



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.

Series H: United Jewish Appeal, 1945-1995.

Subseries 2: Correspondence, 1947-1982.

Box
26

Folder
20

Scheuer, James H. 1965-1968.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

State Dept
12/24/65

Schener

December 24, 1965

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am deeply concerned with the implications of the announcement that you have authorized the beginning of bilateral negotiations with the United Arab Republic for a 6-month, \$55 million P. L. 480 wheat agreement. I understand that the terms of the contemplated agreement have been tightened and would require repayment in dollars whereas the previous agreement allowed repayment in local currency. However, I believe that an extensive list of safeguards ought to be negotiated, prior to final agreement, in order to protect vital long-range U. S. interests in the Middle East.

The State Department press officer, Mr. Robert McCloskey, stated on November 30th, when he made the announcement that the U. S. is now prepared to consider negotiating a new agreement, that "Although unresolved policy differences and various incidents had placed strain on our relations during the early months of 1965 . . . There has been substantial improvement in our relations since that time, and the desire of the United Arab Republic to see this trend continue has been increasingly clear."

Mr. McCloskey states as instances in point, an August 24th agreement between President Nasser and King Faisal regarding a cease-fire in Yemen; a \$500,000 settlement with the U. S. for damages done to the USIA library in Cairo; and "improvements of the objectivity in the press in the United Arab Republic including statements which suggest a gradual turnaway from overinvolvement in foreign affairs and greater concentration on internal economic problems."

Frankly, I am unimpressed by Mr. McCloskey's reasoning. I have not discerned any such recent change in UAR policy which indicates that President Nasser is abandoning his long-held bellicose and inflammatory policies and is now concentrating on raising the standard of living of his underdeveloped nation. In point of fact, the illustrations of change in policy mentioned by Mr. McCloskey are little more than facing up to a clearly lost cause, in connection with his detente with King Faisal; and a long overdue correction in a record of outrageous behavior toward the U.S. A nation deserves no great credit for ceasing a particularly unconscionable course of conduct. Only positive policies reflecting a mature regard for the norms of civilized conduct among nations, and particularly for the mandates of the U. N. should be recognized and rewarded. This we have yet to see.

The absence of these developments are made all the more apparent by very recent and very specific developments which, taken together, clearly indicate that Nasser is persisting in policies which are prejudicial to the United States and the West. For example:

He welcomed Walter Ulbricht to Cairo;

He pressed Chancellor Erhard to cancel arms shipments to Israel;

He tried to persuade all Arab states to recognize East Germany;

He is promoting the United Arab Military Command which results in channelling our aid and Arab internal resources into a destructive and ever-escalating Middle East arms race;

He is forcing nations like Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon to add to their weapons stockpiles, and forego desperately needed internal development programs;

He entered into extensive new commitments with the Soviet Union during his recent visit to Moscow, to purchase ultra-modern Soviet arms, jet bombers, tanks, and SAM missiles, which will further escalate the Near East arms race;

He subscribed to a joint communique with the Soviet Union during this visit, in which he pledged his collaboration with Soviet aspirations in the Near East;

He stated four times in 1965, and as recently as two weeks ago, that war with Israel is inevitable;

He has attacked our policies in Vietnam;

He encourages Arab refugees to believe that they will destroy Israel and he arms them;

He harasses our British Allies in Aden;

He still bars Israeli shipping from the Suez Canal;

His propaganda has weakened our hold on our base in Libya as well as British-held bases in Cyprus, Libya, and Aden.

Just a few weeks ago, President Nasser, in a speech to a large group of Egyptian students at Assuti, called for the expulsion of Bourguiba's Tunisia from the Arab League because of Bourguiba's publicly-stated policy of co-existence with Israel.

It seems clear to me that in determining to reactivate our aid program to the UAR, we must require specific and hard evidence from President Nasser which proves beyond doubt that he has effected a basic change in his years' old aggressive and demagogic posture. For it is this posture, and the policies which flow therefrom, which now stimulates

a general arms race in the Near East, which now prevents the nations in the region, including the UAR, from investing their resources in vitally needed internal development programs, and which now makes the Near East a tinderbox which could be set off by a spark, that would ignite a major world conflagration.

I join you in the conviction that the United States as an affluent "have" nation should do all that it reasonably can to assist the impoverished "have not" nations in eliminating poverty, disease, and ignorance, and to create viable, stable, democratic societies.

If the Egyptian government were using its resources effectively to improve the lot of its undernourished masses, I would feel that our own deeply held moral and ethical beliefs would mandate us to assist them in their struggle.

But it seems clear that if Nasser were sincerely committed to a domestic war on poverty, illiteracy, and disease, he would not be spending his very limited resources for sophisticated instruments of military aggression.

From the hard evidence at hand, it appears that he is using our food in order to free Egyptian resources to produce, not bread for internal consumption, but guns and atomic weapons for dangerously irresponsible adventures in terror and aggression abroad, which threaten the peace and stability of the entire Near East, and possibly, the world.

I am convinced that it would not be in the interest of the United States to finalize any agreement to resume aid programs to the United Arab Republic, unless, as a firm condition precedent, Nasser provides unmistakable and tangible assurances that:

- (1) He will revise his policy of aggression and belligerence toward his Arab and Israeli neighbors;
- (2) He intends to abide by the U. N. resolution calling for freedom of passage in the Suez Canal;

- (3) He is committed to the West, or, at the very least, to real neutrality;
- (4) He intends to make an effort to meet at the conference table with Israel;
- (5) He does not intend to use surplus food shipments to facilitate further diversion of Egypt's resources into an arms build-up in the UAR and thereby escalate an already dangerous arms race in the Near East.

Mr. President, I believe that I am speaking on behalf of many of my colleagues in Congress who share my reservations, and I know that I am voicing the opinions of a majority of my constituents. We all look to you for guidance in the matters of national security, and I am certain that you will do the utmost in your power to allay our profound concern.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Scheuer
Member of Congress

JHS/er

JIM SCHEVER

1. BB - Jay Kaufman
2. Hadassah - Jacobson
3. N.Y. Board of Rabbis - Sandrow, Gordon, Moshowitz, Rackman
4. NCTJW - Mrs. Willen
5. Pres. Conf. - J. Prinz
6. A.J. Congress - Lelyveld
7. N.Y. C. USA - H.C.B. + Emmel

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Individuals

Weiler - Arnou

Bensley

Broido

?

Mel Dubin

Chas. Frost

Albe Goodman

Jerry Klarfein

Joe Mazer

Albert Parker

Larry Schacht

Albe Fernberg

**YOUR CONGRESSMAN
JAMES H. SCHEUER**

*Reports
from Washington*



21st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

(NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE)

House of Representatives, U.S.
PUBLIC DOCUMENT
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

James H. Scheuer
M. C.

POSTAL PATRON--LOCAL
21st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
BRONX, NEW YORK.

Dear Friend:

Recent events have indicated once again that the continued existence of the State of Israel is endangered by the determination of the Arabs to exterminate this small democracy and its intrepid people. With the Russians and other Communists supporting the Arabs, an American commitment to assure equilibrium and stability in the region is essential.

Following is a letter I have sent to Secretary of State Rusk expressing my views on a proper leadership role for the United States in the near East:

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Today Israel is threatened by vengeful neighbors who repeat daily the pledges of yesterday and yesteryear to devastate its land and destroy its people.

It is unconscionable that hundreds of thousands of European survivors of Nazism who have managed to escape one holocaust should live under the daily and hourly threat of another.

You and the President have tried to play a constructive role in helping to maintain stability in the Near East region by assuring the continued integrity and independence of Israel.

Now, however, the time has come for the United States to take further steps to achieve a more durable and permanent peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

I urge that the United States sponsor a resolution in the United Nations calling for an immediate peace conference under U.N. auspices at which all of the contending parties would be represented. Concurrent with making such permanent peace arrangements, the delegates would formulate a multi-billion dollar regional development program encompassing the major health, nutrition, education, job training, employment, and agricultural needs of the peoples in the area.

I further urge that the United States assume leadership in resolving the Arab refugee problem by proposing that the Arab countries, and Israel, and all the U.N. member nations each accept a limited number of refugees for resettlement with U.N. financial support for needed interim health care, education, job training, employment and family subsistence allowances.

I would appreciate your comments on this proposal.

Sincerely,

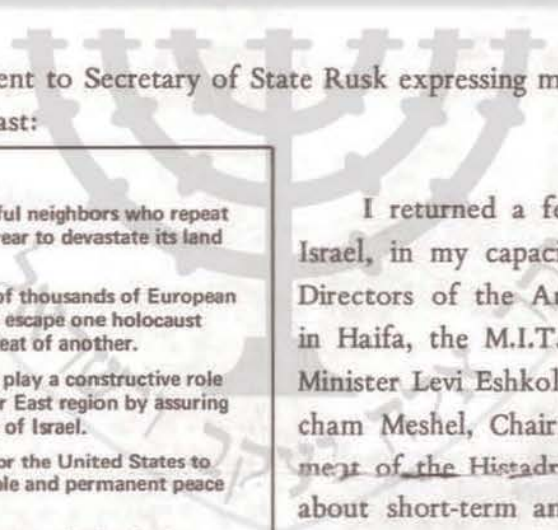
James H. Scheuer
James H. Scheuer, M.C.

I returned a few weeks ago from a brief trip to Israel, in my capacity as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society for the Technion in Haifa, the M.I.T. of Israel. I conferred with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, General Moshe Dayan, and Yerucham Meshel, Chairman of the Trade Unions Department of the Histadrut, and other high Israeli officials about short-term and long-term peace prospects, and about my proposal for a "new careers" training program for Arab refugees and new Israeli immigrants alike, comparable to my new careers program passed by the Congress in 1966, and now operative across the country in 50 cities.

I continue to be astonished at the progress being made by Israelis in building their country — even since my flying visit last July right after the six day war — while they are still burdened with a heavy and continuing defense budget equal to 12.2% of their GNP, almost 50% more than the comparable level of U.S. defense expenditures.

May, 1968

AMERICAN JEWISH





Congressman Scheuer chatting with Israeli and African agricultural engineering students at dinner in the Technion mess hall.

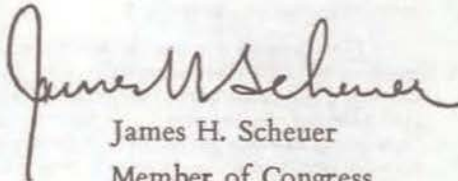


Representative Scheuer greets General Moshe Dayan after being briefed on long-term military and political prospects in the Middle East.

Since my trip last summer they have consolidated their control solidly over the Gaza Strip, the West bank of the Jordan, the Golan Heights, and the straits of Aqaba, and I found authorities at all levels of government prepared both economically and militarily to administer the newly occupied territories for as long as it takes the Arab nations to confront Israel at the conference table in peace as they confronted Israel on the Sinai Desert and the Jerusalem hills in war.

The aid Israel is requesting of us does not include American troops or our direct military involvement in any fashion whatsoever. The Israelis ask only that we help supply them with the military equipment — hardware and jet planes — to defend themselves.

Sincerely yours,


James H. Scheuer
Member of Congress



Congressman Scheuer discusses the refugee problem with Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:
159 East 165th Street
Bronx, New York
Phone: LU 8-6790

JAMES H. SCHEUER
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

339 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3816

RICHARD A. BROWN
ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

DISTRICT OFFICE:
159 EAST 165TH STREET
BRONX, NEW YORK 10452
TELEPHONE: LU 8-6790

STANLEY POSESS
CONGRESSIONAL SECRETARY

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:
SELECT EDUCATION
SPECIAL LABOR
ANTIPOVERTY
GENERAL EDUCATION
HANDICAPPED

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

May 2, 1967

Mr. Herbert A. Friedman
Executive Vice-Chairman
United Jewish Appeal
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

Dear Herb:

I hope you had a pleasant holiday.

The men on your list whom I do not know and whom I would enjoy meeting are:

Charles Frost
Jerome Klorfein
Joseph Mazer
Albert Parker
Laurence Schacht.

I know Louis Broido, Mel Dubin and Abe Goodman slightly; and Jack Weiler, Robert Arnow, Charles Bensley and Abe Feinberg fairly well.

I will call your office in the next few days to see how we should proceed from here. I can give you a list of Fridays in which I would be delighted to schedule breakfasts, lunches, afternoon cocktails, or dinners.

Herb, I can't tell you how much I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Yours,



James H. Scheuer, M. C.

JHS:lr

Friday 19
not available
2-3



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 90th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 113

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1967

No. 82

H 6032

MIDDLE EAST DANGER

(Mr. SCHEUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHEUER. Mr. Speaker, I wish wholeheartedly to endorse the remarks of our distinguished majority leader in support of the President's splendid statement of yesterday.

I applaud the President's desire to mobilize the energies and the leadership of the United Nations to bring peace to the Middle East and I also urge the President to make sure that the United States stands firm on its obligations as a signatory to the 1950 tripartite agreement which would assure the resources of the three signatories would be used to prevent aggression in the Middle East.

President Nasser and other leaders of the Arab world have pursued over the years a consistent course of conduct directed not alone against the State of Israel but also specifically and directly against the interests of the United States and our European allies. It has been a consistently mischievous and dangerous course of conflict designed to inflame the Middle East, with the dangerous potential of ultimate escalation of hostilities which could well engulf the world.

Recent and specific developments, taken together, clearly indicate that President Nasser has persisted in policies that are prejudicial to the United States, the West, and world peace:

He entered into extensive new commitments with the Soviet Union during his 1965 visit to Moscow, to purchase ultramodern Soviet arms, jet bombers, tanks, and SAM missiles, which will further escalate the Near East arms race;

He subscribed to a joint communique with the Soviet Union during this visit, in which he pledged his collaboration with Soviet aspirations in the Near East.

He has repeatedly stated that war with Israel is inevitable;

He has attacked our policies in Vietnam;

He encourages Arab refugees to be-

lieve that they will destroy Israel and he arms them;

He harasses our British allies in Aden;

His propaganda has weakened our hold on our base in Libya as well as British-held bases in Cyprus, Libya, and Aden.

He called for the expulsion of Bourguiba's Tunisia from the Arab League because of Bourguiba's publicly stated policy of coexistence with Israel.

He still bars Israeli shipping from the Suez Canal; and has announced a blockade of Israel's shipping lifeline in the Gulf of Aqaba.

He welcomed East Germany's Walter Ulbricht to Cairo;

He pressed Chancellor Erhard to cancel arms shipments to Israel;

He tried to persuade all Arab States to recognize East Germany;

He is promoting the United Arab Military Command which results in channelling our aid and Arab internal resources into a destructive and ever-escalating Middle East arms race;

He is forcing nations like Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon to add to their weapons stockpiles, and forgo desperately needed internal development programs;

It is essential, Mr. Speaker, for the President and the Secretary of State, along with English and French spokesmen, to make it unmistakably clear to President Nasser and other Arab Chiefs of State, that the three signatories to the 1950 Tripartite Declaration, will take resolute, prompt, and effective action to suppress any irresponsible adventures in aggression which would threaten to explode the precarious and uneasy peace now prevailing in the Near East, into a regional, and perhaps world-wide holocaust.

It is highly desirable that the U.N. take forthright leadership in their hour of challenge; it is indispensable that the three Tripartite Declaration signatories establish themselves beyond challenge, question, or doubt, as the determined protectors of the territorial integrity of each state in the troubled, tension ridden Near East.

JAMES H. SCHEUER
21st District, New York

430 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3816

RICHARD A. BROWN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DISTRICT OFFICE:
159 EAST 165TH STREET
BRONX, NEW YORK 10452
TELEPHONE: LU 8-6790

JOHN DELANEY
CONGRESSIONAL SECRETARY

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:
SELECT EDUCATION
SPECIAL LABOR
ANTIPOVERTY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

May 26, 1967

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Executive Vice Chairman
United Jewish Appeal
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

Dear Herb:

I thought you might be interested
in seeing the speech I made on the
floor of the House in connection with
the precarious situation in the Middle
East.

Sincerely,


James H. Scheuer, M. C.

JHS:lr

JAMES H. SCHEUER
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

339 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3816

RICHARD A. BROWN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DISTRICT OFFICE:
159 EAST 165TH STREET
BRONX, NEW YORK 10452
TELEPHONE: LU 8-6790

JOHN DELANEY
CONGRESSIONAL SECRETARY

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:
SELECT EDUCATION
SPECIAL LABOR
ANTIPOVERTY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

July 2, 1968

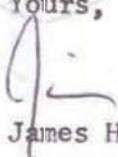
Mr. Irving Bernstein
United Jewish Appeal
220 West 58th Street
New York, New York

Dear Irving:

I have enclosed for you a copy of the most recent newsletter.

I'd be grateful if you'd give me a call when you've read this.

Yours,


James H. Scheuer, M.C.

JHS/kb

Enclosure

Miss Castaldo

7/25

July 9, 1968

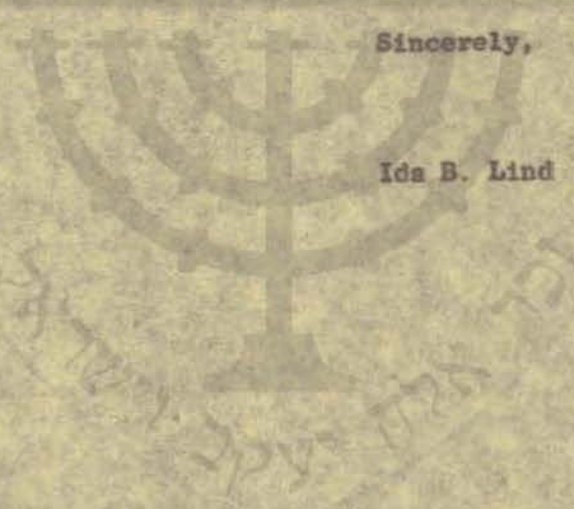
Honorable James H. Scheuer
339 House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Scheuer:

Mr. Irving Bernstein is presently away from the office on vacation. I am holding your recent Newsletter for his return some time the end of this month.

Sincerely,

Ida B. Lind



from PETER B. COLWIN

July 26, 1968

TO: IB

SUBJ: CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER

I am returning herewith the file on Congressman Scheuer. I spoke to Miss Castaldo offering to set up a luncheon at any time convenient to him.

She checked it out with him and because of the fact that Congress has not adjourned and the vacation which he is going to take, he suggests that this all be held until September.

The main point is we offered and this is what you wanted to accomplish anyway.



PBC:NK