

Meeting of Platform at the offices of ELAH, Beth Pninat Ayalon, 21 September 1999 at 16:00. Meeting number 6

Archief Philip Staal

Pro-Temp Chairman: Benno Bonnewit.

Present: Gideon Pijper, Shimon de Winter, Philip Staal, Sarina van Dam-Hekster, Ellie Maoz, Avraham Roet, Barend Elburg (a bit late), Joel Fishman

Agreed that confirmation of previous decisions will take place at the coming meeting.

Discussion about getting rooms at Beth Juliana. There should be enough for Meldpunt and also for Platform. According to Benno, it should be possible to get also a “vergaderzaal”.

Avraham: Idea of Beth Juliana was well-received. Meldpunt will be financed from the Netherlands. The funds will come from CJO, and Platform disburses it. He is hiring a secretary via the *Jerusalem Post*. Had three candidates, of which one is promising. He hopes to get a volunteer from Beth Juliana. Ellie Ma'oz and Benno raised the question of respecting confidentiality. There will be a budget at the next meeting.

Benno: Need of a definition of the role of Meldpunt. There has to be a real work plan or proposal for the next meeting, where we have to decide how we see Meldpunt.

Gideon: Wants things to be handled professionally, which is a very important issue. The staff should be professionally trained, to know whether they can handle a question or refer it on.

Shimon: There must be resources to research claims. Much information can be found, but the work must be done.

Philip: Need for the staff to be bound by a confidentiality agreement. There should be lists presented periodically, so that decisions can be made [on them].

Avraham: Platform needs to receive serious claims. Shimon and the future secretary need to be trained. EMZ and ELAH should work together.

Sarina: JMW was clumsy. Vuisje remains as advisor. JMW out of the picture.

Philip: Meldpunt should be advised about “oorlogswezen”.

Avraham: Agrees with the need for confidentiality agreements.

Barend: Shimon will define what Meldpunt in Israel will do, as opposed to the Netherlands.

Avraham: Meldpunt only for the registration and documentation of claims, which are growing by the day. Shimon goes to learn what to do. Hoe en wat is te vroeg. Wij kunnen wachten tot Vuisje komt.

Verslag Bezoek Nederland Roet en van Dam.

Dolman is the most important person. Roet called Dolman and brought Sarina. He informed Yossi Dotan of this visit and asked if he would agree to the sum of Hfl 10,000,000 only for Dutch Jews in Israel? Dotan agreed. Went with Sarina to Dolman and offered the package. D. was relieved. Bar Mitzvah at Vuisje. American claims not an issue. Called Yossi to inform him that the offer was accepted. Called by ambassador. Ensel and Dolman want to explain. All in agreement. He asked if the press is invited. No journalists will be invited. The ambassador happy. Wants the recognized organizations to be funded. Yossi good to his word and going for the 10,000,000. After gathering, press conference at Embassy. Sarina wants only the representatives of the Dutch groups. The Dutch government prepared to change the richtlijnen, provided there is consensus here.

Gideon: We are being pressed with regard to time, making the 31.11.99 deadline. We have not yet done the hard work, which may be rough.

Avraham: The matters have to be discussed and done honestly as soon as possible. We have to play the game. He agrees and supports Gideon's position. Roet and Platform not taking any money. Playing with open cards.

Philip: Need to make the package, to keep out Yad Vashem, the Jewish Agency. Wants to deal with Barend.

Avraham: In Holland, they are afraid of us, which is good. We also have to be united with Dutch Jewry. We must have a representative on the Dolman Commission. Situation of Dutch Jews in Israel relatively poorer than in the Netherlands, and they have more pressing needs.

Ellie: We have to get the funds quickly, while they are ready to give it.

Avraham: Re: Avi Becker: Others can make claims on the last 1,000,000. We should take the first 10,000,000 now.

Ellie: There are 1,200 Dutchmen known to us through WUV, and they are not organized.

Avraham: Every reasonable request should be honored, such as HONI, ELAH, etc.

Sarina: By 6 October, everything should be agreed upon. Its got to happen, or we will lose our chance for the next round.

Ellie: 6 October most likely not possible.

Barend: The proposal has to come at the very last moment. The Presidents should sit together from 6 October to 31 November. Need for an agreement of intent, priorities, etc. There should be a fallback position. He is in agreement.

Avraham : Things must be firmed up a bit more. Need to work out where the money goes. We could set aside 1,000,000 to make small adjustments. Our discussions should be confidential. If there is division among us, then the funds will be lost.

Because of interest, the sum could be closer to 11,000,000. There will be 70,000,000 from insurance claims and 30,000,000 from the banks. If we hold together, we can continue to get 30%.

Barend: Undertakes to explain the issue to Yossi. The new line is not exactly according to the policy which HONI adopted on 1 September, but he will propose it.

Avraham: Re: CIA angry with Mirjam Dubi and IOH. CIA prepared to help. Now no possibility of IOH getting a cent from CIA.

CJO Bureau in Den Haag, Esther Koeman.

Scholten very friendly. Accessible.

Philip: Ayala has an appointment with Dolman and Ensel.

Gideon: Need for a time schedule.

Barend: Will speak with Yossi and Mirjam. After the visit, we have to sit and to decide. Thursday, 19 October at 18:00. It could be at Beth Juliana.