



הקונפדרציה העולמית של הציונות המאוחדת
World Confederation of United Zionists

excerpts from Zionism for our Day 1960

"The World Zionist Organization will recover its strength and prestige if in each country there will be a Zionist body representing all Zionist groups and acting in the name of the movement as a whole."

"It is not enough to have a World Zionist Executive elected by the Zionist Congress, acting and speaking authoritatively on behalf of the World Zionist movement."

"It is more important that in each country there be a strong territorial Zionist organization acting in the name of the movement as a whole."

"Divided into parties without any medium of cooperation and coordination of activity, Zionism is bound to continue to lose its prestige and authority."

"Once strong Zionist Federations are in operation mobilizing the respective communities in the service of the Zionist cause, the authority of these Federations will prove indisputable and the status of the World Zionist Organization will become unassailable both in Israel and in the Diaspora."

"I personally believe that the time is ripe to consider the abolition of all Zionist parties in the Diaspora...I am convinced that with good will on all sides a satisfactory solution to this problem could be found."

"We want...to be identified with Israel as a whole and to work for the national redemption of our people without any party strings attached."

-Edel J. Horwitz, Chairman, South African Zionist Federation, 1959

"Hadassah's membership in the Diaspora-based World Confederation of General Zionists is a mutually rewarding relationship. Within the Confederation, Hadassah has an opportunity to continue the Zionist tradition of serving Israel as a whole."

"It is our conviction that the principles of this world Confederation represent a sound basis for a continuing and constructive Zionist movement, geared to meet the needs of Israel and the Jewish people as they will arise."

-Lola Kramarsky, National President, Hadassah, 1959

"...there is need for a strengthening of the World Zionist movement. This suggests a strengthening of its resources throughout the world so that in matter affecting Israel it can speak with authority for world Jewry."

"It is clear that those who believe in an overall assistance to Israel and who do not wish to intrude on the internal political life of Israel, and who believe in an independent and non-political approach to their participation, find, regrettable, that there is no significant place for them in this political climate."

"The Zionist Organization of Canada believes that it can and should pursue these aims without involving itself in the internal political life of Israel or identifying itself with any particular political party in Israel."

"...the great leadership of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, a leadership that continues to reiterate the fact that Israel is the creation of the Jewish people. It stresses the fact that there must not be conflict between the Jews of the Diaspora and the State of Israel...it re-affirms the position that the world Zionist movement must be the voice of the Jews of the Diaspora in its relations to Israel."

"He [Mr. Ben-Gurion] believes that overwhelming majorities of Jews from all over the world will come to Israel. This is an unrealistic position and it seems surprising indeed that there is not recognition by the Prime Minister of the changed position of Jews in the Western world, who are neither oppressed nor denied the opportunity to live a full and creative life."

-Lawrence Freiman, President, Zionist Organization of Canada, 1960

"Before one can intelligently begin to question whether...there will be a need for it [the Zionist Movement] to continue to play a vital and dynamic role in the present and future of world Jewry...we must agree on some common denominator...as to the needs of our people."

"Zionism in basic terminology is concerned as much with 'retaining the people of Israel' as it ever was with 'securing the land of Israel' and it would be a paradox of history if the act which precipitated the latter produced a cessation of efforts to achieve the former."

"It is the fallacious belief, frequently postulated by the Israel Prime Minister and others, that with the emergence of the State of Israel, all Jews in Diaspora communities are now friends, supporters and philosophically sympathetic to Israel."

"...many of these 'friends of Israel' are only fair weather friends...history should have taught us a lesson about their allegiance in times of strained political relationships between Israel and the governments of the countries wherein they are citizens...More important, very many of these 'friends of Israel' base their friendship on a philanthropic rather than a philosophic concept of their own identification with Israel. They have an emotional and historical affection for the things which Israel means and does for *other* Jews, but Israel has no relevance to them in terms of national or cultural identity, and as for the concept of the centrality of Israel in terms of one world Jewish people – many of them dispute the whole thesis of *one Jewish people*."

"They ['friends of Israel'] accept and ascribe a parochial demarcation to the communities in which they live, self-sufficient, encapsulated, auto-dependent and uncommitted in terms of identification with the overall Jewish problem. Are such people the logical successors to the Zionist movement? "

"It is undeniable that sectional interests sponsored by the political factions outside Israel split and divide otherwise positive Zionists who would wish to work under the Herzlian and Weizmann concepts of overall interests in and practical work for Israel."

"The Zionist Movements must of necessity be a Diaspora-based movement, i.e., the membership activities, finances and, above all, the leadership must be produced and in the main operate in the Diaspora."

"...We need as quickly as possible to create a machinery of edification and real education of Isrea's populace at all levels, to put into true perspective the efforts, achievements and position of the Zionist movement in the various lands of the Diaspora."

"...much is wrong and there is ample room for improvement in our movement...we require a heart searching investigation into our defects, inadequacies and shortcomings. Nevertheless it must be stated and continually reiterated that there is not, nor is there likely to be another or alternative world organization which can produce the same positive results for the future of our people."

-Woolf Perry, Chairman, Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland

"The Zionist Organization is an irreplaceable instrumentality to maintain the bond between Israel and the outside Jewish world."

"In the technical execution of its program, the World Zionist Organization would achieve greater efficiency if it were to curtail the power of the over-bureaucratized central departments of the Organization and accord greater authority to regional bodies which are more qualified to deal with local needs and problems in order of their urgency."

-Marcos Vodovotz, President, South American Confederation of General Zionists

"...there is no basis for granting privileges within the movement to Israel parties, just as we, who live outside of Israel's borders, have no right to make decisions regarding its internal problems."

-Melech Topiol, President of Paris Executive, European Confederation of General Zionists

"Today's crisis in our movement...stems in substantial measure from the fact that too many Zionists have mistaken their party loyalty for Zionist loyalty....the need today lies in a different direction – not along the by-path of inter-party rivalries or strife, but along the highway of unified Zionist effort."

"More important than the power or prestige of any particular part of the Zionist movement is the status of the movement as a whole."

-Samuel H. Daroff, President, American Jewish League for Israel

"With the concentration of Zionist concern on the problems of the Diaspora, the party delineations within the movement become increasingly fruitless."

-Dr. Adolfo Fastlicht, President, Central American Confederation of General Zionists

