

THE U. N. PARTITION DECISION
OF NOVEMBER 29, 1947

A Personal Account
by Rabbi Louis I. Newman

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December 2nd, 1947

My dear Jeremy, Jonny and Dan:

Before the recollections fade from my memory, I am writing you this account of the events at the United Nations Assembly meetings last week, concerning which, of course, you have read much in the general press, and heard much over the radio. My own account is from a personal angle, and I suppose it will have increasing interest as the years go by. No one can deny, of course, that it was a memorable event which occurred last Saturday evening, and it should be remembered by those who shared in it or had a relationship to it. Avraham Soltes has said that it is a privilege to live at a time when something occurs that has not happened in 2,000 years, and so it is. The entire struggle was Olympian in character, and it had this quality for us, as we sat in the great auditorium at Flushing Meadow, high in the press gallery from which we could overlook everything that transpired.

I have not attended many sessions in my capacity as Observer for the Central Conference of American Rabbis--a post to which I was re-appointed a few weeks ago, but I was determined that when the matter came to a head, I was going to attend. Last Tuesday, the 25th, I went from the Beth David Cemetery at Elmont by taxi to the Lake Success meeting place of the Palestine Committee, arriving just in time to hear the result of the Committee's vote, namely, 25 to 13, with many abstentions--17, I think. This did not constitute the requisite 2/3 majority in the Assembly, but only a majority vote was needed in Committee to refer it to the General Assembly. I heard that Evatt of Australia was admirable in halting the Arab endeavors to prevent the affirmative vote, and in accelerating the discussion so that the matter might go forward.

On Wednesday, the majority report of the Committee came before the Assembly at its meeting-place at Flushing Meadow, and the debate began with Oswaldo Aranha in the Chair. Herschel Johnson of the United States Delegation made a tepid speech in its favor; Gromyko of Soviet Russia was good, and there were other excellent addresses in favor of the report, recommending the establishment of the Jewish and Arab States. The Arabs, however, were incredibly bad, and their speeches were of the usual inflammatory and provocative character. Carlos Romulo, the Philippine delegate, made a miserable speech, saying that his delegation would vote against partition, and then rushed off to the "Queen Mary" in order to attend the Geneva meeting on Human Rights. (As if granting the Jews the right to rebuild Palestine, their Homeland, were not a human right, worthy of approval!) The Philippine negative vote was particularly bad, since the United States has influence there, and the Philippines until recently had the heel of the Japanese, and before that, of the Spaniards, on their neck. The Haiti vote also was cited in the negative by a dark-colored gentleman of genteel manner.

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Again we were distressed that a nation which had gained its freedom from real bondage only recently, should also wish to deny liberty to another people whom it considered weak and defenseless. Greece had declared itself opposed to Partition, and in the debate went on public record as opposed, leading us to real indignation for more reasons than one. To be sure, Greece has a well-to-do group in certain Egyptian cities, and some Moslems in Macedonia, but America has given Greece great aid, and there is no reason whatsoever why Greece should not cooperate with the United States in favor of the majority proposal. We felt that Britain had secretly prompted Greece to vote no, thereby regarding America merely as a generous, but foolish passer-by. Later in the general press there were various interpretations of the reason for Greece's vote. One of them was that Yugoslavia and Greece are to be in headlong collision within a few months before the United Nations, and that Greece had pledged her vote to the Arabs in exchange for the latter's vote for Greece as against the Russian bloc.--Cuba's vote with the Arabs also came in for a great deal of interpretation, some of it highly unfavorable to the political and personal standards of the particular delegate. (It was incredible and obnoxious to hear the Cuban delegate on Friday speak of the Jews as "foreigners in Palestine." He also said they had "abandoned" Palestine centuries before, etc., etc.)

Husseini on Wednesday was atrocious, saying that a Communist plot in Iraq had been subsidized by the Zionists--a statement which brought forth audible protests from the audience. He also said that 150,000 Jews in Iraq had equal rights with non-Jews--a remark which also brought forth hisses and jeers. It is known, from the later statement of the Chief Rabbi in Iraq, saying that the Iraqi Jews were not Zionists, that the Arab extremists were holding a gun at their head. One of the Arabs in the debate also quoted Judah Leon Magnes against Partition, saying that the provision for economic union was a "hoax." It was an ugly piece of business to have a Jewish leader drawn in against us, but Magnes has done this for many years, and Jews have been extraordinarily patient with him. That we have tolerated Magnes as Chancellor of the Hebrew University is a tribute to our forbearance. That Lazon, Berger, Lessing, Rosenwald and others of their ilk have also been allowed to act as "Quislings" against us is further evidence to the effect that we are not totalitarian in our viewpoint and action. I could go on and furnish further data regarding the "arguments" used by the Moslem spokesmen, but what's the use!

On Wednesday, we were by no means sure that we had the necessary votes. It was figured that the poll stood about 29 to 15 or 16, and this was not sufficient certainty to make it advisable a vote be taken before Thanksgiving Day. I saw on the main floor of the United Nations Assembly Hall, near Berl Locker, the Laborite; Wolf Gold, of the Mizrachi; Nahum Goldmann, of the Agency, and others. Lionel Gelber, of mountain-like proportions, was wandering up and down the halls of the building, talking at one moment with a Liberian delegate (of whose vote we were by no means certain); at another moment, with a second delegate, and then with others. Moshe Shertok, Bernard Joseph of the Agency, Meyer Weisgal, and many more of the Zionist group were on hand. Locker, who knows me as the compiler of the "Hasidic Anthology", if for nothing else (for I opposed the Mappai program, first as a member of the Brandeis-Mack group,

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and later as an adherent of Vladimir Jabotinsky, the Revisionist), said to me: "I suppose you are here for the Intelligence." I took this to mean that he believed I was present to report to the Revisionists.

Thursday was Thanksgiving Day, and we had Services at Temple Rodeph Sholom. Doctor Stephen S. Wise was the chief speaker, and he seemed certain the vote would go our way. He said to me that he had been in touch with President Truman, whose influence was greatly needed, if the Americans were to be able to persuade the wavering delegates to their side. (Cadogan had made a statement reiterating what he had said in the Committee sessions, that Britain would do nothing to implement the plan, whatever it was, which the U. N. accepted, if it did not have the consent of both the Arabs and the Jews. This was the only thing that roused from lethargy Herschel Johnson, who said vehemently that everyone knew no plan was possible which the Arabs and the Jews would together accept.) I wired President Truman and besought the people at the Thanksgiving Services in Rodeph Sholom not only to pray for an affirmative outcome, but also to send messages to the President, or to Herschel Johnson at the U. N. There was a good item out of my address which appeared in the New York Times on Friday.

When the Assembly met on Friday (I had, as usual, to return to the City for a funeral, being dropped for a third time by the driver of a funeral car at or near the Assembly Hall), Lucile, Jon and I left the house at 8:30 in the morning, taking a taxi to Flushing Meadow. We took our place on the main floor, and awaited the commencement of the session. As Official Observer for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, I had arranged for tickets, and when these were forthcoming, we took our place high in the Press and Organization Gallery. There we were able to see everything from a point of vantage, and to use the ear phones which gave us the translation of the speeches in foreign languages, as they were being delivered. (I believe this device first came into use at the Nuremberg Trials in Germany. For example, Gromyko's speech in Russian was translated into English, French and other languages, which could be turned in by turning a gadget on the device. Quite a mechanism!) Susan Brandeis and her husband, Jack Gilbert, and, later, their son, Louis B. Gilbert (grandson of Justice Louis D. Brandeis) were in the Press Gallery, and numerous other Jewish and non-Jewish publicists were present. Victor Bernstein gave us information, and John Hohenberg, the U. N. correspondent of the "New York Post", with whom I had become acquainted last Spring, kept me informed of developments long before they transpired; or he would outline the various alternatives in the situation.

The debate began at 11:20 A.M., and went on for hours. It was a gruelling experience to sit there and listen to the false, inflammatory remarks of the Moslem clique and their supporters. On Wednesday, the Dutch delegate had announced his readiness to vote for Partition, making a fine speech in which he told of the work the Netherlands had done for the refugees from Hitler; he also spoke of the contributions which Benedict Spinoza had made to Dutch prestige. There was a likelihood that perhaps Belgium, France and Luxembourg would vote for the majority report, if the affirmative statement of the Dutch delegate could be understood as a token. I had to return

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to the city for a funeral, but came back, after listening to the proceedings by air in the funeral car (which took me from Beth El cemetery to Flushing Meadow) until the very moment when I entered the hall. I arrived about 4 o'clock, and Lucile and Jon, who had had luncheon in the Press Room, were awaiting me. Bob Bergman, whom I had met in the Lobby with Shalom Gelber, was there also; I had helped him get in, though he had waited a long time for a ticket. All I did was to have him walk at my side, as if I were someone really important; this apparently was the posture one must adopt in the circumstances such as this. But I had been at the recent sessions so frequently that the guards, I think, really believed I should not be stopped, and stopped I was not.

I had heard the speech of Parodi, the French delegate, and also the speech of the Colombian. Parodi's was a masterpiece of tight-rope walking, the gist of which was that Hussein seemed to have said that nothing had been done to bring about a reconciliation between the Arabs and the Jews by the Ad Hoc Committee, etc. It was thought that the French might be sparring for an excuse so that they would not be forced to vote against the wishes of their many millions of Moslems in North Africa. Aranha, who was in the Chair, when the motion to adjourn was made, asked Parodi to place it in writing which he did, though it seemed to us that Parodi had merely thrown out a suggestion. We were under the impression that Aranha, who had said he believed Partition had the necessary votes, was committing a grievous error in calling for a written form of the suggestion. But nothing could halt the process, though he had previously called for a vote on the majority report. Before we knew it, the Parodi motion had been put to vote (I am not sure whether it was the Colombian or French wording), and the meeting had been adjourned for twenty-four hours, namely, until 4:30 on Saturday afternoon.

We Zionists were in a highly pessimistic frame of mind. We were of the opinion that if the matter had come to a vote, Partition would have been approved. But it was clear that everything possible would be done by the Arabs and their henchmen to postpone the vote, and, if possible, to throw the entire matter back to Committee, either until January or February, or indefinitely. It transpired that an hour or so before the meeting Aranha and the Zionists had known of this maneuver, and were prepared for it, in the event it was tried. But the atmosphere was so tense and the situation so precarious that anything was considered possible, to upset the apple cart.

Saturday morning, the Rabbis in their respective pulpits preached sharp and angry sermons regarding the delays, the chicanery and intrigue, the weakness and apparent inertness of the American delegation. The liberal newspaper, among them the Herald-Tribune (not the Times, you may be sure) condemned the delegates for the delay, and called for affirmative action. Friday evening, late at night, I had encountered Rabbi Wolf Gold on Central Park West. Throughout the sessions until Friday (it was necessary for him to return to the city before the Shabbat), he had been buoyant of mood, and had said: "The Ribbono shel Olam is watching over us." But on Friday night, as he came from a meeting at the home of Nahum Goldmann on Central Park West, he was in the very depths of dis-

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tress. When his brother had heard the motion to adjourn, he nearly fainted, said Doctor Cold. Such was the despairing mood of Jews in New York, and of all those elsewhere (and that meant Palestine, Europe and Asia) who were watching and listening to events at Flushing Meadow.

Saturday afternoon Avraham Soltes (who was then Associate Rabbi in Rodeph Sholom) and I went to the U.N. (Max Feder, Rodeph Sholom's Executive Director, had come out on Friday, and had been with us all day, but he did not find it possible to come on Saturday). Jon had a date in the City which took precedence even over the U.N. meetings. Your Mother had to remain home to see that supper would be ready. Avraham and I went out by train, and hiked across Flushing Meadow to the Assembly Hall. Avraham had worn his most formal attire, so that he would look like a younger member of one of the delegations. Of course, as always, I wore my black hat, my black coat, etc...so that I would not be prevented from entering the Hall. We walked right in, secured our Organization tickets (the demand for them was immense) and soon were back at our places high in the press gallery. Victor Bernstein, John Hohenberg, and others gave us a preview of what might happen, but no one knew with certainty what course events would take. We paid our respects to the Jewish delegation in the Delegates Lounge, and discussed the situation, somewhat dolefully, but nevertheless hopeful that if things would come at last to a vote, all would go well.

You know the story now, having heard it on the air or having read of it in the newspapers. This time the atmosphere of indolence and lethargy on the part of the pro-Partition group was gone. Herschel Johnson made a fighting speech, and, at last, it looked as if his heart were genuinely in the task of obtaining the victory for Partition. The Rapporteur for the Palestine Committee gave a very specific and detailed statement, to the effect that efforts had been made again and again to bring about a reconciliation of Arab and Jewish views, but without success. The Syrian delegate, El Khoury, very courtly and distinguished, but breathing hatred and anti-Jewish feeling, tried the trick of introducing correspondence between Prince Feisal of Saudi Arabia and Secretary of State Marshall to provide ammunition for the viewpoint that no real efforts at reconciliation had been made. The Lebanese delegate gave a vague outline of a proposed plan, suitable to the Arabs, but it was only a re-statement of the suggestion of a Federal unitary state under Arab control, with local municipal self-government for Jewish communities. It was pointed out by Herschel Johnson and others that this plan had already been voted down, and was not before the Assembly. The Syrian delegate after reading the Feisal-Marshall correspondence, did what the other Moslems, in their rage and frustration, had repeatedly done, namely, they launched into an anti-Jewish tirade, saying that the Assembly and the United States should be careful lest they be dominated by the Jews, etc. Whenever such fulminations began, with their appeal to hatred and violence, we took it to mean that our cause was so strong, the Moslems were resorting to agitation and incitement as an argument--a sure concession of defeat. Gromyko was a closing speaker, and gave an admirable defense of the majority report. He is an austere, somewhat stern person--young in demeanor, very clear and direct in utterance. In fact, all of the speakers, whatever their nationality or color, were clearly

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men of talent and eminence. An observer loses all consciousness of national or racial differences; even language differences seem unimportant in view of the phone-translation system. All that remains is a recognition of the fact that every nation brings forth distinguished personalities. Jamal Husseini of Iraq, however, was a most repellent and hateful personality--the man who abetted the Mufti and who gives the impression of being a clever but utterly unscrupulous attorney-mouthpiece.

The time came for the placing of the motion to adjourn, with the various recommendations which had been offered by the Lebanese delegate. Then it was that Aranha called for the motion in writing. We were not told the text of the resolution, but Aranha after scanning the U.N. Manual of Procedure, and after consulting with Trygve Lie and another official at the rostrum, made his historic ruling. This was to the effect that the motion to adjourn was not a simple motion of adjournment requiring merely a majority vote to pass (the vote on Wednesday had been 25 to 13), but a motion of substantive content which placed it in the category of a new resolution. In view of this, the Partition resolution which had been debated, took priority and precedence, and hence, for the third time, the presiding officer called for a vote. There was one more comment by an anti-Partition delegate, but finally, with all of us holding our breath, and in a quiet hall, Aranha asked that the roll-call be taken. On Wednesday Lie and his co-worker had stood up to take the vote on adjournment, and had counted it as if they were at a town-meeting at a small hall, or at a lodge gathering. Put on Saturday, each delegation was polled, beginning at about 5:20 P.M. At 5:31, the entire vote had been registered, with the yeas and nays and the abstentions. (The delegate of Siam was absent, having found it necessary to go home because his government had fallen; thereby one vote was lost to the Arabs). And the vote was announced by the "football score" figure of 33 to 13, in favor of the majority report, The Partition of Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab State was thus ratified. There was a scurrying of reporters from the press gallery to the phones. Avraham and I and a friend, Jelenko of the American Jewish Congress, next to us, shook hands. We said: "Mazel Tov", and that was all. The delegates had been warned against any demonstration and there was none.

Then, as you know, the Arab delegates, one by one arose, to condemn the decision, breathing fire and fury against the Jews, comparing themselves to victims being led to execution. They dissociated themselves entirely from the consequences which would ensue from the Assembly's decision. They walked out of the hall, but, later, when we were in the lobbies, the Arabs were still around. Some of them, including El Khoury, did not seem very depressed, but they acted as if the game had gone against them, as if they had participated in some parlor contest. It was, of course, far more serious than they seemed to indicate, as the events in the Middle East since then have shown. The Arabs registered their protest for the record, but they did not withdraw from the U.N.

Avraham and I in the lobbies sought out the Jewish representatives to see what was happening among them. We congratulated the leaders, Emanuel Neumann, Abba Hillel Silver, Lionel Gelber, Moshe Shertok, Wolf Gold and others. Gold said triumphantly: "I told you

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so." He had rushed out to the meeting after Shabbat and his first question to us before the vote was: "Are they still trying to obstruct things?", thereby indicating how precarious the situation was until the very last moment. We also congratulated Berl Locker and Nahum Goldmann. To Silver who was all smiles, I said, shaking his hand: "Abba, to whom honor is due, do it." Mimeographed Statements in preparation for the anticipated victory were distributed. One of the radio stations had a broadcast under way, and I was asked to speak. I did, and a recording was made of my few remarks, paying tribute to the leaders of yesterday and today who had helped to achieve the great result. By a strange omission, I left out the name of Justice Brandeis, but I did include Jacob de Haas and Vladimir Jabotinsky. Apparently my quotation: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24) was heard by the reporters, who included it on the front page of the Times, in an account of the jubilation following the Partition vote. They attributed, however, to an unnamed Rabbi. Rabbi David de Sola Pool, of course, was present; Hadassah ladies were on hand, and everyone was saying, in a very dignified but joyous fashion: "Mazel Tov!" We showed the best manners imaginable; there was no dancing of the Horah in the lobbies, but everyone felt like exclaiming: "When we get out among our own people, what a Geschrei we are going to make!"

Avraham and I went back into the Assembly meeting hall. The delegates were making long speeches on the achievements of the U.N. One was made by Warren Austin of the United States, and the other by Oswaldo Aranha. These speeches lasted until about 6:40 o'clock. In the lobbies Avraham and I had met Herschel Johnson, and we thanked him heartily and sincerely. He beamed from ear to ear, as if he had done a good deed which, in the praise he received for it, brought him unexpected pleasure. (The Americans were quoted as saying: "Judge us not by anything except the result," and we had the result.) Loy Henderson, whom I had met and with whom I had talked last Spring, telling him of the attitude of the Revisionists--at the time of the debate" concerning the creation of a special Committee-- was nowhere to be seen, at least by us. He was supposed to have been up to his usual tricks, namely, seeking to cut the ground from under any Zionist pronouncement by the Americans, assuring the Arabs that it wasn't really meant. However, everything came out all right in the end, and the Americans were willing to buck the oil interests; the Protestant missionaries, and all those other "nice people", including the American Council for Judaism, who had thrown stumbling blocks in our path for years. We asked Mr. Johnson to express our thanks to President Truman (to whom I wrote a letter of gratitude the following day, a letter which I am sure Mr. Truman will never see, but which I suppose adds to the sum-total of strategic good-will.) We also met the New Zealand delegate, a vivacious gentleman, who said that it had been nip and tuck to the very end, and that if the opponents of Partition had come in with any maneuver, including an out-and-out vote, for adjournment, he was prepared to take the floor again. (On Wednesday, he had made an excellent speech in favor of Partition; so, too, had Ilesley, the Canadian delegate.) The New Zealander also was delighted to receive the thanks we expressed. We made our way in the Assembly Hall to the seats near Gromyko whom I wished especially to thank (for reasons into which I do not wish to enter here, except to say that we hope

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the day will come when Russian Jews will be permitted by the Soviets to migrate to Palestine and settle there. As Meyer Berlin said: they should be allowed to have a share in building up the Jewish State.) We waited patiently while Gromyko listened to Austin's remarks concerning the harsh names America had been called, and other material of significance to the Russian delegation. Finally, Aranha declared the meeting adjourned--and truly it had been an historic session: Avraham and I made our way to Gromyko, and thanked him in English. He held himself, as he usually does, somewhat stiffly, but seemed pleased though a bit puzzled by my English. I then tried my French which he seemed to understand, for he smiled appreciatively, though I had trouble understanding my own French. Then we spoke to the South African delegates, tall, magnificent specimens of men, built like our Texans or our Wyoming cowboys. They were delighted and said: "We must tell Marshall Smuts of your thanks." Needless to say, Avraham and I enjoyed this remark immensely. We thanked Senator Austin and other delegates, including Garcia Granados of Guatemala, in the delegates' lounge, near the bar. I am glad to say that our Jewish delegates showed a customary sobriety, though under grave and understandable provocation, to partake of the cup that cheers and represents cheers. After all, wasn't this a Purim, on which we could drink enough to be unable to distinguish between Barukh Mordecai and Arur Haman, and there were many of the latter around! While the final speeches were being made, and the matter was progressing to its consummation, I could not help but think that at last truth was making itself known; that the cobwebs of falsehood were being swept away; that the United States, in the cooperation between our country and Russia, in particular, and in its demonstration of competency in handling a difficult issue, was giving us hope for a peaceful world today and tomorrow.

I did not get to a telephone to talk with your Mother until eight o'clock when we had come to New York by train. On arriving at the house Jon and his friends were there. Avraham had supper with us, and we had to tell of our experiences and impressions, for the family had listened, of course, by radio, as millions in this area had done. The press called up for statements; I had received telephone calls and telegrams, as if I had done it. For years I have spoken for Zionism in the pulpit and out; I had been a member of the Zionist Administrative Committee on coming from California in 1930, until I found that my synagogue duties were too demanding for extensive community work. I had been a member of the Brandeis-Mack Group for years; then I had cooperated with Jacob de Haas in the so-called "Group B" program, and then had become, at his suggestion, an active adherent of Vladimir Jabotinsky and the Revisionists. In 1939-1940 I had been very active in organizing the American work for Aliyah Beit and the Irgun in its infancy years. Elsewhere I have assembled my correspondence with Jabotinsky, and have told the dramatic story of Aliyah Beit, particularly with reference to the refugee ship, the "Zakariyah," which took 2300 Peleitim from the Black Sea through the Mediterranean to Palestine. (The final major help came through Dr. Bernard Kahn of the Joint Distribution Committee). Association with the Revisionists, because of the opposition of Doctor Wise, Justice Brandeis, Judge Mack, the Hadassah and other individuals and groups had not been easy (I tell the story elsewhere), but I was confident that history would prove Jabotinsky and the Revisionists right.

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I cannot describe to you the joy of everyone, except, of course, the anti-Zionists who instead of remarking how pleased they were at the outcome, immediately asked: "But won't the Arabs give trouble?" On Monday evening, December 1st, I am sorry to say that I had an unpleasant experience at the Alumni Dinner of the University of California in honor of President Bob Sproul, at which I delivered the Invocation. Your Mother and I sat at a table where two of the guests, when the Palestine situation entered into the conversation, said in our presence: "As we listened to the debate and the vote, our sympathies were all with the Arabs." But our annoyance with this attitude was more than tempered by a statement made to me after the meeting. Mrs. K., born a non-Jewess, but married to a Jewish alumnus of the University of California, told me that her 19 year old son had enlisted in the Haganah and had been a member of the crew of the "Paducah"; he had been sent by the British to Cyprus. He had not been heard from for months, but a few days before, his parents had received a cable from Cyprus, saying that he was " hale, happy and twenty" (his birthday had just occurred). The boy had gone with the refugees, though an American subject, under an assumed name. I'd like to meet that boy, wouldn't you? (I think the "Paducah" figured in my sonnet: "Exodus-1947" written on July 27th, 1947, and later included in collection, entitled: Trumpet in Adversity, p. 29).

On Saturday Evening, the 29th, I had the usual funeral call; it was necessary also to attend a Bar Mitzvah party. Avraham had gone on ahead to the Party, and was singing a Hebrew song of rejoicing when I arrived. Then I told the story of the U.N. sessions, and it was truly a joyous occasion for us all. I disclaimed any share in the great accomplishment, except as a "Kibbitzer", though I had preached Zionism in and out of the pulpit in California, New York, and on visits elsewhere. On the basis of the sentiments I expressed at the Bar Mitzvah Party I wrote these lines, which later were printed in the New York afternoon Daily, P.M. on Saturday, December 6th:

"I DID IT"

Since now at last the Jewish State is here,
And everyone takes credit for the prize,
Let all remember boastful Chantecleer,
Who crowed: "My solo made the sun arise!"

To be sure credit belongs to everyone--to Abba Hillel Silver, the captain of the Jewish forces; to Emanuel Neumann, and to multitudes of others, for it took many, many workers to build these Pyramids. And I should like to mention here Bartley Crum, whose book "Behind the Silken Curtain" is still a masterpiece, and exerted a great influence on the outcome. Gerold Frank, the author (who, by the way, is a member of Congregation Rodeph Sholom) deserves to be mentioned, with other authors and journalists.

After the Party we went to the St. Nicholas Rink on West 66th Street, where the Laborites were holding a festivity. Silver and Neumann did not come, but Weizmann did, and he was wildly acclaimed, as you can well imagine. We arrived when the huge crowd was leaving; ten thousand persons could not gain entrance to the auditorium.

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Silver and Neumann spoke at a tremendous meeting at Manhattan Center on Tuesday Evening, December 2nd. Sunday Morning, November 30th, the pupils of the School and the young people of the Congregation came into the Temple for a Special Service of Jubilation, which I described in the "Rodeph Sholom Chronicle."

"Zeh ha-Yom" is the title of this item in the "Rodeph Sholom Chronicle" for December 4th, 1947, and its text is as follows: "Rabbi Newman and Rabbi Soltes were present at the historic session of the United Nations on November 29th, when the resolution establishing Jewish and Arab States in Palestine was finally passed. Rabbi Newman attended as Official Observer for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and after the Session was one of those who broadcast on the air a message of jubilation. Congregation Rodeph Sholom salutes and greets our Jewish leaders, chief among them Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, who helped to bring about this joyous consummation. To our non-Jewish friends and co-workers, to many of whom Rabbis Newman and Soltes expressed their personal thanks on Saturday evening, the gratitude of Jewry is heartily expressed. On Sunday Morning, a special Service of Thanksgiving was held at the Temple, which the children of our Religious School and the young people of our Youth Groups attended en masse. In addition to addresses by the Rabbis, Cantor Meltzoff chanted the traditional "She-he-heyanu"; Miss Luba Senderovna sang: "How beautiful upon the mountain tops are the feet of him who bringeth good tidings, who publisheth peace." The congregation sang appropriate Hebrew songs, as well as "My Country, 'tis of Thee" in gratitude to our beloved country, America, whose representatives aided so vitally in achieving the favorable outcome. "Zeh ha-Yom Asah Adonoy; nagilah we-nismahah boh." "This the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

There is, of course, much more of which I could write. Jon, you have your own impression of the Friday meeting, having been present in person. I am delighted that you defended our cause against Sidney Wallach of the American Council for Judaism when he spoke against Zionism at the Yale Hillel Meeting; and again at the Yale Forum against the Arab propagandist and his apologists. And Jeremy, I am sure that Bob Bergman, who brought us news regarding you at Hebrew Union College, has given you a first-hand account of the Partition debate and result. As Maurice Eisendrath said yesterday at the meeting of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations at Temple Emanu-El: "our generation has witnessed the most terrible tragedy in Jewish history, and, by virtue of the decision last Saturday, the 29th, has beheld a most wonderful triumph; now let us pray and hope that our young men in Palestine can defend the gains which, at last, the Jewish people has been legally awarded."

It is a long journey from the day when I saw the Balfour Declaration in the green-typewriting ink of Woodrow Wilson's own typewriter, in Rabbi Stephen S. Wise's Study at 23 West 90th Street, before it was issued. "This document", said Doctor Wise, "is certain to make history." (Doctor Wise, with whom I was associated as a Student Assistant on the Staff of the Free Synagogue between the years 1916 and 1921, would invite me to his home, in order to look over his correspondence with the notables of the nations, and the documents relating to the Jewish struggle for Palestine and for Minority Rights in Eastern Europe). In 1920, I marched in the

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Parade, celebrating the Award of the Mandate to Great Britain by the League of Nations, and the appointment of Sir Herbert Samuel as the first High Commissioner over Palestine (an appointment which, it later seemed, was not beneficial to Zionism). I marched in the Protest Parade against Hitler, and, in company with Reverend Doctor John Haynes Holmes of the Community Church, spoke at the great Protest Meeting against Nazism in 1933 at Columbus Circle; he walked from the Protest Meeting at Madison Square Garden in order to keep his promise to speak at this second gathering. I have been on hand in many meetings since 1913 which have dealt with terrible events in Jewish history, and the endeavors of Jewry to protect its rights and its security. But the Partition outcome, resulting in the legalization of a Jewish State in Palestine, was the most important of all, and, I am sure, will prove to be the most glorious. And so, I wrote these lines for a sonnet, in the small hours of the night of Saturday-Sunday, November 29th-30th, in the dark in order not to awaken your Mother (printed in Trumpet in Adversity, p.43)

GIVE PRAISE, O WORLD!

"It is no legend if your will is strong;
If your resolve is firm, it is no dream."
Thus Herzl's prophecy fulfils its theme
In ripe reward for those who prayed so long.
At last the nations spurn insensate wrong!
They offer freedom's key to those who wear
The time-encrusted shackles of despair.
And hark, the wanderer's sight becomes a song.

Give praise, O world, to all who toiled and fought,
Whose endless sacrifice this triumph wrought.,
Remember Israel's tribunes through the years,
And Christendom's great sons who dried our tears.
A myriad martyrs have not died in vain,
For Zion, Phoenix-like, is born again.

.....

This letter was begun on December 2nd, but it was not completed until December 8th, 1947.

.....

A sequel to the Partition story is to be found, of course, in the Declaration of Independence by the State of Israel, the 5th Day of Iyar, 5708, namely, the 14th of May, 1948. Israel's Declaration of Independence was proclaimed in the city of Tel Aviv. Ten minutes after this Declaration was proclaimed, namely at 6:11 P. M. Eastern Daylight Saving Time, the White House extended to the new State of Israel America's de facto recognition. Because of the understanding and helpfulness extended by President Harry S. Truman, the latter's name is inscribed with gratitude in the enduring annals of the Jewish people. Your Mother and I were at supper in our home when Mr. Benjamin Sellinger, then the Principal of the Rodeph Shalom Religious School telephoned us in great jubilation and informed us of the memorable event.

Inasmuch as the chronicles of these memorable days are being prepared for distribution in March, 1968, I can also add the follow-

12. Partition

ing: On May 11th, 1949, the State of Israel was accepted into the membership of the United Nations. On May 12th, at Lake Success, a Flag Raising Ceremony took place, with Moshe Shertok, Abba Eban and other Israeli and Zionist notable present. I journeyed to Lake Success near Great Neck on Long Island and was present in the gathering when the Flag of Israel was raised, to take its place among the banners of the other nations, great and small. I am included in photographs taken of the event, and I rejoice that I was able to share in the jubilation attending this unforgettable occasion.

Thus it was my privilege to be on hand when Partition was voted on November 29th, 1947, and also to be present on May 12th, 1949 when the Flag of Israel was raised on high to take its place of honor among the Flags of the United Nations. Of such significant happenings the history of a people is fashioned.

Your Dad,

Louis I. Newman