Document Of A Dream
A Re-Enactment Of The Diaries Of
Theodor Herzl

Written And Directed By Sholom Rubinstein
Produced By The Theodor Herzl Institute
Gilbert Mack As Theodor Herzl
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Film Strip Presentation
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SLIDES - Show (SLIDE 1) (SLIDE 1). Then start record. After five seconds (SLIDE 2) After five seconds (SLIDE 3).

HERZL: Paris, 1895 (SLIDE 4)... For quite a while now I have been struggling with an idea of tremendous scope. At this point I don't know if it will ever be anything more than a dream. This dream overwhelms me and it wants to push my work aside and take me over completely. (SLIDE 5) It is still too soon to find out if anything real can come from my fantasy. But it is a remarkable mental creation that should be written down. Therefore, I begin this journal... which someday may prove to be the document of a dream. (SLIDE 6).

I have achieved success as a dramatist and a free lance writer. The "Neue Freie Presse", Vienna's leading newspaper offered me the post of Paris Correspondent I accepted.

MUSIC: BRIDGE

BARON: The Baron has agreed to see me. (SLIDE 10). So you are the young man who wrote this unusual letter asking for a Jewish-political conversation. Now, precisely what does that mean?

HERZL: There is one important point in the two thousand year history of the Jewish exile that I want to bring out. In all those years we have never had united political leadership.

BARON: What?

HERZL: This has been our misfortune. The lack of leadership has done more harm than all the persecutions. If we had a united political leadership, we could proceed to the solution of the Jewish question. We could tackle it from all sides with a vigorous determined leadership.

BARON: What a radical idea.

HERZL: But that's what we need.

BARON: I have a different idea. (SLIDE 11)

HERZL: Your ideas were based on philanthropy...my idea is based on education and idealism. I maintain that the principle of philanthropy is mistaken... all you do is create beggars. Philanthropy undermines our people.

BARON: It is easy to be a critic. What is to be done?

HERZL: Jews as a people must be uplifted. They must be made strong as for war, taught the joy of work, and the exercise of virtue. (SLIDE 12).

MUSIC: BRIDGE

HERZL: May 30, 1895

Fourteen days ago I wrote a letter to Baron de Hirsch who has concerned himself about the Jews in a very millionnaire fashion...and most conspicuously.

BARON: No, no, no! I don't wish to improve the general level. Jews want too much, they have ambition. This is where all our troubles come from. We have too many brains. I want to restrain the Jews from pushing ahead... let them not make progress. Dr. Herzl... you have the whole thing backwards.

MUSIC: IN AND UNDER...

HERZL: The Baron (SLIDE 13). And his ideas did...
have a profound effect on me. His arrogance was the stimulus I needed to crystallize my thinking. Three weeks have passed...three hectic weeks of ideas that flowed from my mind like a rising stream. These notes are in the process of becoming a book which will be called: "The Jewish State". Much of what I write is wild...fantastic. I must start sorting out my ideas or I shall go crazy. (SLIDE 14).

"The Jewish State" will be the promised land, where we can have hooked noses, black or red beards, and bony legs as we please. (SLIDE 15). We can live in the Jewish state as free men...on our own soil. God would not have kept us alive and separate so long if we did not have a destiny. (SLIDE 16). And our destiny is a homeland! (SLIDE 17).

MUSIC: BRIDGE, OUTDOOR CAFE MUSIC IN B.G.

NORDAU: (TEASING) This cafe is indeed honored. The eminent correspondent of the Rue Frie Presse...tell me Dr. Herzl are you doing a series of articles on cafes for your paper on the virtues of sidewalk cafes of Paris.

HERZL: I knew I'd find you here, Max. (SLIDE 16).

NORDAU: And why not? They serve the best beer in Vienna. (SERIOUS) Theodore...you look like you've been wrestling with a devil.

HERZL: I want to talk to you about that devil.

NORDAU: (TRYING TO MAKE A JOKE) Do you wish to speak to Nordau the physician or Nordau the philosopher?

HERZL: Max...for weeks I have been plagued with the pangs of a vision. I have a room full of notes...a thousand pieces of paper torn from my brain. And all these scribblings will be a book. A book that I think will solve Jewish tragedy.

NORDAU: How can you solve it with a book? What is the tragedy of Jewry? That this most conservative of peoples, which yearns to root itself in a soil has had no home for the last two thousand years. (SLIDE 19).

HERZL: You understand...Max...Max, I feel that we belong together.

NORDAU: The philosopher Nordau understands. Now...what question have you for the physician Nordau?

HERZL: Physician...am I a maniac...or am I a Messiah?

MUSIC: IN AND UNDER.

October, 1895

HERZL: Being with Nordau was like a fresh drink of cool water. Although I worked as hard as ever I took time off to talk to prominent Jews about my plan. (SLIDE 20). I unfolded some of my thoughts to Dr. Moritz Gundmann, chief rabbi of Vienna. He was impressed and tried to enlist the aid of a Berlin philanthropist...I plan to visit London to meet the English writer Israel Zangwill. (SLIDE 21) He was great influence with an English organization "The Maccabees".

MUSIC: BRIDGE Lonson, November 22, (1895).

In the evening, with the "Maccabees". (SLIDE 22). Not much of a dinner but a good reception. The Maccabees are educated Jews. After the meal Zangwill, the novelist, calls on me...with a tongue in cheek introduction. I speak in German without notes. Rabbi Singer translates what I have said every time I pause. My speech is applauded and the Maccabees elect me an honorary member. Since I am now a member and no longer a guest they proceed to tear my speech apart. I refute every argument. Their real objection as I see it is: English patriotism! (SLIDE 23).

MUSIC: BRIDGE Paris

NORDAU: Welcome back to civilization.

HERZL: (COUGHING) London is civilized.

NORDAU: Not like Paris. Hold still while I finish my examination.

HERZL: (COUGHING) Max...I have to finish my pamphlet.

NORDAU: Finish it in bed. Three days rest is prescribed. My friend, the London fog has given you a case of bronchial catarrh.

HERZL: But Max...

NORDAU: Listen to my orders. After all, a prophet must have healthy lungs.

HERZL: (LAUGHS) What a ludicrous picture...a prophet in a winter overcoat. (LAUGHS AND COUGHING) (SLIDE 24).

MUSIC: BRIDGE

HERZL: Dec. 5, 1895 -- the pamphlet is finished. What started to be a long book has been cut and recut...I have been calm and accurate in all my statements and let us hope persuasive. Now all I need is a publisher. (SLIDE 25).

Vienna, December 24, (1895)
The Berlin Publisher Cronbach, a Jew, refuses to publish my pamphlet. He does not agree with me. There are other publishers.

January 3
Perhaps there are no other publishers. Two more rejections. I could publish it myself! No. If it "sells" I would look like a businessman. (SLIDE 26).

MUSIC: BRIDGE Jan. 19, 1896

At last! A Publisher! Max Breitstein. He was enthusiastic. I am beginning to feel the relief that comes when a goal is reached.

HERZL: February 1, 1896
The final proofs are ready. They already have wind of it at (SLIDE 27). The office of the "Neue Freie Presse" I have a new name. The staff calls me "The Jewish Jules Verne."
I am writing to Nordau, I will assign him the job of talking to Baron de Hirsch. If Hirsch hands over a few millions, we can create a commotion in the press or the world and the Sultan of Turkey will then receive me. Perhaps there will be some money left to "win friends" in Turkey.

**MUSIC:**

**BRIDGE** Afternoon

I began the letter to Nordau yesterday and finished it today. Between yesterday and today Baron de Hirsch died. I found out an hour after I had mailed the Nordau letter. I telegraphed Nordau. What a strange affair. The pamphlet was finished months ago. I sent it to everyone... except Hirsch. And as soon as I decide to do so, he dies. (SLIDE 34).

His death is a loss. He was the only rich Jew who did something for his poor brethren. I did not know the right way to talk to him. Our cause is poorer today. I had hoped to eventually win Hirsch over.

**Evening (SLIDE 35).**

Telegram from Hechler from Karlsruhe: Hard work to make my wish prevail. Nevertheless, all goes well. Hechler.

Righ

Hechler telegraphed again. Come to Karlsruhe. Strange! Baron de Hirsch is lost to us on the day I make contact with a prince. (WITH WONDER IN HIS VOICE) The Jews have lost Hirsch...But they have me! (SLIDE 36).

(NEVROUS) Duke will be here in a moment...

**MUSIC:**

**BRIDGE**

**DUKE:** (AN OLD MAN OF SEVENTY, CRIES MILITARY) Dr. Herzl... One thing I will say: Your people are highly intelligent. The kind of people one would want for the founding of your state. Tell me how you expect to accomplish this.

**HERZL:**

Your highness, what we need is for a major power to show a favorable attitude. Such an attitude would endorse the "Society of Jews" (SLIDE 37), with a sort of mandate. To make my people respect the movement we need recognition from the Great Powers.

Your highness...if an experienced statesman who has helped in the creation of the German Empire, a statesman whom the Kaiser respects were behind this new enterprise, it would make a deep impression.

**HECHLER:**

Would your Royal Highness permit Dr. Herzl to inform a few trustworthy men in England that the Grand Duke of Baden has expressed interest?
DUKE: I have no objection, Dr. Hechler. Gentlemen, may I suggest something? (SLIDE 38). Why not first settle several hundred thousand Jews in Palestine over the next few years. When that is "fait accompli" then ask for recognition.

HERZL: I am opposed to sneaking them in. The Jews would be acting as rebels against the Sultan. I want to do everything with the law.

DUKE: I see. (PAUSE) I am pleased with you, Dr. Herzl. You are a man of integrity. I would like to see your plan come about. It will be a great blessing for many human beings.

MUSIC: BRIDGE

HERZL: Writing a book is complicated -- but there is only one person to please ---yourself. Founding a state is much more complicated. I have been writing letters trying to explain to men such as Rothschild, Nordau, the Prime Minister of England, the Chassidim in Galicia what we need. Turkey is our next step. Nordau has gone to London to see Rothschild. (SLIDE 39).

MUSIC: BRIDGE May 18, 1896

HERZL: Nordau went to Edmond de Rothschild. Rothschild will not listen. I will try to conquer Turkey without Rothschild! Constantinople is another world and I must play the game according to their rules. There is a capable young man, Phillip Nevilinski, the son of a Polish nobleman who we have employed as an agent. He is brilliant and erratic. He has many contacts, and I will try to convince him to come to Constantinople with me.

MUSIC: BRIDGE

NEVLINSKI: (HE IS FLIP, BRIGHT AND IMPETUOUS, IN TONE) I think we should forget the whole business, Dr. Herzl. The present time is all wrong in Constantinople. The Sultan will not even receive you. He has more pressing problems. (SLIDE 40).

HERZL: We have to make our own moments... force our own issues. I do not know what has discouraged you all of a sudden. (SLIDE 41).

NEVLINSKI: Dr. Herzl, I will speak bluntly. You are regarded as a fanatic in journalistic circles, among people in finance and government.

HERZL: The fanatics of the world get things done. A year from now the critics will be the worshiping mob. (SLIDE 42).

HERZL: I am leaving tonight for Constantinople. I have friends and relatives there. I will do what I can. I hope that you will join us. We need your skill and contacts. But, I cannot afford not to have an audience with the Sultan.

MUSIC: June 15, 1956

I boarded the Orient Express in Vienna. Nevilinski go on in Budapest (SLIDE 43), and we talked the night through.

NEVLINSKI: How much are you prepared to pay for Palestine?

HERZL: We will raise 20 million Turkish pounds to help relieve Turkey's financial crisis...in return the Sultan will give us a charter for a self-governing Jewish settlement in Palestine.

NEVLINSKI: Where will you get all that money?

HERZL: The earth floats in mid-air. Perhaps similarly I can found and stabilize the Jewish State without a firm support. This is what I hope!

MUSIC: TRAIN

VOICE: (OFF) Sofia, Sofia (SLIDE 44).

HERZL: A tremendous crowd had come to see me. Men, Women, Children were massed together, Sephardim, Ashkenazim, boys and patriarchs. A young boy handed me a wreath of roses and carnations. Someone delivered a speech in German. Someone else read out an address in French, and then kissed my hand.

HERZL: (TEAR CHOKED) Thank you my friends. Thank you.

VOICE: Lesbonah Saboh E’Rooshchlayim! (SLIDE 45).

HERZL: (TO HIMSELF) Next year in Jerusalem.

NEVLINSKI: Herr Doktor...you must understand how complicated the political life in Turkey is. In Turkey every official is your partner. You have to allow for many commissions...but never make a direct offer.

HERZL: I understand.

NEVLINSKI: Your greatest asset is your press card. The Neue Freie Presse carries weight in this country and you will find yourself admitted in high places because you are a correspondent.

HERZL: At last I have heard an optimistic remark from the ever pessimistic Nevilinski. (SLIDE 46).

MUSIC:

NEVLINSKI: Waiter, a half bottle of Champagne.

HERZL: That's a bad sign, Nevilinski.

NEVLINSKI: It's all off! The Sultan said to me: If Mr. Herzl is your friend advise him to stop now. I cannot sell a foot of land. (SLIDE 47). It belongs to my people. Let the Jews save their money. The Turkish people own the Turkish Empire. I am only their Sultan.

MUSIC: TURKISH

HERZL: The words of the Sultan, an end to all my hopes. (SLIDE 48).

MUSIC: BRIDGE

June 30, 1896
HERZL: On the way back...in Sofia, members of the Zionist Association met me at the station. Sensation throughout the town. I requested that a parade be dispensed with. Hundreds were awaiting me at the synagogue. I stood before the Holy Ark. (SLIDE 49.) I hesitated for a moment. I did not know how to face the Congregation. I did not want to turn my back to the Ark.

VOICE: (OFF, reverent) Dr. Herzl...you may turn your back to the Ark. Your work is holy.

MUSIC: BRIDGE (SLIDE 50).

HERZL: July 4, 1896
I have word from the Sultan on what he wants...the next thing is to raise at least two million pounds so that we may begin doing business with Turkey. I am going to London. I think perhaps the Maccabean Society and some of the rich Jews there will help. (SLIDE 51)

MUSIC: BRIDGE

HERZL: July 19, 1896
I finally met the great Edmond de Rothschild. He is against my program and he let me know it. After five minutes I lost my manners. (TO ROTHESCHILD) You do not know what it is about. Let me explain it to you first.

ROTHESCHILD: (French and suavity) What...you know what...you interrupted me...I...

HERZL: If you will permit me Baron? You see...basically all I wish to do is set up a big colony. I have already secured certain pledges from the Sultan of Turkey.

ROTHESCHILD: I do not believe in Turkish promises. And, my dear Dr., even if I did I would not put as much as a bent souc in your undertaking. Once you start a project such as you outline...how will you stop the influx of the masses into Palestine. At the beginning one hundred and fifty thousand emigrants would pour in and they would expect me to feed them.

HERZL: I have a suspicion that the people willing to settle Palestine will have too much pride to be taken by arms. They will feed themselves.

ROTHESCHILD: I cannot undertake such a responsibility...there will be incident...

HERZL: Isn't anti-semitism one continuous unfortunate incident? Baron Edmone de Rothschild...I wanted to hand over the direction of the whole enterprise to you, the philanthropic Zionist, and eliminate myself. You are not willing -- I have done my share.

July 19, Evening (SLIDE 52).
I feel that Edmond is a decent, good-natured, faint-hearted fellow. This man controls the fate of millions. I will not let my ideas be stopped. I will go to the people (SLIDE 53). The day of single handed charity is over...it's the people who will create their own funds. After thousands of years of silence the people are about to speak.

END OF REEL 1

Basel, August 28, 1895 (SLIDE 54).
Tonight is the eve of the first Zionist Congress. I am at this moment at the point of exhaustion...on the edge of complete breakdown. Perhaps I will try to sleep for a little bit. (SLIDE 55). If I close my eyes I can see how the hall will look tomorrow. The long green table on the dais, with the elevated seat of the President, the platform draped in green, tables for the stenographers and the press. (SLIDE 56). All the delegates will be in full dress to heighten the pitch of solemnity. As I have planned it...there will be three taps of the gavel and Dr. Lippe of Jassy, the oldest member of our committee will be called upon. (SLIDE 57).

LIPPE: (old, emotion laden voice) Brough stah adoshem melech haolam, sheh hochyoseom, V'heyshayom, V'hegyayom jassan basch...Blessed Art Thou O Lord, who has kept us in life and permitted us to take part in this day.

LIPPE: I should like to introduce Dr. Theodor Herzl. (SLIDE 58).

MUSIC: APPLAUSE BOWS OUT INTRODUCTION

HERZL: Fellow delegates...we are gathered here to lay the foundation of a building (SLIDE 59), which will one day house the entire Jewish people...

HERZL: Zionism has already, even before this Congress, brought together Jews who are ultra modern and Jews who are ultra conservative... (SLIDE 60), this proves that Jews have a national basis for working together. Zionism is a return to Jewishness even before it is a return to a Jewish land.

HERZL: This Congress will provide for it's own continuance. (SLIDE 61). What we will find here will be an agency stronger than any individual... free from the ambitions and whims that plague human beings. (SLIDE 62). That which an individual says or writes may pass unnoticed. But that which issues from this Congress shall speak with unity to every Jew in every place.

BASEL, Morning of August 30, 1897. (SLIDE 63).

HERZL: The story of what happened yester-
day is being written in big headlines. I was calm amid the emotion that clogged the hall yesterday. For one moment I was shaken. After I was elected President, I went to the platform and on the desk I found a letter from my young son, Hans, the first letter he has ever written. I was extremely touched and I wrote immediately to my wife and children. This was the first sentiment I permitted myself in the two years since the movement began!

**MUSIC:** BRIDGE

If I am to sum up the Basle Congress in a phrase - which I shall be very careful not to use in public - then it is this: In Basle I established the Jewish State. If I were to say that aloud today, universal laughter would be the response. (SLIDE 64). Perhaps in five years, certainly in fifty, everybody will recognize it.

**MUSIC:** UP AND UNDER

September 2, 1898 (SLIDE 65). What a year this has been...the second Zionist Congress is now history. We have established the Jewish Colonial Trust. A month of talking to German officials has worked! Prince Eulenberg has written me a letter, the gist of which is a command from the Kaiser to meet him either in Constantinople or in Jerusalem. (SLIDE 66) As a deputation I am taking David Wolffsohn a merchant, Max Bodenheimer a lawyer and the engineer Josef Seliger and the physician Dr. Moses Schnirer. We will all meet in the Turkish capital on October 15.

I am every happy at the honor your (SLIDE 67). Majesty has conferred on me.

**KAISER:**

(DRY GERMANIC VOICE, SOME HUMOR IN IT) Sit down Dr. Herzl and tell me what you have in mind for your people.

**HERZL:**

I had in mind the formation of a land company to buy acreage in Palestine so that we could send colonists there. I was hoping that your Majesty would see fit to make the colony a German protectorate.

**KAISER:**

I am familiar with your Zionist movement, Dr. Herzl. Frankly... there are elements among your people whom it would be a good thing to move to Palestine.

**HERZL:**

Every group of people has a few bad citizens...but I'm certain that the overwhelming majority of Jews in Germany are loyal subject of your Majesty.

**KAISER:**

Perhaps you are right. And of course if I offer my protection I'm sure that your people would be won over to the idea of the land company. And what about you Bulow?

**BULOW:**

And let us hope they will be grateful for it.

**KAISER:**

Dr. Herzl...tell me in a word what I am to ask of the Sultan.

**HERZL:**

A Chartered company under German protection.

**KAISER:**

I understand. And when we meet in Jerusalem let us have some formal statement! (SLIDE 68).

**HERZL:**

A great day...a day that will belong to posterity. The Kaiser is going to Jerusalem on a religious pilgrimage. I shall go to Palestine too, with my deputation. I hope to talk to him there, again. October 27, 1898.

Rishon-le-Zion, Palestine. (SLIDE 69) It's name means the first to Zion. This is one of eighteen tiny colonies...none of them legal...none of them self-supporting. We docked at Jaffa yesterday. We approached the land of our fathers with mingled feelings: Sentiment, fear and hope. The heat is terrible--first to Mikveh Israel...an excellent agricultural training school. (SLIDE 70). Decoration over the gate in honor of the Kaiser. He will pass by tomorrow on his way to Jerusalem. I plan to try to have His Majesty inspect the school.

From Mikveh Israel we went to Rishon-le-Zion. (SLIDE 71). But despite it's name it is only a poor little settlement.

I spoke to the physician of the colony. He told me the truth: Fever! Fever everywhere. Large-scale drainage operations and the elimination of swamps can make the country usable. It will cost millions but will create a land... A state. (SLIDE 72).

From the colony of Rehovot, a cavalcade came galloping toward us: about twenty young men singing Hebrew songs. Wolffsohn, Schnirer, Bodenheimer, the men who came with me, and I had tears in our eyes when we saw those wonderful horsemen. (SLIDE 72). This proves that the young of the ghetto can be transformed. It reminded me of the cowboys of the American Far West.

November 2, 1898, Jerusalem.

We drove in burning noonday (SLIDE 74). heat to the Kaiser's camp. The Kaiser awaited us...grey colonial uniform...veiled helmet on his head... brown gloves. I bowed. I read my statement: This is the land of our fathers, a land suited to colonization and cultivation. Your Majesty has seen the land. It cries out for men to come and build it. (SLIDE 75).

We believe this enterprise to be such an excellent one, so worthy of the participation of the most magnanimous spirits, that we bespeak for it the high help of Your Imperial Majesty.

**MUSIC:** BRIDGE

The German news bureau has issued a dispatch:
At Jcrusalem, June 2. Kaiser Wilhelm received a Jewish deputation. Replay to an address by the leader of the deputation, Kaiser Wilhelm said that his interest could be relied upon in efforts at furthering the welfare of the Turkish Empire, through the improvement of Agriculture in Palestine, with a complete respect for the sovereignty of the Sultan.

HERZL: As colorless a statement as possible. My companions are depressed. I have a feeling that the Kaiser has bowed out.

HERZL: Would you go to Constantinople and see the Sultan on my behalf?

HERZL: I don't know why I listen to you. At my age I am undertaking an idealistic mission. I'm leaving for Constantinople tonight.

HERZL: May 2. (SLIDE 77): Today I'm 62 years old. It is almost six years since I started the movement which has made me old and poor.

HERZL: June 21, 1900. Yesterday, I had an attack of brain anemia. Everything grew blurred. Went home to rest. The doctor told me to take three days' rest. Who can afford a luxury like that?

HERZL: Telegram to Dr. Theodore Herzl... The Sultan will receive you. He recognizes that you are Chief of the Jews. Signed Vanbery. (SLIDE 78).

SULTAN: (A THIN PIPING VOICE, ORIENTAL ACCENT) My good Dr. Herzl...you have a plan...a proposal that involves your people...what do you have in mind.

HERZL: My plan would relieve Turkey of its tremendous public debt...a debt that your majesty knows saps the vitality of your empire.

SULTAN: (SHARP) What do you think you can do about it?

HERZL: Our plan is simple. Many of our supporters are rich and influential men. In exchange for your majesty's support of the idea of the return of the Jews to Palestine, (SLIDE 79), these men will issue bonds and the proceeds will help liquidify the pressures you have. Your many debts will become one debt which we shall assume.

SULTAN: I see... I see...and how soon can we proceed to unify our public debt?

HERZL: If your majesty would permit me to announce your support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine then I could talk with some of my people.

SULTAN: (SUDDENLY COLD) I think for a first meeting we have discussed enough.

Good day, Dr. Herzl. (SLIDE 80)

HERZL: It is nearly six months since I have seen the Sultan. The money hungry officials around him have put me...tricked me...and ignored me. I will try to play the game as long as I can...but I feel that the Turks are using me to manipulate financiers of other countries. I don't think the Sultan will ever help. I have spent a year trying the most reckless schemes imaginable.

Nothing has worked. I am a famous man and aging fast. (SLIDE 81).

I have just finished my new book; Altneuland--old new land. It is a novel that shows life in Palestine twenty years from today...a wonderful, modern Jewish State in all it's glory...a new form of society that will be model for all nations.

Oct. 23, 1902

HERZL: I met the great Joe (SLIDE 82)...

MUSIC: 

CHAMBERLIN: (VERY BRITISH) I presume, you did not come all the way to London to tell me that Jews are not treated well.

HERZL: Of course not. We cannot get Palestine at the moment. We need territory in the area. The British Empire is so large that perhaps we could get Cyprus, El Arish and the Sinai Peninsula on which to establish a self governing colony.

CHAMBERLIN: Cyprus is not to be considered...the situation there is very complicated. Where is this El Arish?

MUSIC: Colonial Secretary Chamberlin...

HERZL: (FADE OFF A LITTLE) Right here...on this big map on your wall...it's near Egypt...

CHAMBERLIN: I can't imagine the idea being popular with the Egyptians.

HERZL: We have no intention of going to Egypt. (PAUSE) We have been there. Sir, El Arish and the Sinai Peninsula consist of arid empty land...

CHAMBERLIN: Then what could you possibly want it for?

HERZL: I want an assembly point for the Jewish people...close to Palestine. Would you be favorable towards a Jewish colony on the Sinai Peninsula?

CHAMBERLIN: Dr. Herzl...I have something for you...in Africa...good climate for Europeans...you could raise sugar
and cotton. If only you didn't want to be near Palestine.

HERZL: We want to be in Palestine.

CHAMBERLIN: The area I'm referring to is called Uganda...look into it one of these days, Dr...look into it.

MUSIC: IN AND UNDER

HERZL: The worst has happened. (SLIDE 84). They have massacred, God alone knows, how many Jews in Kishinev, Russia. Rape, pillage murder—legally sanctioned. I am frantic trying...I cannot let it go on.

I am going to Russia! I have met with Plehve. (SLIDE 85). The Lion in his den. He indicated that Russia would be delighted to see Jews emigrate, on a one way basis. (SLIDE 86). He doesn't care where they go...as long as it is out of Russia. He hinted that they might intervene with the Sultan if he could be sure our activity was for exit only. It's a tremendous planet we live on—and no place open for a Jew. (SLIDE 87)

MUSIC: VILNA

BEN JACOB: You are enjoying your dinner, Dr. Herzl?

HERZL: I cannot swallow a bite...

BEN JACOB: I hope nothing is wrong with the food...

HERZL: The food is wonderful, Jacob...it is just that my throat is constricted with tears. Since I arrived in Vilna I have wanted to cry...delegations...gifts...the multitudes on the street who called my name and pressed forward to touch me...those young people standing outside the window singing Hebrew songs...

JACOB: They came of their own accord...just to see you sit at the table...they live in Vilna...it took them two hours to walk here...

SOUND: HEBREW SONGS OUT

HERZL: No more, please. I will not be able to hold back the tears if you say anything else.

JACOB: (PROJECTING) My friends...I think we are all of us happy to be here to greet Dr. Theodore Herzl...but I am the happiest because our guest is under my own roof. I drink to his health and his long life.

VOICES: GLASSES

YOUNG VOICE: Those who stand outside the window propose a toast, also.

Voices: To King Herzl...King Herzl...

MUSIC: SAD AND LONELY

HERZL: They want to make me King...and I cannot help them even a little bit. The picture of those brave young men at the window made a vivid tragic image. Then...in true Russian style, (SLIDE 89), tragedy was piled on top of tragedy. It was one o'clock in the morning...as I went toward the railroad station the streets were lined with Jews...

HERZL: As we near the railroad station, the crowd filled every inch of the street. Suddenly, the police appeared, clubs in hand (SLIDE 90), and without warning began to break up the crowd.

SOUND: CROWD EFFECT UP FOR A BIT. SHOUTING VOICES

HERZL: The Russian police were completely efficient and completely brutal...The sight of women and old men being beaten is not easily borne. What I saw in Vilna is breading the little that is left of my heart. The plight of the Jews in Russia is now bearable...something must be done.

SOUND: TERRIBLE APPLAUSE, CHEERS

HERZL: (PROJECTING) Delegates to the Sixth Zionist Congress. I have had negotiations with the British Foreign Office during the last year. They have offered us a tract of land in British Africa...Uganda, it is called. In the light of what has happened in Russia and what is happening all over Europe I would like this Congress to consider the British proposal. (SLIDE 92)

VOICES: NO...ZION ONLY...JERUSALEM...

HERZL: The Jewish people have no other final goal than Palestine. Our views on the land of our fathers remain unalterable. But the British offer could be a temporary refuge...a sort of Nachasyl...a Night Shelter for our homeless and frightened people. I ask that a committee be appointed to investigate Uganda as an auxiliary colonization. (SLIDE 93)

VOICES: BOOK, JERBS, WHISTLES. MUSIC IN BIG AND THEN SOFT

HERZL: (BROKEN) They jeered at me, Nordau, they jeered and whistled.

NORDAU: Half an hour ago any man in the Congress would have given his life for you...most of the delegates from Eastern Europe...are in one of the side rooms. They have taken their shoes off...they have torn their coats...they are sitting on the floor. (SLIDE 94)

HERZL: MAX...NO MORE.

NORDAU: They are sitting shivah...they are mourning their dead...Their hope for a state of their own is dead...their aspirations for dignity...dead...they are mourning grand-children yet to come who will live in the same miserable ghettos that they do.
HERZL: You are right...the movement is split right down the middle. All over!

NORDAU: Theo...do you remember nine years ago...you came to me red eyed, shaking, confused...to tell me about your idea?

HERZL: Was it only nine years ago?

NORDAU: You had a single purpose then and that purpose has not changed.

MUSIC:

HERZL: My friends...please do not turn your heads away...please...look at me...listen to me for one moment (SLIDE 95).

I'm Eshkawachach Yerushalyim, tishach yimini...If I forget thee Jerusalem...may my right hand wither.

MUSIC:

HERZL: May 1, 1904 (SLIDE 96)
(OLD VOICE) I do not sleep. My heart grows steadily worse. The Uganda affair has broken me. I have tried to continue my work. I have spoken to the King of Italy and to Pope Pius the Tenth. They are friendly to the Jews but not to the idea of a Jewish homeland.

May 2 I am forty-four years old today. I have never felt worse.

MUSIC:

BRIDGE

VOICE: Telegram for you Dr. Nordau. (SLIDE 97).

NORDAU: (SOUND OF ENVELOPE) Theodore Herzl died this afternoon, July third, 1904. Signed Dr. Werner. (TO HIMSELF) (SLIDE 98). Not even Moses was permitted to enter the Promised Land.

MUSIC:

IN AND UNDER

VOICE: ...and this is my last will and testament. (SLIDE 99). To my beloved wife and dear children I leave all my worldly goods and to the Jewish people I leave the freedom that will come from living in their own land. I leave to the Jewish people the heartaches, the sweat, the struggle that will inevitably be theirs in years to come...but I also leave a promise: It shall come to pass. (SLIDE 100). Bury me in Vienna next to my father...until the day that the Jewish (SLIDE 101), people carry my remains to Palestine Entomb me high on a mountain. I enjoin the Jewish people to believe in our success...for in Zionism there (SLIDE 102), is contained not only the striving for a homeland...but a striving for spiritual and moral perfection that will be a light to all the nations.

MUSIC: FINALE

SCRIPT

for

SLIDE FILM PRESENTATION

"DOCUMENT OF A DREAM"

THE RE-ENACTED DIARIES

OF THEODOR HERZL

Written and Directed by

SHOLOM RUBINSTEIN

Produced by

THEODOR HERZL INSTITUTE

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