

## **THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION/THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE/ISRAEL CENTRAL OFFICE, LONDON (Z4)**

### **2017.3.1, RG-68.196M**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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#### **Descriptive summary**

Title: The Zionist Organization/The Jewish Agency for Palestine/Israel-Central Office, London (Z4)

Dates: 1917-1955

Accession number: 2017.3.1

Record Group Number: RG-68.196M

Creator: World Zionist Organization  
Jewish Agency for Israel

Extent: 373 microfilm reels (16 mm)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,  
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: Correspondence and other documents of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) and Jewish Agency for Israel related to Jewish immigration to Palestine and creation of Israel.

Languages: English, Hebrew

#### **Administrative Information**

Access: Collection is open for use, but may be stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

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Acquisition information: Source of acquisition is the Central Zionist Archives, Records Z4. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the filmed collection via the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's International Archives Project in January 2017. This is an ongoing project; digital images will arrive in later time.

Existence and location of originals:

World Zionist Organization. Central Zionist Archives  
4 Zalman Shazar Avenue  
P.O.B. 92  
91920 Jerusalem  
Israel  
Phone: 011 972 2 620 4800  
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Web address: <http://www.zionistarchives.org.il>

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](http://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Aleksandra Borecka, March 2017. The inventory provided by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archival Programs Division, also accessible from Internet: Website of the Central Zionist Archives.

### **Biographical Information**

**The World Zionist Organization (WZO)**, was founded as the Zionist Organization (ZO; 1897–1960) at the initiative of Theodor Herzl at the First World Zionist Congress, which took place in August 1897 in Basel, Switzerland. When it was founded, the goals of the Zionist movement were stated in a resolution that came of that Congress and came to be known as the “Basel Program.”

"Zionism aims at establishing for the Jewish people a legally assured home in Palestine. For the attainment of this purpose, the Congress considers the following means serviceable:

- the promotion of the settlement of Jewish agriculturists [farmers], artisans, and tradesmen in Palestine
- the federation [unified organization] of all Jews into local or general groups, according to the laws of the various countries
- the strengthening of the Jewish feeling and consciousness [national sentiment and national consciousness]
- preparatory steps for the attainment of those governmental grants which are necessary to the achievement of the Zionist purpose." "

The WZO currently consists of the following bodies: The World Zionist Unions, international Zionist federations; and international organizations that define themselves as Zionist, such as WIZO, Hadassah, B'nai B'rith, Maccabi, the International Sephardic Federation, the three streams of world Judaism

(Orthodox, Conservative, Reform), delegation from the CIS-Commonwealth of Independent States (some states of the former Soviet Union), the World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS), and more. The Jewish Agency is a parallel organization, with goals, attributes and leadership closely intertwined with those of the Zionist Organization during the years before the establishment of the State of Israel, and to varying degrees after that. Significant changes to the statutes of both organizations occurred in 1952, 1970 and 1979. [Source: Wikipedia]

**The Jewish Agency for Israel**, previously called The Jewish Agency for Palestine, is the largest Jewish nonprofit organization in the world. Its mission is to "inspire Jews throughout the world to connect with their people, heritage, and land, and empower them to build a thriving Jewish future and a strong Israel."

It is best known as the primary organization responsible for the immigration ("Aliyah") and absorption of Jews and their families from the Diaspora into Israel. Since 1948, the Jewish Agency for Israel has been responsible for bringing 3 million immigrants to Israel, and offers them transitional housing in "absorption centers" throughout the country.

The Jewish Agency played a central role in the founding and the building of the State of Israel. David Ben Gurion was the Chairman of its Executive Committee from 1935, and it was in this capacity that on May 14, 1948 he proclaimed independence for the State of Israel. He became Israel's first Prime Minister. In the years before and after the creation of the State, the Jewish Agency oversaw the establishment of about 1,000 towns and villages in Mandate Palestine. It serves as the main link between Israel and Jewish communities around the world. [Source: Wikipedia]

### **Scope and content of collection**

Correspondence between the Zionist Organization, London and various individuals and organizations regarding the nature of a future state in Palestine, a proposal to the Zionist Organization of America, and Zionist organizations in Russia and Palestine, other matters, correspondence with Chaim Weizmann, minutes of meetings, outgoing letters, newspaper clippings, resolutions, Zionist congress proceedings, reports on the situation in Palestine and Jewish immigration, circulars of the Executive Committee, statistics, correspondence with various Zionist organizations in Nazi Germany, correspondence with Leo Lauterbach, memoranda on the Revisionist movement, lists of members, documentation and reports on youth Aliyah to Palestine, documentation and correspondence pertaining to rescue activities in various countries.

### **System of arrangement**

Arranged by subject files of the administrative offices: Files Z4/30000 to Z4/34640. Researchers have to consult the running list of numerically arranged files in the finding aid.

Organized in fourteen groups:

1. Files Z4/30867-Z4/30870: Correspondence regarding "Zionist work" in Belgium, 1927-1946)
2. Files Z4/32408 to Z4/32412: Correspondence on immigration from Belgium (often with lists of immigrants) and family research, 1943-1947
3. Files Z4/40030 (1920), Z4/40342 (1919-1925), Z4/42376 (1919-1923), Z4/42433 (1919-1926), Z4/42639 (1923-1925) and Z4/42640: Various correspondence (regarding i.e. immigration, the Golden Shekel, donations, Zionism in Belgium, etc.) with the Belgian Zionist Federation and the Zionist Organization in Belgium, 1919-1926
4. File Z4/40325: Subsection "Up building of the national home" contains two files, correspondence regarding i.e. the import of Belgian products to Palestine, 1919-1924

5. File Z4/42132; Correspondence regarding the application of Joseph Gold from Antwerp for a post as a dentist in Palestine, 1920
6. File Z4/30871: Correspondence and reports on the persecution of Jews in Belgium, 1945
7. File Z4/30872: Correspondence and printed materials on Zionism and the situation of the Belgian Jews, 1939-1945
8. File Z4/41229: Correspondence regarding passports for persons travelling to Belgium, 1919-1920
9. File Z4/30353: Annual report of the Federation of Zionist Youth in Belgium, 1938
10. File Z4/40618: Correspondence regarding the "employment of Polish Jewish refugees in Germany in reconstruction work in France and Belgium", 1919
11. File Z4/30354: Memoranda and other documents of the Federation of Zionist Youth in Belgium
12. File Z4/33052: Correspondence on the situation of the Jews in Belgium and Europe, 1944-1947
13. File Z4/33332: Correspondence on Keren Hayesod in Belgium and Europe, 1939-1940
14. File Z4/40019: Correspondence with the Zionist Offices in Brussels, Belgium and Europe, 1918-1919.

### **Indexing terms**

#### ***Personal Name***

Lauterbach, Leo.

Weizmann, Chaim, 1874-1952.

#### ***Corporate Name***

American Zionist Medical Unit.

Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Jewish Problems in Palestine and Europe.

Jewish Agency for Israel.

United Nations. General Assembly. Special Committee on Palestine.

World Zionist Organization.

Zionist Organization of America.

#### ***Topical Term***

World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue.

World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Palestine.

Jews--Legal status, laws, etc.--Palestine--History--20th century.

Zionism--Europe--History--20th century.

Refugees, Jewish--Europe--Registers.

Jews--Belgium--History--20th century.

Mandates--Palestine.

Holocaust survivors--Europe--History--20th century.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Europe--Sources.

#### ***Geographic Name***

Belgium--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Europe--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.

Israel--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Palestine--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Palestine--History--Partition, 1947.

Palestine--Politics and government.

United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.

**Genre/Form**

Circulars.  
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)  
Correspondence.  
Letters.  
Minutes.  
Registers.  
Reports.  
Statistics.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**NOTE:** Inventory prepared by the Central Zionist Archives are accessible at the USHMM Archives: RG-68.196M\_02\_fnd\_en; and from the Web address:  
[http://www.zionistarchives.org.il/en/Pages/Archiveltem.aspx?oi=0b001e15800012dc&ot=cza\\_division](http://www.zionistarchives.org.il/en/Pages/Archiveltem.aspx?oi=0b001e15800012dc&ot=cza_division)