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Michel Janssen, Robert Schulmann, József Illy,
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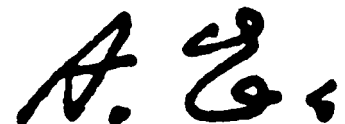
Alfred Engel, TRANSLATOR

Engelbert Schucking, CONSULTANT

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On a Jewish Palestine. First Version

(pp. 241–242 in translation volume)



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59. On a Jewish Palestine. First Version

[before 27 June 1921]

[p. 1] Ladies and Gentlemen!

For two thousand years the common property <heritage> of the Jewish people only consisted <rested on> of its past. Our people, who are scattered all over the world, had nothing in common but the carefully guarded traditions. Individual Jews may indeed have created great cultural values, but the Jewish people as a whole did no longer seem to have the strength for great collective achievements.

This has changed now. History has assigned us a great and noble task in the shape of our active participation in the building of Palestine. Extraordinary members of our tribe are already working with all their might for the realization of this goal. We are presented with the opportunity to establish cultural sites that the entire Jewish people will be able to consider their own <property> work. We foster the hope to create in Palestine a homeland for our own national culture that should contribute to the awakening of new economic and spiritual life in the near Orient.

The goal that the leaders of Zionism have in mind is not a political but a social and cultural one. The Palestine community should aim to approach the social ideal of our ancestors as it is set down in the bible and, at the same time, become a place of modern spiritual life. A spiritual center for the Jews of the entire world. Based on this understanding, it is one of the most important goals of the Zionist organization to establish a Jewish university in Jerusalem. I have been in America in the past months in order to help create a material foundation for this university. The success of this endeavor was outstanding. Thanks to the tireless work of Jewish physicians in America and their remarkable willingness to make sacrifices, we succeeded in gathering sufficient funds for establishing <realizing> a medical faculty, and the preparations for its realization will start immediately. Based on the successes so far, I have no reason to doubt that the material basis for the other faculties can soon be created. At first, the medical faculty will essentially be established as a research institute and will support the restoration of the land that is so very important for <colonization of the country> building the country. Lecture programs on a wider scale will only become important later. Since a number of capable scientists are already willing to accept an appointment to the university, establishing a medical faculty seems completely assured. I would like to mention that a special fund has been established for the university which is completely separate from the general fund for building the country. In these months, remarkable sums were contributed to the latter thanks to the tireless work of Prof. Weizmann and other Zionist leaders in America, especially due to the enormous willingness of the middle class to make

sacrifices. In closing I want to make a heartfelt appeal to the Jews in Germany to contribute to the best of their ability to the building of a Jewish homeland in Palestine in spite of the present difficult economic situation: This is not an act of charity, but an endeavor that concerns all Jews, and whose success promises to become a source of the most rewarding satisfaction.