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DRM303 ROTTM 25 2 939A

TRY---29 WASHINGTON SQUARE
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LC ELEANORE ROOSEVELT WASHINGTONHEIGHTS NY

BEING IN HOLLAND APPRECIATE TO SEE YOU REMIND NEWYORKER

CORRESPONDENCE 1947 SURINAME AND JEWISH PROBLEM

HENRI VANLEEUVEN GWBURGERPLEIN 1 ROTTERDAM.

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In*

SJ

van Leluwenaar

Attached is an old 1946 letter from this boy,
there must have been one from him since then
but we have no record in the files. It must
have either been referred to the UN or disappeared
down the "No ans" drain.



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12 May 1947

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Dear Mrs Roosevelt.

You remember perhaps my last letter in which I wrote you that a Commission of the United Nations would go to Suriname invited by the Surinamese Government for discussion of a mass colonization of Jews in Suriname.

Our conversations in Suriname has led to a result. 30000 Jews will be settled in areas which we will select later on and which are apt for agriculture and industrial development. by a Jewish community having their own cultural and economy.

If this would be a success the possibilities are very promising for further colonization.

I send you some copies of the memorandum which we agreed upon and the view we sent 5 May to the Governor.

Now it will be sent up to the Dutch Government and then to the

tion (parliament) of Suriname. II
After their approval, we will send
a commission of experts and must start
of establishment of the financial
institutions necessary for this work.

I am still grateful for the
moral support you gave me in the
beginning and will never forget that.

If you wish to know further
details, I should be pleased to give
same to you.

Perhaps you might give us
your advice.

The country itself is not so
bad as is always described.

The temperature is warm but
windy and healthy. The country is 5 times
as big as Holland. 2/3 are woods
the best is fruitful.

There is a lack of capital and
labour in this country! 100,000 people
are living in this big area

At plenty of capital and labour ^{##}
unions and a wise plan. There could
be created enormous possibilities.

I think you don't take me
ill that I keep you at a current
of what we are doing

Our commission consisted of
D. J. Steenberg, D. Fruchtbaum and
myself.

Respectfully
Yours

Henry Sheuwy
91-16 68th Avenue
Forest Hills

Perhaps this solution might be
a pattern for the solution in
other undeveloped countries.

20/4

FREELAND LEAGUE

FOR JEWISH TERRITORIAL COLONIZATION

1819 BROADWAY, Suite 301-4

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

DR. I. N. STEINBERG

Secretary General

SAUL GOODMAN

Executive Secretary

MEMORANDUM

AS ACCEPTED BY JOINT SESSION OF GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION OF SURINAM AND THE DELEGATION OF FREELAND LEAGUE.

NAT'L EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- I. ABRAMS (Chicago)
- K. BERGER (Montreal)
- MRS. L. CANTOR
- O. CHABOTSKY
- J. CHERNIAK (Winnipeg)
- J. DWORKIN (Toronto)
- A. FILLER (Los Angeles)
- DR. L. M. FRUCHTBAUM
- J. GORSKI
- A. KIN
- E. KORMAN (Detroit)
- G. KWECHANSKY (Montreal)
- J. LEVIN
- M. MENDELBERG
- DR. J. MINKIN
- J. RUBINSTEIN
- MRS. A. SIEGEL
- A. STAFF
- C. STAFF
- N. TURAK
- H. VAN LEEUWEN
- J. ZELITCH (Philadelphia)

We have the honor to submit, on behalf of the Freeland League, the following Memorandum, which sets out a scheme for Jewish colonization in some unoccupied area of Surinam.

The conditions under which it is proposed that a Jewish Settlement should be established are formulated in the following paragraphs.

1. The investigation and the selection of undeveloped areas in Surinam suitable for Jewish colonization will be conducted, in cooperation with the authorities of Surinam, by a special commission of experts to be dispatched by the Freeland League, after the preliminary consent of the Surinam Government to the proposal of the Freeland League will be given.
2. The colonization should be developed in the form and on the lines of community settlement. The community type of colonization is preferable because, as history and experience have shown, settlers are most successful in a new country when they are bound by ties of common tradition, suffering and hopes. The Jewish homeless need, first of all a familiar communal environment after their cruel experiences in Europe. Such a colonization, furthermore, creates the best conditions for an agro-industrial development of the areas in view, and prevents any waste of human and material resources.

There is no reason to doubt the eventual success of such a settlement, provided that it is developed in accordance with sound economic principles, backed by adequate finance, scientifically planned and making use of the latest technological and hygienic methods.

3. The Jewish Settlement is not intended to become a separate political entity. It should be clearly understood that its member should aim at being admitted in due course and in con-

formity with the laws of the land, to the citizenship of Surinam and the Dutch Commonwealth. The law and administration of Surinam should be introduced in the Settlement from the beginning. The Dutch language should be considered as a common bond binding together all groups of the population in Surinam. The fact that almost all European Jews know either Yiddish or German should render it easy for the settlers to master the Dutch language within the shortest possible time.

4. The members of the Jewish Settlement would accept in full the duties of taxation and defense, except that as far as possible exemption from taxes and duties on goods necessary for the colonization may be granted by the authorities during the initial stage of the settlement. Apart from that, the settlers should enjoy rights of autonomy in local government as far as possible. At the same time, it must be stressed that the settlers should be united with the whole population through an adequate representation in the governing bodies of Surinam after they have become Surinam citizens.

5. The Jewish Settlement which aims at becoming a part of Surinam would wholeheartedly support the inclusion of Surinam within the framework of Metropolitan Holland, provided, of course, that this proposal were welcomed by the Dutch Government and the local population.

6. The freedom of existence and development of Jewish culture, including religion, language, literature, should be guaranteed. The observance of Sabbath and festivals should be free, including their observance by public authorities in the predominantly Jewish areas, as long as this is not in conflict with the functions of the central government. The educational system should give the young generation and the adults full possibility of being attached to Surinam and Dutch culture as well as being faithful to their spiritual heritage. Full scope should, therefore, be given to the teaching of the Jewish language in the schools and to its use as an initial medium of instruction.

7. The organization of the whole work in the first pioneering stage of the settlement would be directed by the Freeland League or the Colonizing Body set up by it for this purpose, and acting under the supervision of the Government. The Freeland League would be responsible for the selection of the pioneers, for the elaboration and realization of the economic and cultural plans, and for the management of the land and the other public utilities. At the conclusion of this period, when the foundations of the new economy and community have been laid,

the second organic stage of colonization would commence.

8. The economy of the settlement, especially in the initial period, should be a planned one and based as much as necessary on cooperative methods. The plans for agricultural and industrial work would be made according to the advice of the Expert Commission. Agriculture is here meant to be the primary industry, embracing the growing of fruits, vegetables, cereals. Attached to it should be the grazing of cattle and sheep in suitable areas, dairying and fishing. In close association with the growing of the raw materials various manufactures would be built up for the domestic and foreign markets of Surinam. Industries which exist on a small scale could be substantially expanded, and many new industries could be started.

9. The colonization would be financed not on a philanthropic but on a business basis. The necessary funds would be provided by a special Jewish financial institution built up with the support of the Jewish people throughout the world. It is the aim of the Freeland League that the settlement should become self-supporting at the earliest possible time. Every effort would be made to cooperate with the Surinam community and to make her members share in the common prosperity, and to promote trade with the mother country, which would naturally be most attractive to the settlers in view of the ties of language, political sympathies and economic and financial connections.

In conclusion, we respectfully ask the Government to give consideration to the above formulated conditions of Jewish colonization in Surinam, and to let us know their decision upon them so that we could make the preparations necessary for the appointment of the Expert Commission by the Freeland League.

April 20, 1947

5/4/47

HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR OF SURINAM
PARAMARIBO
SURINAM, D.G.

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 21, WE HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOU THAT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE FREELAND LEAGUE HAS RECEIVED FROM ITS DELEGATION TO SURINAM A REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN PARAMARIBO FROM APRIL 11 to APRIL 20, 1947. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, AT A SPECIAL CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW YORK ON MAY 3, and 4th, 1947, gave full consideration to the JOINT STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION OF SURINAM AND THE DELEGATION OF THE FREELAND LEAGUE; AND REACHED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

1. THE FREELAND LEAGUE ADHERES TO THE MEMORANDUM AS AMENDED AND JOINTLY ACCEPTED ON APRIL 20, 1947 BY THE GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION AND THE DELEGATION OF THE FREELAND LEAGUE.
2. CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF COLONISTS TO BE SETTLED, THE FREELAND LEAGUE ACCEPTS THE PROPOSAL OF THE COMMISSION THAT 30,000 JEWISH SETTLERS BE ADMITTED TO THE AREA OR AREAS SELECTED FOR COLONIZATION.
3. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE PAID SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE CONTINUATION OF IMMIGRATION AFTER THE ABOVE MENTIONED FIGURE HAD BEEN REACHED. THE EXECUTIVE FELT THAT, IN THE INTERESTS OF THE SUCCESSFUL REALIZATION OF THE COLONIZATION PROJECT, CLEAR CUT PROVISIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED FOR A PERMANENT FLOW OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TO SURINAM. HOWEVER, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE SITUATION IN SURINAM AS PRESENTED BY THE COMMISSION, THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DECIDED NOT TO PRESS THIS POINT BUT TO ACCEPT THE STATEMENT OF THE COMMISSION THAT, "IF THIS IMMIGRATION AS IT EXPECTS, TURNS OUT TO BE AN ADVANTAGE TO THE SURINAM COMMUNITY, THIS COUNTRY WILL READILY NEGOTIATE ABOUT CONTINUATION OF IMMIGRATION". CONFIDENT AS WE ARE THAT THE PROJECT WILL BENEFIT BOTH SIDES, AND RELYING UPON THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL WHICH WAS CREATED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE FREELAND LEAGUE TRUSTS THAT THE PROBLEM OF

FOR THE UNITED STATES
MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION
REGISTRATION AND INVESTIGATION
MATTERS REFERRED TO THE
THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHODS
VALIDITY OF THE RESULTS
FOR OBSERVATION OF THE
THE APPLICABLE TRENDS - II
AN INVESTIGATION CAN BE

5-0963

FREELAND LEAGUE

FOR JEWISH TERRITORIAL COLONIZATION

1819 BROADWAY, Suite 301-4

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 1947.

COLONY FOR JEWS WILL BE WEIGHED

Group Here to Discuss Dutch
Offer of Land for 30,000
in South America

An offer by the Dutch Government of Surinam to the Freeland League for Jewish Territorial Colonization to open territory in South America for 30,000 homeless European Jews will be discussed here by the national executive committee of the league next Saturday and Sunday.

Announcement of the conference was made yesterday by Saul Goodman, executive secretary of the league, from its office in 1819 Broadway. He said committee members would be present from New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and Montreal.

Mr. Goodman reported that the group would discuss a memorandum accepted on April 20 at a joint session of a governmental commission of Surinam and a delegation from the Freeland League.

The session in Surinam, or Dutch Guiana, was attended in behalf of the Dutch Government by Dr. M. DeGroot, head of the Department for Social Service and Immigration; Dr. R. H. Pos, Attorney General; H. A. M. Specken, head of the Finance Department, and Dr. H. L. DeVries and J. A. DeMiranda

of the Legislative Council. The league representatives were Dr. I. N. Steinberg, secretary general, and Dr. L. M. Fruchtbaum and Henri Van Leeuwen, members of the national executive committee.

Conditions of Settlement

The memorandum followed ten days of negotiations. It will be the basis of the discussions here, as it outlines the conditions under which the Jewish settlement should be established.

Colonization, according to the memorandum, would be financed not on a philanthropic but on a business basis. The necessary funds would be provided by a special Jewish financial institution built up with the support of Jewish persons throughout the world.

"It is the aim of the Freeland League that the settlement should become self-supporting at the earliest possible time," the document said. "Every effort would be made to cooperate with the Surinam community and to make her members share in the common prosperity and to promote trade with the mother country, which would naturally be most attractive to the settlers in view of the ties of language, political sympathies and economic and financial connections.

"The members of the Jewish settlement would accept in full the duties of taxation and defense, except that as far as possible exemption from taxes and duties on goods necessary for the colonization may be granted by the authorities during the initial stage of the settlement.

"Apart from that, the settlers should enjoy rights of autonomy in

local government as far as possible. At the same time, it must be stressed that the settlers should be united with the whole population through an adequate representation in the governing bodies of Surinam after they have become Surinam citizens."

Community Settlements

The joint commission, it was pointed out, agreed that the colonization should be developed in the form and on the lines of community settlement. Such colonization, it was declared, created the best conditions for an agro-industrial development of the areas in view and prevented any waste of human and material resources.

"There is no reason to doubt the eventual success of such a settlement," the commission said, "provided that it is developed in accordance with sound economic principles, backed by adequate finance, scientifically planned and making use of the latest technological and hygienic methods."

The economy of the settlement, especially in the initial period, should be "planned" and based as much as necessary on cooperative methods, it was asserted. The plans for agricultural and industrial work would be made according to the advice of an expert commission.

Agriculture is meant to be the primary industry, embracing the growing of fruits, vegetables and cereals, according to the memorandum. Grazing of cattle and sheep in suitable areas is planned and dairying and fishing are contemplated. In close association with the growing of the raw materials, various manufactures would be built up for the domestic and foreign markets of Surinam.

I seem to remember
something unpleasant
about this gentleman!

Regret nothing
Mrs. Seay do
I must
do not give letters
of advice to Mr. Seay

114-06 Queens Boulevard
Forest Hills, Long Island
July 2, 1946

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
25 Washington Square, W.
New York, 11, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

As you suggested in your letter of May 13th, I contacted the Dutch Government, and am taking the liberty of enclosing copies of several letters from Holland and also a copy of a letter I mailed today to the Prime-Minister of Holland.

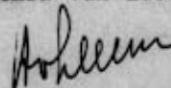
I should appreciate it greatly if you have any additional suggestions in this connection.

Do you think an interview with Mr. Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations would help bring the matter up before the United Nations Assembly? If so, may I ask that you use your good offices in securing such an interview for me?

Thanking you in advance for any courtesy shown me, I remain

Gratefully yours,

Henri van Leeuwen



The letter of the Secretary of the Prime Minister

The Cabinet of the Prime Minister
Sp/MS. No. 12955

The Hague, 28 May 1946
Plein 1815, No.4

Dear Dr. Raptchinsky,

I have received your letter of 25 April 1946. The whole matter was discussed with Minister Logemann. The latter dispatched all data to Surinam and we are now expecting an answer from there. Greatly to our regret we have not yet received any reply from there so that I cannot yet give you any decisive answer. As soon as I shall have heard anything I shall communicate you directly.

With polite greetings and the greatest regards
The Secretary of the Prime Minister
H. Spanjaard.

To the Honourable and Very Learned Dr. B. Raptchinsky
Valeriusstraat 262
Amsterdam Z

The letter of Prof. W. Banning.

Driebergen, 26 May 1946

To the Honourable and Very Learned Dr. B. Raptchinsky
Valeriusstraat 262
Amsterdam Z.

Dear Sir,

The conversation that Prof. Kraemer and I were to have with the Prime Minister Schermerhorn only took place last Sunday. That is why I could not answer you sooner.

I can now inform you, that we have had also a talk with Minister Logemann about this matter. He told me, that he already had sent the whole matter to the government of Surinam and asked their advice. He thinks - in my opinion rightly - that it is impossible to impose such a radical plan on the government and the population of Surinam without having consulted them.

The fact that Minister Logemann had sent the plan through is an evident proof that he sympathises with it, although he beseeches various difficulties.

We agreed that I shall remind him after one or two months in the case he will not be in the situation to keep me informed. Please be so kind as to tell all this to Dr. Steinberg.

With friendly greetings

W. Banning.

Dear Dr. Raptshinsky,
I have received your letter of 10 June 1946
concerning the Jewish immigration to Surinam.
I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definite answer at this time.
I will try to get back to you as soon as possible.

COPY

The Hague, 18th June 1946

Dr. B. Raptshinsky,
Valeriusstraat 262,
Amsterdam (Z).

Dear Sir,

It is perfectly true that I have promised Dr. Steinberg a statement re the Jewish immigration in Surinam as requested now, but conditions during the last month have prevented me from doing so. The Minister for the Overseas Parts of the Kingdom, Prof. Logemann, does not feel inclined to take any further steps in the direction of paving the way for an immigration of displaced persons as long as the political crisis in this country is pending. The matter is too important, also from an international standpoint, that it should be decided upon without the full support of the cabinet. Therefore the scheme had to be shelved for time being, but as soon as we are in smooth water again, I will make it my duty to bring it forward and extract decision. Moreover we have at present here a delegation of the Surinam Legislative Council; there may be an opportunity to sound their feelings re the matter for in the last analysis this Council has to agree also.

I will enclose a copy of this letter which you will be good enough to forward to Dr. Steinberg.

Yours sincerely

E. Snellen