

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWRY: AN ANALYSIS OF CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS

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This essay examines four specific South African Jewish communal institutions to show how they exist as part of a federation. It explores the extent of the influence of the host environment of South Africa on the institutionalization of the Jewish community, as well as the extent that this institutionalization was influenced by the Jewish political tradition.

Introduction

Critical to understanding the basis of a community's goals, structure, leadership, and philosophy is an analysis of that community's constitutional documents. This essay examines four specific South African Jewish communal institutions to show how they exist as part of a federation. Two questions will be examined in the case of South Africa.

1) To what extent did the host environment of South Africa influence the institutionalization of the Jewish community?

2) To what extent did the Jewish political tradition influence this institutionalization?

In examining the South African Jewish community, specific terminology will be applied in the analysis of the documents. Terms include *kehillah* (Jewish community), *brit arevut* (covenant of mutual

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responsibility), *chesed* (covenantal love), *gemilut chasadim* (acts of covenantal love), voluntary association, consensus, shared and divided authority, and aristocratic republicanism.¹

The specific language and relational context of the constitutional documents indicate a federated institutional structure. The word federal, derived from "*foedus*," means covenant, and connotes a covenant which tightly binds man to God, while at the same time radically emancipating humanity and enabling it to act on its own accord. Throughout history, Jews have organized their institutions on a federal basis and the South African community clearly bears this out.²

In addition to the Jewish political tradition, the environment which hosted the Jewish immigration to South Africa played an influential role in the development of the *edah*. From the British conquest of the Cape in 1806 through the Anglo-Boer war in 1899-1902, the presence of the British was a dominating force. The first group of Jews in 1806 was followed by further settlers in 1814 who contributed their talents in commerce, education, and community building. The early arriving Anglo-Jews in Cape Province were founders in Natal and the outlying areas of the Cape.³ Many were highly respected members of the community including doctors, lawyers, and other professionals from England and Germany. Later, the influx of Lithuanian Jews (Litvaks) in the 1880's combined cultural strengths with the already present anglicized Jews from Britain to form a unique combination of communal and Zionist forces which shaped the institutional structures as they stand today.⁴

In addition to the Anglo-Litvak integration, the Jews' relationship with the Afrikaners played a role in the development of the Jewish community. Jews who settled in South Africa were attracted by its urban-industrial frontier, and thereby eagerly helped further its development. Their relationship with the native Afrikaners experienced both ease and discomfort — ease because both peoples shared a struggle for "chosen" survival and historical identity, and cultural discomfort because the Jews identified more with the cosmopolitan British than the provincial Afrikaners. In addition, the Jews' view of law as portable and flexible, versus the Afrikaner view of it as rigid and fixed widened the gap still further between the two peoples.⁵

This environmental backdrop necessitated adaptability and flexibility from the Jews. Also, the integration of the Litvak and Anglo Jewish influences yielded a unique building ground for the forces which shaped the modern institutional structures. Powerful Zionist-centered thinking, bred heavily by the Litvak influence, mixed

with strong Anglican leadership in the economic and social spheres created the framework for South African Jewish communal institutions as they stand today.

Document Analysis

The following documents will be analyzed: constitutions of 1) the 1988 South African Zionist Federation (SAZF); 2) the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD); 3) the Israel United Appeal (IUA); and 4) the 1894 Jewish Philanthropic Society. Organizationally, these institutions fall into one of four patterns. They are: A) government-like institutions which perform a broad range of functions in place of a specific governmental authority. Such functions include both countrywide and local planes; B) local institutions that help connect citizens to Jewish life on the basis of their personal interests and needs; C) mass-based organizations which operate countrywide and articulate community values, attitudes, and policies. D) special interest organizations which function to mobilize concern and support for various community programs.⁶

South African Zionist Federation

The South African Federation grew towards the end of the century and added new dimension to the synagogue as the entity which served as the center for communal tasks. As a countrywide power, the federation assumed a major responsibility for formulating policy, largely due to the strong Litvak Zionist orientation. As a constituent of the World Zionist Organization, the SAZF possesses derived power from the WZO. In possessing derived power from the WZO, yet standing as the "sole agent in South Africa..." (SAZF, Article 2), it reflects a modern adaptation of the Jewish political tradition. With 40,000 members the SAZF stands as a representative body which centralizes, coordinates, formulates policy and initiates activity. It manages the Israel United Appeal, the principal fundraiser for Israel. It also fosters aliyah programs and encourages tourist visits to Israel.⁷ The SAZF meets in Johannesburg and promotes the aim of the Jerusalem program, adopted at the 27th World Zionist Congress. This aim is "the unity of the Jewish people, community and the centrality of Israel in Jewish life" (SAZF, Article III, Section 1).

In order to implement this goal, the SAZF must effectuate cooperative harmony with other institutions, and act in a manner which reflects *brit arevut*. Article III, Section (3)(ii) therefore posits: "the enlistment of the co-operation of Jewish bodies, societies, congregations and institutions, in the furtherance of the aims and objects of the Federation" [SAZF, Article III, Section 39(ii)]. The Federation's concept of *brit arevut*, covenant of mutual responsibility stands firmly in Article III, section 3(iii) which states what is necessary to obtain the Federation's goal, namely "The participation in efforts to organize Jewish life and co-operating with any Jewish Movement, for the maintenance and defence of Jewish rights, and for the welfare of the Jewish community of South Africa" [SAZF, Article III, Section 3(iii)].

The language of this provision suggests that the "maintenance and defence" will be upheld only with organized cooperation among affiliated Zionist bodies and communal institutions. This is further supported in the language of Article IV, outlining membership and structure. The membership criteria and careful language addresses the cooperation issue of bringing various groups together. The criteria for affiliation and the number of representatives are factors which are carefully spelled out in Article IV.

The Federation shall consist of all such affiliated Zionist bodies and communal Institutions, who certify their support for the Jerusalem Program, and the aims, objects and tasks of the Federation, and which are accepted as affiliated bodies, by the Executive Council of the Federation (hereinafter referred to as "the Executive Council") (SAZF, Article IV, Section 1).

The constitutional principle of shared and divided authority is reflected in the structure of the Executive Council. The fact that the Executive Council, elected by Conference, has "control and administration" of the Federation displays the characteristic of representative authority in the structure of the body. The Council is comprised of members from various other Jewish organizations, without which the Executive Council would not be complete. It is those organizational representatives who elect the Executive Council at biennial conferences (see SAZF, Articles IX and XII).

Language in the Conference provision of Article IX also reflects modern constitutional application of the existence of shared and divided authority through the specification of its composition. It states:

The composition of Conference shall, subject to (4) hereof, reflect the proportional representation of the Parties and Groups determined by the results of the elections last held before the Conference (SAZF, Article IX, section 2).

Such language indicates attentive crafting to ensure the fair representation of groups selected prior to the Conference (see SAZF, Article VIII).

The term "Honorary" in Section 3 of Article IX means volunteer, and reflects the voluntary associationalism inherent to this institutional structure. Thus, while the document omits specific Jewish terminology, its construction in terms of this provision shows steady adherence to the Jewish political tradition. In addition, with regard to procedure and decision-making by councils, the constitutional language reflects attention to territorial-based power while simultaneously emphasizing negotiation through consensus. Article XVII states:

Provincial Conferences shall be held at least once every two years, to deliberate and pass resolutions on Zionist affairs relating to the respective Province" (SAZF, Article XVII, Section 5).

Where no parties or Groups exist, or where they lack support, the Provincial Council Executive, with the consent of the National Headquarters of the Parties and Groups, shall be composed of members elected *ad personam*, and in accordance with the constitution of Provincial Councils. Provision shall be made to give recognition on Provincial Executive Councils, of supporters of Parties and Groups (SAZF, Article XVII, Section 10).

With regard to frequency, Executive Council meetings are held once a month, and upon written request by the Chairman of the Executive Council, a Special Meeting can be called within one week (see SAZF, Article XIII, Section 4). However, no particular attention is given to the Jewish calendar as it is inherent in the Jewish political tradition.

Finally, Article XVIA states that the Federation National Executive Council "shall be empowered to make and have implemented decisions of a national nature..." (SAZF, Article XVIA). This reflects the determination with which the South African Jewish community banded together as a national Jewish polity. In addition, the presence of by-laws, voting, amendments and provisions for dissolution in Articles XX-XXV make the structure tightly procedure-based and corporate in form. This yields a unique combination of mutual responsibility and shared and divided authority.

The factors which made this environment ripe for a nationally-based federation were twofold: one, was the fact that amidst a multiracial society infused with anti-Semitism, the Jews felt a need to operate strongly as a cohesive unit. In addition to this was the need for a workable integration of the Litvak and Anglican Jews. As a result, the SAZF was born out of combined Litvak Zionist political ideals molded into a structured, procedure-oriented Anglican model of leadership.⁸

South African Jewish Board of Deputies

The Board of Deputies was established with the British Parliamentary model in mind and stands as the community's representative within South African society. Institutionally, the Board relates to the community through member organizations. It is readily accepted by both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities as the authorized spokesman for the South African Jewish community and, as such, has the primary task of developing and maintaining good relations with the non-Jewish community. Because the South African Jewish Community has no status in public law, the Board's "authorization" connotes legitimation through consensus rather than legal standing.⁹

Because the Board has a broad-based agenda it must be both flexible and resourceful to achieve consensus. Among its *gemilut chesed* projects are the operation of a welfare department, promotion of adult education programs, religious and educational services for the country communities, and administration of the United Communal Fund, the fundraising body for the South African Jewish community.

The Board functions on a multitude of levels as an instrument for community planning and provision of Judaic resources. It serves the community through its 330 constituent organizations for whom any affiliation requires set criteria. The organization must be "any group of Jews organized for an authentic Jewish object."¹⁰ This general language reflects the needs of the community to have a broad base represented while simultaneously maintaining a national cohesive body politic.

The language in Article 10 regarding eligibility for Deputy positions reflects the South African pattern of drawing leaders from homogenous social strata. The top leaders are not drawn from industrialists and businessmen, but are mainly recruited from professional ranks such as lawyers.¹¹ According to the constitution, in

order to be a Deputy one must be eligible to serve on "a Municipal Council, Provincial Council, or as a member of Parliament" (*SAJBD*, Article 10).

Derivative from the aristocratic republican Jewish political tradition is the process of election of the Executive Council. It is voted in and its structure determined by a biennial congress of delegates from the constituent organizations. This shows an institutional need to develop consensus among B'nai Brit. The language of the document is written precisely with this goal in mind so that mutual responsibility between the national and provincial arenas is created. Article 15 provides full vesting of administrative power in the Executive Council. It states: "The administration of the Board shall be vested in the Executive Council" (*SAJBD*, Article 15). Pursuant to the Executive Council member structure is the committee structure articulated in Article 16. It states:

The Executive Council shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents (one from each Province), a Treasurer and nine other members; all of whom shall be elected by Congress. The President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer and eight other members must be resident within fifty miles of the headquarters of the Board — which shall be at Johannesburg, unless and until otherwise decided by a majority vote at Congress. The Executive Council shall have power to co-opt not more than five additional members who need not necessarily be Deputies at the time of their co-option.

Cape Town being the legislative capital, and the chief port of entry to South Africa, a committee of seven (one of whom shall be the Vice-President referred to in the preceding clause) who shall be resident within fifty miles of Cape Town, shall be elected by Congress, and act at Cape Town in co-operation with and with the approval of the Executive Council. This Committee shall elect a Chairman from among its members (*SAJBD*, Article 16).

* (The number seven is a characteristic one for governing councils of cities in many *kehillot*.)

It appears that the reference to Cape Town as the "legislative capital" was made as a compromise to help alleviate the underlying tension between Cape Town and Johannesburg as rivaling power centers. In fact, the document itself draws a distinction between Cape Town and the other Provincial Committees as power centers simply in the way the articles are worded. Either Cape Town Committee is spoken of separately in its own provision (Article 28) or is

inserted in provisional phrases in separate discussion of other committees (see Articles 28-29, 32).

The attention to residence requirements of Executive Council Committee members and co-operative action in their respective local power sites reflect the document's attention to community operations. Moreover, Article 24 cites detailed language regarding delegated power to Provincial Committees and specifies the exact sphere of jurisdiction and number of members to each committee. In fact, most of the work of the Board is done through these committees.

In concert with the federal nature of the Jewish political tradition, local power is evident in the language of Article 29. It states:

The Cape Town and Provincial Committees shall keep in regular contact with the Constituent Bodies in their respective Provinces, and shall keep the Board informed of matters of Jewish interest and shall make such recommendations with regard thereto as they may deem fit. (*SAJBD*, Article 29).

It is clear that the Provincial Committees are required to keep contact with the Constituent bodies and to keep the Board informed. Yet, the Board, in its explicit delegation of power to the committees by means of the Executive Council, stands mainly as a formal power center for these committees. The wording yields a high degree of localized power to the committees which they simultaneously use to strengthen their ties to the National Board.

Article 32 highlights another federalist aspect of this document, namely shared and divided authority. It states:

The Cape Town and Provincial Committees shall endeavor to secure affiliation to the Board of Jewish organizations within their respective areas (*SAJBD*, Article 32).

In the committees' attempt to secure affiliation to the Board, they are themselves wielding higher degrees of power on a local level. This then disseminates the active sources of power while preserving the document's formal power placement in the national body.

It is significant to note the absence of any overt Jewish terminology in this constitutional document. Fashioned on a parliamentary model, the language is designed in such a way as to provide for separate organizational representation on the Board. In addition, as a public purpose body, strict care is taken to ensure proper legal requirements for raising funds and vesting of property (see Articles 52-56).

Jewish political terminology is absent with respect to the scheduling of Board meetings. They do not occur in tune with the Jewish calendar but occur once a month at the headquarters of the Board. The time and place may vary and all that is required is five-day notice to all Deputies and members of the Executive Council (see *SAJBD*, Article 34).

Israel United Appeal

This body is a government-like institution with specific local and national arenas of power. Although technically it is subject to the disciplines imposed by the SAZF constitution its object is clear and specific. It aims to:

...conduct the national fundraising campaigns for the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency and to carry on activities and perform functions associated therewith or ancillary thereto which are designed to achieve the main object" (*Israel United Appeal*, amended 1989, Article 3, Section 3.2).

The presence of both a national committee, as well as a local planning committee, as laid out in Article 101, reflect the cooperative manner in which the IUA exercises leadership. The local committees can operate under their own constitutions which are then approved of by the national planning committee. Also, the provision for a national planning committee is constructed into the document to ensure precise delineation of tasks for this organizational body. Because it is subservient to the disciplines imposed by the SAZF, at least in its fundraising capacity, some limitation of powers must have been necessary to minimize the overlap and tension of the tasks between the two organizations. Therefore, the emphasis on a national planning committee is heavily pronounced in the constitution.

The IUA constitution specifically articulates its aim even though it is a constitutional body deriving power from the SAZF (see *IUA*, Article 3, Section 3.1). This is perhaps indicative of an attempt to assert its own standing and jurisdiction, typical of the South African institutional behavior. Yet, before addressing the goal, the document first outlines the interpretation of specific terminology such as the connotation of gender-infused language, days in reference to Jewish holidays, (in contrast to the Board of Deputies) and the designated meaning of particular committees (*IUA*, Article 2, Sections 2.1-2.8).

This particular sequence of constitutional crafting is not coincidence but follows suit with the standing it has as a body derived from the SAZF. As such, careful measures are taken in the language to ensure that power boundaries not be crossed over. Unlike the SAZF constitution, the IUA constitution specifically provides for enumerated powers in section 4. Section 5 again reiterates its relational powers with the SAZF as being "co-extensive." It states:

The area of operation and the area of fundraising of the organization shall be co-extensive with the area of operation and fundraising of the SAZF (*IUA*, Section 5).

In comparison with the Board of Deputies Constitution, the IUA has two similarities: 1) its strict care to ensure proper legal requirements for acquiring property, investing money, and operating accounts with banks; and, 2) its categorization of honorary officers (see *IUA*, Sections 4.2-4.5, 7.4).

In addition to certain technical similarities between the IUA and Board constitutions, both also address the tension between local provincial power and national power. As such Section 10 on "local committees" in the IUA document separates each province's domain of power and operation in line with the national and executive committee's approval. The fact that the Natal Zionist Council is separate from Pretoria and Cape Province while both are in consultation with the national planning committee reflects the Jewish political tradition of striking balance in a federated body politic. The SAZF also addresses this tension in its enumeration of provincial Zionist Councils.

Structurally, the IUA constitution displays a degree of hierarchical power with regard to local committees. The text of articles 10.3 and 10.4 provide limited power to local committees since their actions are subject to approval by the national committee. However, this in no way means the relinquishing of authority by the local institutions. This is classic aristocratic republicanism because while the polity of the South African Jewish community belongs to all of its constituency, its leadership formally emanates from the national committee. However, the form and content of the IUA's language enables significant local power.

This document's striking feature is the detail in which it outlines the structure for the national and planning committees. In its structural effort to carefully craft the definition, criteria, and tasks of each committee, the document reflects the Jewish political tradition of weaving local and national institutional identity together. This

stands in logical accordance with the South African Jewish community's formal national unity, and simultaneous effective operation on a local level. Therefore when borne out in the language of the document, we are better able to understand the Jewish community dynamic.

Cape Town Jewish Philanthropic Society, 1894

The concept of *middat harahamim*, God's love and mercy, and *gemilut chasadim*, acts of covenantal love, are reflected in the constitutional language of this special interest group. The Constitution posits an overriding theme of *gemilut chasadim* in its Rules and Regulations. Clause 1 states:

The object of the Society is to afford financial assistance to Jews in distress or sickness, and to find work for those in want of employment (*Cape Town Jewish Philanthropic Society*, Rules and Regulations, Clause 1).

Also, the importance of the *luach* is present in Law III, regarding time in which annual general meetings are held. It states:

The President shall convene a General Meeting of the Subscribers annually on the Sunday following Yom Kippur, or on the first convenient day thereafter, for the purpose of receiving the Report and Balance Sheet, for electing President, Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, Members of Committee, and two Auditors, and such other business as may be stated in the circular..." (*Cape Town Jewish Philanthropic Society*, Laws, Section III).

The Jewish political tradition clearly influenced the wording of this provision, but it is worth noting that this is a document crafted in 1894. Those written more recently usually do not reflect the influence of the Jewish calendar although other concepts of the Jewish political tradition such as *brit arevut*, *gemilut chasadim*, and voluntary association are embedded in their constitutional design. Retention of Jewish political values suggests that the federation as a *kehillah* strives to foster qualitative cohesion and independent structure within the parameters of the South African community as a whole while maintaining a direct link to the particularistic Jewish political tradition.

Notes

1. On terminology, see Daniel J. Elazar and Stuart A. Cohen, eds., *The Jewish Polity: Jewish Political Organization from Biblical Times to the Present* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985); Rela Geffen Monson, "What is Jewish About the Constitutional Documents of American Jewry?" *A Double Bond* (New York: University Press of America, 1992), pp. 58-60.
2. Daniel J. Elazar, *The Jewish Polity: The Jewish Political Tradition from Biblical Times to the Present* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985), pp. 10-11.
3. Daniel J. Elazar, *People and Polity: The Organizational Dynamics of World Jewry* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1989) p. 199.
4. Daniel J. Elazar with Peter Medding, *Jewish Communities in Frontier Societies* (New York: Holmes & Meier, 1983), pp. 158, 166.
5. *Ibid.*, pp. 175-176.
6. Daniel J. Elazar, *The Jewish Polity*, pp. 277-278.
7. Daniel J. Elazar with Peter Medding, *Jewish Communities in Frontier Societies*, pp. 199-200; Steven Aschheim, "The Communal Organization of South African Jewry," (Philadelphia: Center for Jewish Community Studies, 1974), p. 211.
8. Daniel J. Elazar with Peter Medding, *Jewish Communities in Frontier Societies*, p. 173.
9. *Ibid.*, p. 192; Steven Aschheim, "The Communal Organization of South African Jewry," p. 207.
10. Steven Aschheim, "The Communal Organization of South African Jewry," p. 207.
11. *Ibid.*, p. 220.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION, 1988

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the Organization shall be, "The South African Zionist Federation," hereinafter referred to as, "the Federation."

ARTICLE II: AFFILIATION

1. The Federation, as a constituent of the World Zionist Organization, hereinafter referred to as, "the Organization" shall carry on its work in accordance with the Rules adopted, and the Resolutions passed, from time to time, by the Zionist Congress, and shall be the medium of communication between its constituent bodies and the Organization.
2. The Federation, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Organization, shall be the sole agent in South Africa, of the Organization and the Jewish Agency.
3. The Federation shall determine the conduct of its affairs, the form of its organization and procedures.

ARTICLE III: AIMS, OBJECTS AND TASKS

1. AIMS

The Federation accepts, and shall promote in South Africa, the aims of the Organization known as the "Jerusalem Programme" and adopted at the 27th World Zionist Congress, held in Jerusalem in June 1968 and which are:

- (a) The unity of the Jewish people, and the centrality of Israel in Jewish life.
- (b) The in-gathering of the Jewish People, in its historic homeland, Eretz Israel, through Aliya, from all countries.
- (c) The strengthening of the State of Israel, which is based on the prophetic visions of justice and peace.
- (d) The preservation of the identity of the Jewish People through the fostering of Jewish and Hebrew education, and of Jewish spiritual and cultural values.
- (e) The protection of Jewish rights everywhere.

2. OBJECTS

The Federation accepts, and shall promote in South Africa, the programme of work, of the Zionist Organization, as follows:

- (a) Encouragement of Aliya, absorption and integration of immigrants, support of Youth Aliya; stimulation of agricultural settlements and economic development; acquisition of land, as the property of the people;
- (b) Intensive work for chalutzit (pioneering) and training for chalutzit;
- (c) Concerted efforts to collect funds, in order to carry out the tasks of Zionism;
- (d) Encouragement of private capital investment;
- (e) Fostering of Jewish consciousness by propagating the Zionist idea, and strengthening the Zionist Movement; imparting of the values of Judaism; Hebrew education, and spreading the Hebrew language;
- (g) Participation in efforts to organise and intensify Jewish life, on democratic foundations, maintenance, and defence of Jewish rights;
- (h) The raising of funds and the collection of contributions to finance its operations and to support the humanitarian, welfare, and social needs of the State of Israel.

3. TASKS

The following means shall be adopted, to attain the objects of the Federation:

- (i) The co-ordination, under the authority of the Federation by affiliation or otherwise, of all Zionist Organizations and groups, doing work for Israel, who desire to co-operate in the furtherance of the aims and objects set out herein.
- (ii) The enlistment of the co-operation of Jewish bodies, societies, congregations and institutions, in the furtherance of the aims and objects of the Federation.
- (iii) The participation in efforts to organize Jewish life and co-operating with any Jewish Movement for the maintenance and defence of Jewish rights, and for the welfare of the Jewish community of South Africa.
- (iv) The fostering and encouraging of a national sentiment in the Jewish Youth of South Africa, for pioneering tasks, and the fulfilment of its duties towards the Jewish People and the State of Israel.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

1. The Federation shall consist of all such affiliated Zionist bodies and communal Institutions, who certify their support for the Jerusalem Programme, and the aims, objects and tasks of the Federation, and which are accepted as affiliated bodies, by the Executive Council of the Federation (hereinafter referred to as "the Executive Council").
2. Branches of affiliated South African Zionist Parties or Groups, will be automatically affiliated to the Federation, in consequence of the affiliation of their parent bodies.
3. Each affiliated body shall pay R5 per annum, as dues to the Federation.
4. The Women's Zionist Council of South Africa, as the governing body of the Women's Zionist Organization of South Africa; the South African Zionist Youth Council, as the governing body of the Zionist Youth Movement in South Africa shall be departments of the Federation, the South African Maccabi Council, as the governing body of the Maccabi Movement in South Africa, shall inter alia act as a department of the Federation.
5. All bodies affiliated to the Women's Zionist Council, the South African Zionist Youth Council, and the South African Maccabi Council, shall be subject to the discipline of the Federation, and shall pay to their respective Councils such dues as the said Councils shall determine.
6. The Executive Council may recognise as, or constitute as departments of the Federation, the National Councils of such organizations as already exist, or may establish, as departments of the Federation, councils or committees, for the performance of specified Zionist tasks. The said bodies and/or departments referred to herein shall be subject to the discipline of the Federation.

ARTICLE IX: CONFERENCE AND ITS COMPOSITION

1. Conference shall be held every two years, as determined in Article V hereof, which Conference shall be held not later than three months after the elections in South Africa have been held, in terms of Article V hereof. Notice of the time and place of the holding of Conference shall be given by a circular, to all affiliated bodies, not less than two months prior to the holding thereof, indicating the time and place of Conference.
2. The composition of Conference shall, subject to (4) hereof, reflect the proportional representation of the Parties and Groups determined by the results of the elections last held before the holding of Conference.

3. The business of such Conference shall be:

- (a) To receive and consider an oral summary of the Report and Financial Statement of the Executive Council;
- (b) Receive and decide upon resolutions and proposals brought before it which have been submitted to all delegates;
- (c) To elect the Honorary Officers and Office Bearers;
- (d) To elect the Executive Council and the President of the Court of Honour, for the ensuing terms; and
- (e) To receive and decide on such other matters as shall be submitted by the Executive Council and/or affiliated Bodies.

4. Conference shall consist of:

- (a) Three hundred delegates, representing Parties and Groups, which contested the elections last held before the holding of Conference;
- (b) Members of the Outgoing Executive Council;
- (c) Seven delegates of the South African Zionist Youth Council, three delegates of the South African Maccabi Council, three delegates of the Medical Zionist Council, and three delegates of Tnuat Aliya;
- (d) Representatives of major communal institutions. The number thereof shall be decided upon by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Council of the Federation;
- (e) A maximum of ten additional delegates, to be appointed by the Executive Council, by virtue of their standing in the Zionist Movement, or the Jewish Community;
- (f) Persons invited by the Executive Council, as visitors or observers, without the right to vote.
- (g) Ten delegates of the Israel United Appeal.
- (h) Sixty delegates, representing Women's Zionist Societies throughout the Republic elected by such societies.
- (i) All Members of the Women's Zionist Council who are not Members of the Executive Council.

**CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN
JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES
(undated, possibly 1930s)**

NAME

1. The Organisation shall be known as the "South African Jewish Board of Deputies."

OBJECTS

2. The Board shall watch and take action with regard to all matters affecting the welfare of the Jews in the southern portion of the Continent of Africa.

MEMBERSHIP

3. (a) The Board shall consist of such Jewish Organisations, congregations, institutions, societies and communities in South Africa having a bona fide, continuous existence as have been admitted to membership.
(b) Any such body may make application to the Board for membership. Such application must be in writing addressed to the Secretary of the Board and accompanied by a copy of the rules and regulations of the applicant body and payment of the current year's membership subscription (see Rule 12). The applicant shall also furnish such further information as the Board may require. It shall then be within the discretion of the Board to grant or refuse such application, but the applicants may, if refused, appeal to Congress whose ruling shall be final.

DEPUTIES

4. Every Constituent Body shall be entitled to appoint a representative or representatives to the Board, who shall be known as its Deputy or Deputies.
5. A Constituent Body having (a) less than 200 members shall be entitled to 1 Deputy; (b) 200 members or more, to 2 Deputies; and (c) 300 members or more, to 3 Deputies.
6. Deputies shall be persons of not less than 21 years of age.
7. No person shall at the same time represent more than one Institution on the Board.

* * *

13. The Executive Council shall have the power on good cause being shown to reduce the minimum subscription fixed for membership.
14. Constituent Bodies in arrears with more than one year's fees may, at the discretion of the Board, forthwith be declared no longer entitled to representation on the Board.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND CAPETOWN COMMITTEE

15. The administration of the Board shall be vested in an Executive Council.
16. The Executive Council shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents (one from each Province), a Treasurer and nine other members; all of whom shall be elected by Congress. The President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer and eight other members must be resident within fifty miles of the headquarters of the Board — which shall be at Johannesburg, unless and until otherwise decided by a majority vote at Congress. The Executive Council shall have power to co-opt not more than five additional members who need not necessarily be Deputies at the time of their co-option.

Cape Town being the legislative capital, and the chief port of entry to South Africa, a committee of seven (one of whom shall be the Vice-President referred to in the preceding clause) who shall be resident within fifty miles of Cape Town, shall be elected by Congress, and act at Cape Town in co-operation with and with the approval of the Executive Council. This Committee shall elect a Chairman from among its members.

All expenses of this Committee shall be borne by the Board.

17. The office of President shall not be occupied by the same person for more than three consecutive terms, but he shall be eligible again for the position of President after he has vacated that office for a term.
18. In the event of a vacancy occurring during its period of office, the Executive Council shall have power to fill the vacancy forthwith from among the Deputies, and the person so appointed shall hold office until the next Congress.
19. Any member of the Executive Council who without leave of absence shall absent himself from three consecutive regular meetings of the Executive Council shall be considered to have vacated his seat, and the vacancy shall forthwith be filled in accordance with the manner prescribed in Clause 18.
20. The Executive Council may, from time to time, delegate, either with or without conditions or restrictions, to the President any of the powers of the Council.
21. Meetings of the Executive Council shall be convened by the President, or in his absence, by the member next in seniority.

22. The Executive Council shall have power to appoint, dismiss, and fix the salaries of officials. Such appointments or dismissals shall only be made at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, and the resolution of appointment or dismissal must be passed by three-fourths of those present.
23. In cases of emergency, the Executive Council shall have all the powers vested in the Board. In the same manner the Executive Council can delegate its powers to the President of the Board.

CAPETOWN AND PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES

24. The Executive Council shall make arrangements for the election of Provincial Committees by the Constituent Bodies of the Board in —
 - (a) Durban,
 - (b) Bloemfontein, and
 - (c) Port Elizabeth.
25. The Durban Committee shall represent Constituent Bodies in Natal, and shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee as its Chairman.
26. The Bloemfontein Committee shall represent the Constituent Bodies in the Orange Free State, and shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee as its Chairman.
27. The Port Elizabeth Committee shall represent the Constituent Bodies of the Eastern Province of the Cape, and shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee as its Chairman.
28. The Cape Town Committee shall meet as often as it shall be necessary to transact the business of the Board at Cape Town and shall forward copies of all Minutes of its meetings to the Secretary of the Board.
29. The Cape Town and Provincial Committees shall keep in regular contact with the Constituent Bodies in their respective Provinces, and shall keep the Board informed of matters of Jewish interest and shall make such recommendations with regard thereto as they may deem fit.
30. The Provincial Committees shall meet at least once in every quarter and shall forward immediately after every meeting copies of the Minutes of that Meeting to the Board.
31. Vacancies on the Cape Town and Provincial Committees shall be filled in the same manner as vacancies on the Executive Council.
32. The Cape Town and Provincial Committees shall use every endeavour to secure affiliation to the Board of Jewish organisations within their respective areas.

ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

33. At the first ordinary meeting of the Board after every Congress, the following Committees shall be elected from the members of the Executive Council:
- (a) A Finance Committee to consist of the Hon. Treasurer as Chairman and two other members; the Executive Council shall have power to appoint additional members on this Committee.
 - (b) A Law, Press and Statistical Committee to consist of five members.
- The President shall be an *ex-officio* member of these committees. A quorum at meetings of these committees shall consist of three members thereof.
34. An ordinary meeting of the Board shall be held once in every month at the headquarters of the Board, and the Secretary shall issue notices as to the time and place of such meetings to all Deputies and members of the Executive Council at least five days before the date of such meeting.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ISRAEL UNITED APPEAL

Approved by the N.C.C., August 1984;
Amended and Ratified, June 1985; Amended 1989

1. NAME
The name of the body shall be THE ISRAEL UNITED APPEAL (hereinafter referred to as "the I.U.A.").
2. INTERPRETATION
In this constitution, unless a contrary intention clearly appears —
 - 2.1 words importing any one gender include the other two genders, words in the singular include the plural and *vice versa* and words importing natural persons include artificial persons and *vice versa*;
 - 2.2 the headings of the clauses are for convenience only and shall not aid in the interpretation of or modify those clauses;
 - 2.3 whenever a number of days is referred to, they shall exclude Jewish holidays;
 - 2.4 "the executive committee" means the committee referred to as such in clause 7;
 - 2.5 "the I.U.A." means THE ISRAEL UNITED APPEAL;

- 2.6 "local committees" means the local committees referred to as such in clause 10;
- 2.7 "the national planning committee" means the committee referred to as such in clause 6;
- 2.8 "the SAZF" means THE SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION.

3. OBJECT

- 3.1 The I.U.A. is a constituent body of the SAZF, and is subject to the disciplines imposed by the constitution of the SAZF on bodies affiliated to it.
- 3.2 The object of the I.U.A. is to conduct the national fundraising campaigns for the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency and to carry on activities and perform functions associated therewith or ancillary thereto which are designed to achieve the said main object.

4. POWERS

In order to achieve its object the I.U.A. shall have the following powers —

- 4.1 without derogating from any other power conferred by this constitution, to acquire, whether by purchase, lease or otherwise, premises, equipment and facilities;
- 4.2 to acquire by purchase, gift or otherwise movable or immovable property and rights of every description and to sell, dispose of, lease and hypothecate any such property for consideration or otherwise;
- 4.3 to borrow or raise or secure the payment of money in such manner as the I.U.A. shall think fit and, in particular, by hypothecating its property;
- 4.4 to open and operate accounts with banks, building societies and other financial institutions;
- 4.5 to deal with and invest the money of the I.U.A. not immediately required by it;
- 4.6 to appoint committees and subcommittees or other sections to carry out the object of the I.U.A. and to delegate to such committees or sections

* * *

- 10.3 The activities of the I.U.A. in the areas of jurisdiction of local committees shall be conducted on its behalf by those committees in consultation with the national planning committee and subject to its overriding jurisdiction.

- 10.4 The local committees shall operate in terms of rules or constitutions prepared by them and approved of by the national planning committee or the executive committee.

* * *

CAPE TOWN JEWISH PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY

April 15, 1894

OBJECT

To Relieve or Assist Jews in Distress.

LAWS

as revised and adopted at a General Meeting of the Subscribers, held Sunday, April 15th, 1894.

MEMBERSHIP

I. — Subscribers of not less than 24s per annum shall be considered Members, but shall not be considered eligible to serve on the Committee until they shall have been Members for six months. Subscriptions shall be payable in advance.

MANAGEMENT

II. — The management of the Society shall be vested in a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, and seven Members of Committee, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

III. — The President shall convene a General Meeting of the Subscribers annually on the Sunday following Yom Kippur, or on the first convenient day thereafter, for the purpose of receiving the Report and Balance Sheet, for electing [the] President, Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, seven Members of Committee, and two Auditors, and such other business as may be stated in the circular.

CAPE TOWN JEWISH PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The object of the Society is to afford financial assistance to Jews in distress or sickness, and to find work for those in want of employment.
2. Anyone may become a member of the Society on payment of an annual subscription of One guinea, and if not in arrears shall be entitled to vote at all General Meetings of the Society.
3. The governing body of the Society shall be a Committee which shall consist of thirteen members, twelve of whom shall be elected by the general body of members, and one shall be the Minister of the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation for the time being. The President, Vice President, Hon. Treasurer, and two Hon. Secretaries shall be elected by and from the Committee. One half of the Committee shall retire at each Annual General Meeting. A retiring member shall be eligible for reelection. Five shall form a quorum, and minutes shall be taken of all the proceedings of the Committee and be open to inspection by members of the Committee. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee from any cause, the Committee shall have power to fill up the vacancy without calling a General Meeting, and the member thus elected shall retire when the member whose place he fills would have retired.
4. The Committee shall be divided into three Sub-Committees, each consisting of four members. These Sub-Committees shall be responsible for investigating cases, for finding employment, and for collecting subscriptions and donations, respectively.