be examined.

#### XIV

The need for a substantial leap forward in fund raising to meet ORT's rapidly expanding requirements calls for a major focus and concerted effort to be made in the area of large fund raising aimed at potential contributors in finance and business in Jewish communities around the world. Initiatives to fulfill the resolutions' purpose must be undertaken by ORT countries with the support, as required, of the World ORT Union Fundraising Department.

ORT's fundraising machinery must be rapidly strengthened around the world by recruiting trained professional fundraisers as and where required. World ORT Union must be responsible for initiating this development by a process of consultation on a country by country basis. Where countries do not have sufficient resources to meet these needs, World ORT Union should consider an investment to help such developments where justified. Progress should be monitored at each World ORT Union Executive Committee Meeting.

The Central Board resolves that the development of leadership, particularly for fundraising work, be given a high priority. Our weakness in fundraising could be greatly changed by recruitment of new lay leaders from the top donor levels of Jewish communities around the world. Only by strengthening our leadership with such manpower will we be able to make the large fundraising growth we need.

The Central Board applauds the Director General of ORT Israel for his responsiveness in understanding the need to expand and strengthen the facilities available in Israel for handling top donors, potential donors and lay workers. Israel's support in this area is vital for the future development of large scale fundraising.

The development of the Max Braude International School in the Galilee is an important and exciting project and offers a major opportunity to reach the top level donors around the world who must be involved in ORT's work at more substantial levels of contribution. It should be supported and approved by the World ORT Union Central Board.

This school shall be partly financed through the establishment of two funds -

- a) a fund for capital construction
- b) a Max Braude endowment fund providing for the maintenance of the school, the specifications of which shall be determined by the Administrative Committee.

All countries of operation and organization should engage in a major campaign to secure legacy bequests. Such bequests will provide for the future student body of the year 2000.

## XV

### ORGANIZATION

1. The movement spirit of ORT, which directs our operational course, cannot be sustained without a large, well organized, active membership base. Recognizing that current technological change presents ORT with timely opportunity for growth, and encouraged by the progress registered by our Organizational Department, it is proposed that World ORT Union continue to pursue an active policy to help develop and expand its National Organizations by providing services promoting membership recruitment and involvement. We recommend that this policy be implemented by the following specific programs:
  - a) The formation of new ORT committees in Jewish communities where ORT does not currently exist.
  - b) The establishment of Alumni Organizations wherever such potential is available.
  - c) The launching of an annual membership campaign by all national organizations, incorporating an international design and text in promotional literature and basic identity statement and including an international membership card.
  - d) The appointment of professional staff in the respective national organizations to work on membership and organizational development and to serve as liaison to the World ORT Union organization and fundraising units.
  - e) The establishment of a central source of information and resource services in the World ORT Union Head Office to encourage and assist our constituent National Organizations in their recruitment efforts.
2. Recognizing that the second largest segment of ORT operations are now in Spanish-speaking countries and that we are engaged in a concerted effort to expand our membership and organizations resources in Latin America, it is essential that all information and educational materials prepared by World ORT Union for distribution to national organizations be published in Spanish as well as in English and French.

3. Visits to ORT operational programs are an important means of motivating people for membership and fundraising. Israel, which contains the most varied and impressive of our networks, is a unique magnet for thousands of Jewish tourists, who can be attracted to ORT and committed to its support, if a special promotional effort is launched. To facilitate selective and guided inspection of ORT schools by visiting VIP's, ORT members and their families and unaffiliated tourists, it is recommended that an ORT Israel Tourist Desk be established in Israel, professionally staffed by a multi-lingual, international team residing in Israel to supplement the services already extended by ORT Israel.

## XVI

### JEWISH EDUCATION

Jewish education has been increasingly emphasized in the curricula of ORT schools in recent years and the World ORT Union welcomes this development.

It is resolved that the following educational procedures be further reinforced.

1. the promotion of local initiatives for the development of new teaching material.
2. the organization of national and international seminars on Jewish education.
3. the exchange of pedagogical material among the various National Organizations.
4. student exchanges mainly between ORT Israel and other countries of the ORT network.
5. Adult Education programs be established and expanded.
6. further increases in the time, personnel and funds devoted to Jewish education in ORT schools.
7. establishment of a library and resource centre in every ORT school which will include audio-visual materials and appropriate pedagogical materials, including materials for teaching Hebrew.

It would also be desirable that members of ORT National Organizations and parents of ORT students also receive Jewish educational materials from local ORT offices.

The Panel suggests to the National Organizations that some form of Jewish education for ORT committee members and parents of students be seriously considered, that an increased Jewish consciousness in ORT Committee members would bear favourably upon Jewish education in schools by virtue of parental back-up, interest and respect.

The Panel takes note that the situation in the ORT schools in the Israel network necessitates particular attention, so that our pupils are more exposed to the problems of contemporary Judaism, Jewish values, the unity of the Jewish people and in particular in creating a spirit which will enable the ORT student - religious, traditionalist or non-religious - to find his Jewish identity with mutual respect and tolerance.

## TECHNICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL

It is appreciated that we are in the midst of a revolution and that rapid changes will characterize our society for a long time to come. Computing has ceased to be simply a technological field and it is now essential for all students to acquire the appropriate skill for communicating and thinking in the computerized environment. Computer control can be incorporated into the manufacturing process and we must aim for the cooperation of man and machine in the various sectors of industry.

New disciplines are emerging, including robotics, computer assisted design, computer assisted manufacturing office automation, etc.

Also, data communication and related telecommunications are essential knowledge for today's students.

Alternative energy (solar, wind, tides, etc.) are attracting attention.

Accordingly higher levels of conceptualization must be encouraged in order to continue learning and thinking, by way of education at regular intervals.

#### Recommendations

1. Encouragement of greater understanding and usage of computers and computer-related technologies, including robotics, computer-assisted design and manufacturing, office automation, data and telecommunication.
2. The introduction of new studies related to renewable energies.
3. The development of a central institute and resource centre for teacher training in software professions in order to update teaching methods with new technologies, including the updating of material and the incorporation of developing technologies into the ORT network.
4. Educational programs must be continued in basic fields such as mathematics and the sciences, which are essential building blocks for creative thinkers and the basis for most skill training in today's world.
5. Links with industry should be developed to facilitate the introduction of practical experience into the ORT classroom.
6. Links should be developed between the various national organizations and ORT schools with the aim of acquiring and distributing information among all ORT bodies.
7. The provision of relatively inexpensive microcomputer equipment in all schools to assist in computer literacy.

## XVIII

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Great strides have been made in the development of Technical Assistance over the past three years.

In particular:-

- towards alleviating the scarcity of trained manpower in the developing world
- expansion in Africa in agricultural and urban fields and development in Latin America and Asia.

It is also noted that sound relationships exist with all donor institutions, be they international multilateral organizations, national development aid agencies, private industry or non-governmental organizations.

It is resolved:

1. That World ORT Union Technical Assistance programs should continue to embody the traditional concerns of ORT that the training of men and women in marketable skills is an imperative in order to improve, maintain and build institutions which will generate a better quality of life in the developing countries.
2. That World ORT Union national organizations through the Technical Assistance Departments should explore the nature of their countries' development aid programs and seek to influence the granting of these programs.
3. That the Technical Assistance Department should stress the identity of World ORT Union as a Jewish organization in its worldwide activities.

## XIX

### ACADEMY

In accordance with the theme "An Ancient People, A Modern Vision" - the need is recognized to prepare ORT not only for tomorrow but for the days after tomorrow, for decades to come.

The Central Board recommends calling upon significant and distinguished personalities from the worlds of science, education, technology, philosophy and Jewish education to assist us in creative thinking about the future of ORT in relation to the needs of the Jewish people in the Diaspora and Israel.

The purpose of this long-term policy council would be to help interpret the technological and skills revolutions which are in progress, and thus enable the World ORT Union to plan with foresight and economy, the necessary changes in curriculum and educational objectives.

It is recommended that the long-term policy council be established outside the existing structure of the World ORT Union and submit its conclusions to the Executive Committee of the World ORT Union.

It is further recommended that a small sub-committee be appointed to implement the practical considerations of setting up this body; its name, composition, personalities to be invited and that within twelve months the first meeting of the Council be inaugurated.

It is suggested that the World ORT Union should expedite the formation of the Council by agreeing to launch the first meetings, supplying the necessary staff to ensure the practical application of this resolution.

WORLD ORT UNION CENTRAL BOARD  
WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST 1983  
LONDON

FAREWELL SPEECH BY BERNARD WAND-POLAK

Mr Chairman, Friends,

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you very much. It was very thoughtful to arrange this event. If I may, I would even go so far as to say that it is appropriate. After all, we are hardly strangers. It would ring falsely even in my own ears if I were to tell you that this is a happy moment in my life. But I understand and I accept the inevitable. The most cruel reading matter in the world is the calendar. Still, one learns to turn the page and to proceed with one's appointed rounds.

There are things to do, and I shall pick them up and do them.

Just so there is no misunderstanding, let me tell you that my years in ORT have been happy and fruitful. It is here, in this family of ORT, that I have felt myself well used. It has been here, in ORT, where I have found an arena of action and service. If I have sinned, it is perhaps for having identified myself too wholeheartedly with ORT. But then, that is who I am, as all of you know.

And this remains. Whatever happens, the most precious possessions one can have are people and identity. ORT has been most generous to me in both respects. If I name no names, please forgive me, for I am fearful of omitting anyone. And some of those who are dearest to my heart are no longer with us.

I cannot say that I came to ORT, rather that ORT came to me. And at a moment of sheer chaos, not merely for me but for everything and everyone at that time.

It was 1946. I was in the DP camp of Eiring bei Freilassen in Germany. The days hung heavy upon all of us. We were locked into a void, an aftermath, a nothingness. Jacob Oleiski came among us. He found me. There was already some sort of ORT program, a class or two. Jacob asked me to elevate this beginning into a school. The rest is quickly told.

A year after, in 1947, I was assigned to Lyon to the ORT school there. The world was opening up. And it was my fate to be chosen to to to Casablanca and develop a programme for Moroccan Jews. This is neither the time nor the place to dwell on that chapter. Suffice it to say that THEY were productive years. ORT became the vehicle for the enlightenment of a generation. A beautiful page of history was written there. It is a tale still to be told.

Some time after, in 1960, I went to Israel, where among other things I had something to do with establishing an apprenticeship programme, factory schools and Yeshiva technical programmes. And, as all of you know, in recent times, my assignment was Latin America.

Now, I am aware that all of you know these things. As in shorthand, each is a stroke, and as I look back on them, I can only say that I am grateful for having been chosen to do this work. I can only hope that something useful was accomplished.

I should like to conclude with a single word that simultaneously signifies the comings and goings of life.

Shalom - peace be with you. And good luck to my friend Yehoshua.

OFFICERS OF THE WORLD ORT UNION CENTRAL BOARD AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE WORLD ORT UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS ELECTED ON 24th AUGUST, 1983 BY WORLD ORT UNION CENTRAL BOARD IN LONDON

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PRESIDENT: Vacant until next Congress

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Pierre Dreyfus (France)

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Alvin Gray (U.S.A.)  
J. A. Lyone Heppner (Canada)  
Samuel Malamud (Brazil)  
Jacqueline Maus (Switzerland)  
Beverly Minkoff (U.S.A.)  
Uziel Steinberg (Israel)

SECRETARY: Harold Friedman (U.S.A.)

HONORARY OFFICERS OF THE CENTRAL BOARD

HONORARY PRESIDENT: William Haber (U.S.A.)

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS: Renzo Levi (Italy)  
Gabriel Sacher (U.K.)

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS ELECT David Amar (Morocco)  
Ruth Druxerman (Canada)  
Freda Feldman (South Africa)

HONORARY MEMBERS: Joseph Ain (Canada)  
David Alberstein (Switzerland)  
Claude Bigar (Switzerland)  
Mme. Georges Chapiro (France)  
Kay Cohen (Switzerland)  
Sophie Crestohl (U.S.A.)  
Rabbi Harry Epstein (U.S.A.)  
Lord Goodman (U.K.)  
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Georges Melamed (France)  
Jacques Meyer (France)  
Eliyahu Nawi (Israel)  
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Abraham Rad (Israel)  
Victor Smaga (Switzerland)  
Renée Soskin (U.K.)  
Joseph Spivack (U.S.A.)  
Jeffrey Sterling (U.K.)  
Minnie Wingate (France)

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| ARGENTINE      | Moises Botner<br>Vacancies (2)  | Vacancy (1)  |
| AUSTRALIA      | Sydney D. Einfeld   |  |
| AUSTRIA        | Vacancy (1)   |  |
| BRAZIL         | Samuel Malamud<br>Tamara Rabinovitz<br>Salamão Serebrenick  |  |
| CANADA         | Edward Bronfman<br>J.A. Lyone Heppner<br>Genya Intrator<br>David Kosoy<br>Harriet Morton<br>Dorothy Shoichet  | Naomi Gross<br>Irving Kipnes                                       |
| CHILE          | David T. Benado<br>Isidoro Gorodischer  |  |
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| GERMANY        | Abrasha Frydman<br>Alfred Weichselbaum  | Bert Strassburger  |
| GREECE         | Nissim Alcalay  |  |
| INDIA          | Gerhard L. Gabriel  |  |
| IRAN           | Vacancies (4)   |  |

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| ITALY          | Guido Fiorentino<br>Bruno Jarach<br>Roberto Jarach<br>Gabriele Massarek<br>Eugenio Mortara<br>Sergio Osimo<br>Giacomo Saban<br>Dino Voghera   | Paola Jarach Bedarida<br>Raffaele Levi   |
| LUXEMBOURG     | Vacancy (1)   |  |
| MEXICO         | Alain J. Friedman<br>Helen Gutverg<br>Julia Retchkiman  | Elsa Bronsoler   |
| MOROCCO        | Georges Berdugo<br>Jacques O'Hana<br>Elie Ouakrat   | Jean Senouf  |
| NETHERLANDS    | E.M. Cohen  | Vacancy (1)  |
| NORWAY         | Berthold Grünfeld   | Vacancy (1)  |
| PERU           | Izak Wallach  |  |
| SOUTH AFRICA   | Blanche Glasenberg<br>Richard Goldstone<br>Norma Luntz<br>Rose Norwich<br>Abraham Rosin<br>David Susman<br>Basil Wunsh  | Vacancy (1)  |

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| SWITZERLAND    | Henri Barcilon<br>Paul Guggenheim<br>Max Gurny<br>Jacqueline Maus<br>Branco Weiss   | Nicole Bollag<br>Lea Guggenheim<br>Vacancy (1)  |
| U.K.           | Archie Arenson<br>Lady Chain<br>Henry Davis<br>Jonathan Gestetner<br>Gina Lass<br>Michael Naughton<br>Geoffrey Wilson<br>David Young  | Mark Mishon<br>Robert Ross  |
| U.S.A.         | Shelley Appleton<br>Claire BaumeI<br>Judah Cahn<br>John F. Davidson<br>Lawrence Edelman<br>Ruth Eisenberg<br>Reese Feldman<br>Bea Forrest<br>Harold Friedman<br>S. David Gamso<br>Nathan Gould<br>Alvin L. Gray<br>David B. Hermelin<br>Sandy Isenstein<br>Rose Kalich<br>Sidney E. Leiwant<br>Jay Mazur<br>Beverly Minkoff<br>Roland W. Moskowitz<br>Morris Olshina<br>Miriam Pressman<br>Rudy Reis<br>Helen Rosenberg<br>Edward Schneider<br>Matthew Schoenwald<br>Alan M. Schwartz<br>Leona Shomer<br>Robert Sill<br>Barbara Silver<br>Edwin H. Stone<br>Bruce B. Teicholz<br>Gertrude White<br>Jacques Zwibak | Marvin J. Feldman<br>Naomi Finger<br>Elinor Katz<br>Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman<br>Margery Kohrman<br>Ferne Kron<br>Frieda Ostroff<br>Gerri Prince<br>Claire Pyser<br>Ruth Taffel<br>Michael Tulman<br>Kenneth A. Zeisler |

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL BOARD

| <u>COUNTRY</u>                      | <u>MEMBER</u>                       | <u>ALTERNATE</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| URUGUAY                             | Gregorio Przepioraka<br>David Yusim |                  |
| VENEZUELA                           | Mile Pinkas                         | Sarah Sharifker  |
| <hr/>                               |                                     |                  |
| ALUMNI                              | Francis Bénichou                    | Vacancy (1)      |
| <hr/>                               |                                     |                  |
| CO-OPTED MEMBER<br>BY CENTRAL BOARD | William Haber                       |                  |
| <hr/>                               |                                     |                  |





EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AS ELECTED BY  
THE CENTRAL BOARD  
IN LONDON  
24 AUGUST 1983

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CHAIRMAN : Shelley Appleton (USA)

FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN : Basil Wunsh (South Africa)

VICE-CHAIRMAN : Robert Borgel (France)

EX-OFFICIO : Pierre Dreyfus (France)  
Harold Friedman (USA)  
Alvin Gray (USA)  
J A Lyone Heppner (Canada)  
Samuel Malamud (Brazil)  
Jacqueline Maus (Switzerland)  
Beverly Minkoff (USA)  
Uziel Steinberg (Israel)

| <u>COUNTRY</u> | <u>MEMBER</u>  | <u>ALTERNATE</u>   |
|----------------|--|--|
| ARGENTINA      | Moises Botner  | Vacancy  |
| BRAZIL         | Samuel Malamud<br>(ex-officio)   | Salamão Serebrenick  |
| CANADA         | Edward Bronfman<br>Genya Intrator<br>David Kosoy<br>Dorothy Shoichet<br>J A Lyone Heppner<br>(ex-officio)  | Naomi Gross<br>Irving Kipnes<br>Harriet Morton<br>Vacancy  |
| CHILE          | Isidoro Gorodischer  | Vacancy  |
| DENMARK        | Vacancy  | Vacancy  |
| FRANCE         | Paul Aginski<br>Robert Borgel<br>Lucie Checkler<br>Maurice Grynfogel<br>Philippe Herzog<br>Jacques Jospé<br>Daniel Mayer<br>Pierre Dreyfus<br>(ex-officio) | Colette Aboulker<br>William Bismuth<br>Jacques Lazarus<br>Joseph Lubetzki<br>J H Leopold Metzger<br>Boris Schneersohn<br>Vacancy |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(24 August 1983)

| <u>COUNTRY</u> | <u>MEMBER</u>   | <u>ALTERNATE</u>  |
|----------------|---|---|
| GERMANY        | Alfred Weichselbaum   | Bert Strassburger   |
| INDIA          | Gerhard Gabriel   | Vacancy   |
| IRAN           | Vacancy   | Vacancy   |
| ISRAEL         | Moshe Etzioni<br>Joel Katz<br>Abraham Neaman<br>Yomtov Sabah<br>Zalman Shalev<br>Joseph Sharon<br>Dvorah Tomer<br>René Weil<br>Vacancy<br>Uziel Steinberg<br>(ex-officio) | Ora Feinstein<br>Moshe Goldstein<br>Shlomo Gross<br>Esther Hamburger<br>Arie Lavie<br>Sonia Perlman<br>Zalman Yerushalmi<br>Chana Zechoval<br>Vacancy |
| ITALY          | Bruno Jarach<br>Eugenio Mortara<br>Giacomo Saban  | Roberto Jarach<br>Sergio Osimo<br>Dino Voghera  |
| MEXICO         | Alain J Friedman  | Julia Retchkiman  |
| MOROCCO        | Jacques O'Hana  | Elie Ouakrat,<br>or Georges Berdugo   |
| SOUTH AFRICA   | Abraham Rosin<br>Basil Wunsh<br>(ex-officio)  | Richard Goldstone<br>Rose Norwich   |
| SWEDEN         | Bjorn Grünwald  | David Köpniwsky   |
| SWITZERLAND    | Henri Barcilon<br>Paul Guggenheim<br>Max Gurny<br>Branco Weiss<br>Jacqueline Maus<br>(ex-officio)   | Nicole Bollag<br>Lea Guggenheim<br>Vacancy<br>Vacancy   |
| UNITED KINGDOM | Jonathan Gestetner<br>Gina Lass<br>Michael Naughton<br>David I Young  | Archie Arenson<br>Ann Chain<br>Henry Davis<br>Geoffrey Wilson   |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(24 August 1983)

| <u>COUNTRY</u> | <u>MEMBER</u>            | <u>ALTERNATE</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| UNITED STATES  | Shelley Appleton         | John F Davidson  |
|                | Ruth Eisenberg           | Bea Forrest      |
|                | David B Hermelin         | Morris Olshina   |
|                | Sidney E Leiwant         | Rudy Reis        |
|                | Miriam Pressman          | Edward Schneider |
|                | Bruce Teicholz           | Alan M Schwartz  |
|                | Gertrude White           | Barbara Silver   |
|                | Harold Friedman )        |                  |
|                | Alvin Gray )             | ex-              |
|                | Beverly Minkoff )        | officio          |
|                | William Haber (co-opted) |                  |
| URUGUAY        | Gregorio Przepiorka      | David Yusim      |
| VENEZUELA      | Vacancy                  | Vacancy          |
| ALUMNI         | Francis Benichou         | Vacancy          |

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WORLD ORT UNION CENTRAL BOARD  
CLOSING PLENARY  
WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST 1983  
LONDON

CLOSING REMARKS BY SHELLEY APPLETON, CHAIRMAN

I want to extend my gratitude, and Joe Harmatz's, and David's, and that of all of us up here to every member of the staff of the World ORT Union who worked so hard on preparing this Central Board meeting.

I don't want to start mentioning names, because that always leads to sizeable trouble, with one exception: I do want to mention Dido Willcox, not only because she worked unflaggingly and unremittingly, and all hours, and did everything, but because she is leaving the World ORT Union shortly. She's making aliyah, and she'll be an enormous asset to whoever she goes to work for in Israel. I hope she stays with ORT. I hope she remains part of the ORT family, but we have been blessed in having her, and we're sorry to leave her, and I do want to thank her on behalf of all of us. Is Dido in the room? Stand up, please, Dido ..... (applause). Our loss is Israel's gain.

There being no further business, I declare this meeting of the Central Board to be closed. Thank you all for coming.

