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סאלו קאמפ - ניו-יארק

(נא למלא ליצי הרב פריזמן)

אויס, אלו



על אונגאר אויבן אהרן



Mr. Herbert A. Friedman

Confidential.

CONFIDENTIAL

Tel-Aviv,  
August 10, 1959

Dear Herb,

In accordance with our recent conversation, and after receiving your cable and letter, I put the matter before G. and Shaul. Both arrived at a positive decision.

At the same meeting G. and Shaul empowered our minister in Bucarest to contact K. This he did and K. accepted willingly the proposed mission. K. is scheduled to return to New-York during the second half of September, and will then deal with the matter in question.

It is very important that upon K's return to the States you will keep in close touch with him in order to instruct and direct him properly. I am looking forward to hear from you soon.

\* \* \*

In case that K's mission will materialize it will of course be necessary to meet and coach him prior to his departure.

\* \* \*

Referring to our agreement please find hereunder Aliyah statistics for the month of July: (Arrivals in Vienna from Eastern European countries.)

From Poland	221	Emmigrants
From Roumania	56	"
From Hungary	None	"

\* \* \*

Our aid program to needy Jews in Roumania is progressing satisfactorily, and according to the system I outlined to you. Otherwise there are no special developments to report at the moment.

In case you should want to cable or write to me, please do so through Uri Raanan in New-York.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter and let me know if I can write to you in Hebrew next time.

Sincerely,

נח אביב



CONFIDENTIAL

2nd September, 1959

Dear Shaiko,

I have received your letter of 10th August and appreciate very much hearing from you.

K. has already returned to New York and I expect to see him shortly.

I am not clear as to whether you have definitely decided that he should go on this mission. If you have, I assume you will instruct him to apply for his visa, or you will send instructions to me. In either case, I am at your disposal and will await further word from you.

Thank you for the aliyah statistics for July. I would appreciate having them for August as soon as you know them.

With regard to your aid program to needy Jews in Rumania, I am delighted that this is progressing satisfactorily. This particular piece of information can be very helpful to my work.

I would appreciate it if you would continue to write in English. It is much easier for me.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Herbert A. Friedman

HAF/fc

September 6, 1959

Dear Herb,

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of September 2.

Hereunder please find the enumeration of aliyah statistics for the month of August :

Poland	320
Rumania	100
Persia	157
North Africa	395
Other countries	278

Total : 1250 Emigrants.

I shall continue to furnish you with aliyah figures every month. I also commenced, as of the first of August, to send you a weekly summary of new emigrants, through Shimshon Arad. This way was suggested to me by Aib Harman.

Unfortunately I have at present no other information at hand about aliyah.

As regards K: We agreed with him that in the second half of September he will approach the Rumanian Ambassador in Washington, in order to explain to him the purpose of his trip and to ask for an entry-visa.

Since K. returned to the States earlier than expected, it would be advisable for you to meet him on the subject matter, and hear from him the date on which he expects to be ready to travel. Of course K. will have to ask first for a visa. Please let me know as soon as possible what you achieved in this matter.

I stress once more the fact, that if K. receives his visa, we shall have to prepare him for the mission. We will have to agree between us, how this should be done.

The aid program to Jews in Rumania (bank transfers) is continuing to develop satisfactorily. We aim to enlarge our program of aid in the coming months.

Should I receive any further information which might interest you, I shall not hesitate to communicate with you at once.

Yours sincerely,

Shaika.

S. Dan



CONFIDENTIAL

30th September

Dear Shaik:

Thank you for your letter of 6th September, with the aliyah statistics for the month of August. I have also been receiving the weekly summary through Shimshon Arad, and I am most grateful to you. If you will continue to see that I am supplied with weekly and monthly figures, I assure you that will be very valuable for the campaign.

As regards K, I saw him last evening and he is prepared to go to the Rumanian embassy in Washington within the next two weeks and ask for his visa on the straight-forward basis of wanting to talk with Rumanian officials about the Jewish question.

If he receives the visa, obviously he will have to be prepared for his mission and we can do it any way you suggest. Perhaps the best way would be for you to meet him in Western Europe before he enters. If you cannot do that, perhaps you would want to send material to Abe Harman to give him. Of course, I will be happy to do anything you want me to do.

Now, I have another matter. A man came to see me, by the name of Bernard Berger. I am enclosing a clipping about him, which you may already have seen. I do not know much about his background. He was born in Jerusalem. His grandfather was Mandelbaum, whose house is at the entrance gate from Jordan. His father, who must be quite old by now, lives in Israel.

Berger was an economist by profession and worked in the Economic section of the U.S. State Department until 1947. After that he went into business for himself as an exporter and importer. The name of his company is Albumina International.

He was drawn into the Portugal case by the State Department, which referred the matter to him for his intervention with Rumanian Ambassador in Washington.

Berger apparently has many business dealings with Rumanians and knows several ministers in the cabinet. He mentioned the name of Petri, formerly stationed in Tel Aviv, now apparently Minister for Foreign Trade, as one of his close contacts.

I introduced him to Abe Harman, so that Abe could get his own impression of the man.

Berger says that there is nothing more important to him than to try to help re-open emigration from Rumania. He feels that he can assist in this matter because of his contacts with them. He says that most important of all, they want to have a favorable publicity in the U.S. He suggested that a private dinner be arranged with the new Rumanian ambassador, Makavescu (who has replaced Brucan, now appointed to the NN). He suggested that at this dinner I bring some newspaper people, simply as a very delicate hint that if the Rumanians make some positive move on emigration, they could receive favorable newspaper publicity.

That dinner is taking place this evening. Makavescu, an assistant of his by the name of Dolosol (who is Press Attache and also probably the security man), Berger, myself, and three newspaper people will have dinner together. The newspapermen are from the New York Times, New York Herald Tribune and New York Post. All three are very important men and their names are well known to Makavescu. He realizes that he is getting top treatment.

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This whole thing may be a *שפיגל סודי*. I have no idea whether Berger is simply bluffing or whether he has influence on them. I have no idea whether Makavescu has influence in Bucharest. We are trying something, in which we have nothing to lose and perhaps something to gain.

I shall finish this letter to you tomorrow, after the dinner has taken place ---

1st October, 1959

The dinner was very interesting and I think we went as far as it is possible to go. The newspaper people present were Mr. Nannie Freeman, Foreign Editor of the New York Times, Mr. Herbert Kupferberg, chief editorial writer of the New York Herald Tribune, Mr. Joseph Lash, chief feature writer, New York Post. The discussion went for two and a half hours covering many subjects. Let me divide this report in half -- one part dealing with Jewish matters, and one part dealing with general matters.

JEWISH:

The whole discussion dealt with the question of Jewish emigration from Rumania. Makavescu said that it has never been stopped. He said that on the Orient Express on which he travelled himself in May when he was coming to the United States for his assignment, there were 70 Jewish emigrants on the train. I didn't argue with him, of course, but after he left I told the others in our group that there has not been a single day since March when 70 people came out on one day.

He made the remark that one out of every ten Jews in Israel today was of Rumanian extraction. Berger said that if more Jews had freedom to leave Rumania, then perhaps the ratio in Israel would become even higher, such as one out of every eight. Makavescu laughed and said that as far as he was concerned he would have no objection.

He said that the problem of emigration was very difficult because it involved hardships for many Jews, including some of his best friends. He cited as an example people who were in high posts, resigned, did not get their passports, and then had terrible difficulty. He described the social hardships of Jews caught in this position as being very painful to his government. Therefore, they had to give orders that people should be restored to their jobs, but obviously they could not go back to the good jobs they had before, because those were already taken. So now people were living on lower standards. He gave an example of himself and his best friend. Before becoming Minister to Washington, he was the head of the cinematique industry in Rumania -- the number one man. He said he earned 2,400 lei per month. One of his chief deputies was a Jew, earning 2,100 lei. This man, his good friend, asked to be liberated from his post. Makavescu tried to dissuade him but the man said that his wife was putting on pressure to go to Israel. So Makavescu had no choice but to liberate him. Then the man didn't get his passport. Afterwards, in order to give him bread for his table, the best job they could find for him was at 800 lei per month. He used this line of reasoning to indicate how hard it was for the Rumanian government to come to any conclusions about allowing emigration, in which people got excited, and did things which caused them hardship, which the government did not want to see happen.

He made a second point, when explaining what a problem this was for his government, by referring to the Arabs. He did not expand on this very much but simply indicated that it was a problem.

He then went on to say that there was no definite commitment which he could make at this time. The matter is under serious discussion back home, he said. He felt certain that he would have something to say "in the very next future". I assume that his use of English was somewhat awkward, and that what he meant was the very near future. He gave the distinct impression that they were attempting to re-examine



this whole question in Bucharest. He said he was planning to go home for a short period at the end of December or the beginning of January, when this session of the United Nations finished, and that he would certainly look into the matter at that time.

He said that he would be happy to receive in his office in Washington any letters from individuals requesting reunification of families, or even any memoranda from organizations which wanted to bring this matter to his attention. He said he would forward everything to Bucharest, add his opinion that something should be done about these requests. He mentioned that he has one memorandum now from an organization of Rumanian Jews in America headed by a Mr. Kramer. He said that he had tried to be helpful by telling Mr. Kramer that the memorandum was not written in a proper way and that if it were to be redrafted he would be happy to forward it to Bucharest with his recommendation.

He was asked by Mr. Freedman of the Times whether his government had any statistics about the number of Jews who wanted to leave. He said there were no statistics and there was no way of knowing whatever; but if he had to guess he would say perhaps 25,000. I mentioned that Mr. Idov Cohen and the Association of Rumanian immigrants in Israel have stated that they have a list of 15,000 families, who have members separated between Rumania and Israel, and that I imagine this made up a group larger than 25,000 souls. He said he simply did not know.

There was a very lengthy discussion on the question of publicity. Mr. Berger began by saying that Rumania had no problems with the United States and that there really were no items on which the Rumanian government could get good publicity in the United States because relations between the two countries were so limited, and there was not much that could be written on any subject, with the one exception of the Jewish subject. Berger said that there were 300,000 Jews in America of Rumanian origin, and that this was the largest group of American citizens who would be interested in anything that Rumania would do. Therefore, if Rumania were to decide upon a large renewal of emigration, this fact would be of tremendous importance to the Jews of America and there certainly would be a favorable reaction to such a decision.

After that opening statement, all of the newspaper people added their corroboration. Freedman said that it would be of interest not only to the Jews in this country but to all Americans, because reunification of families on a full scale would be a humanitarian act that would gain Rumania the sympathy of the press in General. Kupferberg said that not only would the news columns be favorable but that there would also be favorable editorial comment. Lash agreed fully with both men.

Dolosol (press attache and also MVD man) said that the excitement of last spring caused many exaggerations in the press. For instance, he said, we know there are only 140,000 Jews in all Rumania, and yet the papers last spring were talking about an exodus of 300 or 350,000.

Berger then steered the conversation toward me by asking if it were possible for the Jewish organizations in this country to conduct their campaigns and spread information among their people sotto voce. I assured Makavescu that it was entirely possible to be guided by the desire of the Rumanian government in this matter. I went further and said that actually the question of publicity was up to them, that they should decide on what they wanted, and give us a line of guidance. In other words, if they wanted straight news reporting, and nothing else, they could have that. If, on the other hand, they wanted some more favorably slanted publicity among the Jewish groups, then we would be glad to work with them along those lines.

The discussion ended with Makavescu saying that he understood the whole issue perfectly and that he hoped he would have something to tell us "in the next future".



GENERAL:

1. Makavescu and Dolosol both made a very strong point about the case of a man by the name of Viorel Trifa, about whom they got quite emotional. They called him an anti-Semite, a butcher, a Fascist, an Iron Guardist. They described him as one of the instigators of the first Jassy pogrom in January 1941. He is now in the United States and is a bishop of the Eastern Orthodox Church, residing in Detroit. In 1954 he was invited to give the prayer at the opening of the U.S. Senate (various ministers, including occasionally a rabbi, are invited to give the prayer each day that the Senate is in session). This honor apparently infuriated them very much.

They say they have a letter from a Rabbi Guttman in Romania accusing Trifa of being the murderer of Guttman's son.

Berger indicated later, after they left, that they have gone so far in their thinking as to be debating whether to give Rabbi Guttman an exit visa to come to the U.S. to make a public charge against Trifa for murder.

It is clear to me that if this man were exposed and denounced, that fact would count heavily with the Romanians. All three newspapermen present wrote the name down and said they would look into the matter. This seemed to give Makavescu and Dolosol satisfaction.

2. They spoke about tourists to their country and said that they would like to see tourist trade increased. They said they had no tourist bureau in America and did not advertise, relying instead upon certain travel agencies to stimulate business.

3. They made quite a point about wanting to have Western correspondents permanently stationed in Bucharest. Freedman said that the Times had three men -- Underwood, Handler and Rosenthal -- operating all through Eastern Europe and that there was not enough news in Romania to keep one man stationed there permanently. Lash said that the Post had Frieden in Vienna and that perhaps they would be interested in sending him into Bucharest. Makavescu said that any time any of these newspapers wanted to get visas for their correspondents, they just had to come to them and he would have the visas in ten days.

4. When asked if there were any complaints, or any other requests he wanted to make of the newspaper people, he said, "Why do you call us satellites? Why do you refer to us as Reds? Why do you say in your headlines 'Red diplomat'? All of this is very unpleasant to us." The newspaper man laughed and said that he was discussing a much larger question.

5. Lash asked him what he thought, from the Romanian point of view, of the future of Arab-Israel relations. He thought for a moment and then said, in effect, that it depended upon Mr. Nasser who was no good, and America also would come to realize he was no good. He said that in the short time he has been in Washington he has heard that America thinks Nasser is now "OK". He thought Nasser's ambitions were the source of trouble.

EVALUATION:

i. Berger pressed most of the discussion with firmness and directness. At the same time, he was obsequious and obviously wanted to keep in their good graces. But he steered the conversation from topic to topic with skill and was definitely not weak.

ii. The newspaper men handled themselves beautifully. They were obviously offering him the bait of a good press. They told him in clear words that enlarging of emigration on reunification of families basis, involving larger numbers, would meet with great approval in the American press. They were clear and unmistakable. 5/. ...



iii. The meeting was quite successful from every point of view, because he not only understood, but also left the door open by saying to all of us that he comes to New York once each week during the present session of the UN and would be delighted to see us here at any time. He also added that whenever we came to Washington we should certainly come to visit him and talk over this question again, or any other question. This means that there are now four persons beside Berger who are in the position to call him and keep this discussion alive, should it be desirable to do so.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Berger is almost certain that he will be making a trip to Bulgaria and Yugoslavia the third week in October and then expects to go on to Israel the first week in November. I have not said anything to him about putting him in touch with anybody in Israel. If you decide that you do want to get in touch with him, I will follow your directions.

