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### GREER FAY CASHMAN

■ THERE WAS record attendance this week at the 39th World Zionist Congress, both in terms of the number of people and the number of national federations. This includes Uganda, which, in 1903, during the Sixth Zionist Conference in Basel, Theodor Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, proposed as a temporary refuge from antisemitic forces. The proposal, initiated by British colonial secretary Joseph Chamberlain, faced opposition from others in the Zionist movement.

The 23rd Congress, held in 1951, was the first to convene in Jerusalem, three years after the establishment of the state. From struggling to achieve a Jewish state, Zionist movement adherents in the 1950s had to grapple with their role within the Jewish state.

There were serious disagreements between the delegates from Israel and those from the Diaspora – a situation that has not really changed, though many of the differences have been overcome over time.

A compromise was eventually reached, forming the basis for the Jerusalem Program that was approved in 1968 at the 27th Congress, which continues to define the fundamental principles and aims of the Zionist movement today: the unity of the Jewish People, the ingathering of exiles through immigration from all countries, the strengthening of the State of Israel, the preservation of Jewish identity, and the protection of Jewish rights everywhere.