

## Transfer Agreement

(*Ha'avara*), agreement made in August 1933 between the Nazi regime and the German Zionist Federation that encouraged the immigration of German Jews to Palestine by allowing them to transfer some of their funds from Germany to Palestine. The Hebrew word *ha'avara* means transfer.

The pact allowed would-be immigrants to place at least 1,000 pounds sterling---the amount the British charged for an immigration certificate to Palestine---in a German bank, and upon arrival in Palestine, to collect either that same amount of money or its equivalent in goods.

The Zionists were interested in the agreement because it attracted wealthy German Jews to Palestine. However, they were severely criticized by Jews who felt that the pact was a transgression of the anti-Nazi boycott and a rupture in Jewish unity (see also Boycotts, Anti-Nazi). The Germans liked the agreement for those very reasons, and because it would help get rid of German Jews.

By 1938, the agreement became the only possibility for large-scale emigration from Germany to Palestine. It operated until a few months after World War II broke out in September 1939, when it was cancelled because of the Allies' economic blockade on Germany. In all, several thousand immigrants took advantage of the Transfer Agreement to help them successfully reach Palestine.