

C O P Y

ICHUD HABONIM S.A.,  
324 Zionist Centre,  
84 de Villiers St.,  
Johannesburg.

14th February, 1961

Meier Jaffe,  
Ichud Habonim,  
78 Hayarkon Street,  
Tel-Aviv.

Dear Meier,

This is in reply to your letter of the 6th February and to some points raised in your letter of the 27th December, 1960 reference 715/2910.

HACHSHARA: Your news about a Shaliach to Hachshara has shocked me. It is absolutely no use even talking about Leib as a replacement if he is going to arrive here six months after the Bekkers go home. In fact I am now in utter despair on this issue. Do you really think that it is possible to run a Hachshara under such conditions? I am sure you realise that the body of opinion in South Africa against Hachshara, is very strong. The projects for youth are all, in a sense- anti-hachshara projects. The resignation of the first Shaliach to the farm is a powerful negative factor. The fact that we have managed to find a temporary stop-gap through Amen and Routh Bekker has done nothing except postpone the issue for another five months. What do you expect us to do after that? My own suggestion to both Danni and myself would be to pack up and go home. I want you to understand (and if necessary to take a copy of this letter to the Ichud, Ben Shalom, the Zionist Federation and every Mifal of our Movement), that your failure or more correctly the failure of Ichud Habonim Haolamit to find a Shaliach for Hachshara is a clear expression of a cynical and frivolous attitude to everything we are trying to do. It is no easy task at the best of times to find chaverim for the kibbutz. It is an even more difficult task to create a garin. Surely you people in Israel should be the first to appreciate this. The record shows firstly the dispatch of a person to Hachshara whose chief qualification was his farming knowledge and who has done us, even if unwittingly, a great deal of harm. Now you write and tell me that there will be Shaliach to Hachshara after June and possibly only after November or December. I refuse to accept this - and I demand that this matter be brought to an emergency meeting of the Mazkirut Hapeila. I expect a telegram giving us a final reply one way or another. I personally would be prepared to approach any one of the kibbutz movements if our own Movement cannot do anything and I include Hakibbutz Haartzi and Hakibbutz Hameuchad in this statement. I appreciate the implications but I consider the needs of Hachshara to override them completely.

Just so that there is no misunderstanding I want to reiterate that a Shaliach to Hachshara must arrive by the end of May and that no other arrangement can even be considered.

COPY

ICHUD HABONIM S.A.,  
324 Zionist Centre,  
84 de Villiers Street,  
Johannesburg.

16th February, 1961

Meier Jaffe,  
Kibbutz Yizrael,  
Doa Na Gilboa,  
Israel.

Shaich Meier,

Firstly let me wish you the best of luck in your new task. The movement certainly needs somebody working in the English department.

Sorry to bring up "business" so early on, but this letter concerns the lack of English publications from Ichud Habonim over the last year.

It is with great disappointment that we realize that, after all, the Ichud of Anash and Habonim did not lead to better educational material, more frequent English publications etc., but in fact the educational content of the World Movement, after starting off with a bang (5 Binyan and 2 Yesodot in the first year), has floundered to a complete halt.

It is an especially bitter pill to swallow for those of us who were on the Nachon in 1959 and who were the great protagonists of Ichud Habonim. We realize the difficulties faced in the World Offices, but nevertheless World Habonim managed to bring out regular publications of a high standard such as "Bemifaleinu" and "Habonim", and our contact with them was far greater and more rewarding for us than it is with World Ichud Habonim.

We definitely feel the need for a regular, high standard publication such as Binyan or Yesodot, and I ask you to bring this to the notice of the World Maskirut as soon as possible. We can't accept the fact that it is impossible to publish anything at all in English in the second year of Ichud Habonim, and I hope that the third year will show an improvement.

Aleh v'hagshen

(signed) Dave Frank

DAVE FRANK  
TRANSVAAL MASKIR

P.S. Regards to Doris and all the other chevre on Yizrael, from all at Kerkar.

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