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Overseas travel. Notes, reports, and agendas. 1960.

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JOINT PALESTINE APPEAL

המגבית הישראלית המאוחדת

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LONDON - - W.C.1
Telephone - MUSeum 3815

General Secretary :
S. Y. HARWICH

5th January, 1960.

Rabbi Herbert Friedman,
The United Jewish Appeal,
165 West 46th Street,
New York City 36.

Dear Rabbi Friedman,

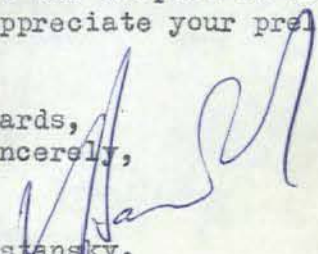
The enclosed letter to Morton Berman speaks for itself. I promised Hymie Morrison that I would write to you on the same subject, as he feels that you ought to have a word with Leonard Wolfson when you are here, in the hope that you may succeed where we have failed so far.

You will notice that I have tried to put the case for Leonard Wolfson's proposal as best as I could, if only in deference to Hymie's wishes, but I ought to say that it goes against the grain.

For a start, a great many people in this country, particularly now, are much more interested in immigration and the responsibility for immigration and the unmet needs, and a township or port is really the responsibility of the Government or a private sector in Israel or abroad.

But I would rather suppress my own emotions and views, so as to give you a fair chance of "having a go" at Leonard Wolfson, for his studied absence from our meetings has been a real weakness in the J.P.A. in this country. I shall reserve further comment until I meet you at the airport on Friday, the 22nd of this month, but I should appreciate your preliminary reaction.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,


L. Bakstansky.

5th January, 1960.

Dr. Morton Berman,
Keren Hayesod,
Jerusalem.

Dear Morton,

As you know, Leonard Wolfson has been "out of it" for some time for a variety of reasons with which you are familiar, but the "official" reason was that he disapproves of the J.P.A. method of collecting funds, handing them over blindly to the Jewish Agency, that his visit to Israel taught him that not all the money was wisely spent and that in Britain we had sufficient know-how to work miracles and, therefore, if we collect the money, we ought to spend it ourselves on special projects, secure experts from this country, which has some of the greatest brains in the world, and really do a thorough job in Israel. As examples, he suggested either the building of a township or a port or taking over the responsibility for tourism, or projects of this kind.

When I pointed out to him repeatedly the kind of thing which to us is basic - the responsibility of the Agency for immigrants, the unmet needs, the gap in absorption, the division of functions as between the Government and the Agency and, furthermore, as between the public and the private sector - all this did not register. His reply was that it is purely book-keeping, which could be overcome with a bit of goodwill. Last year's compromise of having two new settlements in Galilee earmarked for the J.P.A. left him absolutely cold.

So we had our way but at the cost of losing Leonard Wolfson, de facto, and nobody will deny that, when he makes up his mind, he could do the job and do it well. More than that, his hostility has not encouraged his father to give more and to work more, and this has remained, therefore, a great weakness of the J.P.A. make-up in this country.

Latterly, we have noticed a desire on the part of Leonard to explore the possibilities of coming back to the J.P.A. but he adheres to his point of view. At this very minute, Mr. Alec Colman is negotiating with him to have a lunch for the big Property people, to meet Rabbi Herbert Friedman, at Mr. Wolfson's office on Monday, January 25th, and it looks as if he will agree to do at least this, but, of course, "it is clearly understood"

Yesterday, Mr. Hymie Morrison had lunch with Leonard Wolfson and he telephoned me last night and said that we ought to make a real effort to get Leonard Wolfson back to the fold. Mr. Morrison pointed out that the J.P.A. needs some refreshing, some new vigour, and without large immigration, what hope can we have of increasing on last year's result? Mr. Morrison also reminded me that a great deal of money has been given to other Israeli appeals recently, such as the Weizmann Institute, the Hebrew University, the Technion, by people who have not given to the J.P.A. last year, such as Jack Cotton, and he said that, in the main, this is due to the special appeal which projects of that kind command, whilst we shall have to come this year with a general appeal, without large immigration.

Mr. Morrison feels that, as Leonard Wolfson can be a great tower of strength, another effort should be made to explore his view. I therefore promised him that I would write to you and ask you to sound people in Israel as to whether there is anything we can do to meet Leonard Wolfson's view. Leonard Wolfson spoke in terms of raising £10,000,000 over the next five years for a township in Israel. Now, it may well be that among the projects of the Government and/or Agency there is a scheme of this kind. If it is purely a Government scheme, it may be that, through the Co-ordination Committee, you might find a way of treating this idea as purely a "book-keeping matter". Maybe the Agency and J.P.A. would take over a Government responsibility and the Government would place the same funds at the disposal of the Agency for one of the Agency purposes. Or you may be able to come back with a counter-proposal which would be equally attractive.

But the matter is urgent. We have a chance of widening the effectiveness of the J.P.A. which would be of the greatest significance. Don't wait until you are here but, if possible and if you can see a "ray of light", please send me a considered proposal, one which would have the backing of the Keren Hayesod, the Jewish Agency and the Government, as soon as you possibly can, so as to give us an opportunity of sounding Leonard Wolfson, of advising you of his first reaction before you leave Israel, in case any further action is indicated so that, when you are here, which will be before Rabbi Friedman arrives, we might be in a position to prepare the ground in advance and, thus, begin the new Appeal with an increased and stronger team and with better hopes of the result.

Yours sincerely,

L. Bakstansky.

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FRIEDMAN UJAPPEAL NEWYORK

NEXT TUESDAY 5.30 CLASHING SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

CONVENED FOR GOLDMANN BY BOARD OF DEPUTIES WHEN MANY OUR

PEOPLE KEENLY INTERESTED EARLY AFTERNOON UNSUITABLE MAJORITY

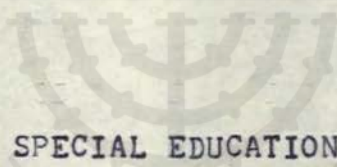
KEMEN STOP APPRECIATE YOUR CONSENT KEYMENS MEETING 27TH

5.30 REGARDS

BAKSTANSKY

5.30 27TH 5.30

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES



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BAKSTANSKY
PALESTINEAPPEAL
75 GREAT RUSSELL STREET
LONDON (ENGLAND)

January 18, 1960

EASIER FOR ME TAKE KEYMENS MEETING TUESDAY TWENTYSIXTH IF POSSIBLE OR EARLIER DURING DAY
WEDNESDAY TWENTYSEVENTH BECAUSE WAS PLANNING RETURN NEWYORK WEDNESDAY TWENTYSEVENTH VIA
SIXPM JET STOP IF ONLY POSSIBLE TIME WEDNESDAY FIVETHIRTYPM WILL AGREE AND STAY OVER
EXTRA DAY PLEASE ADVISE

FRIEDMAN

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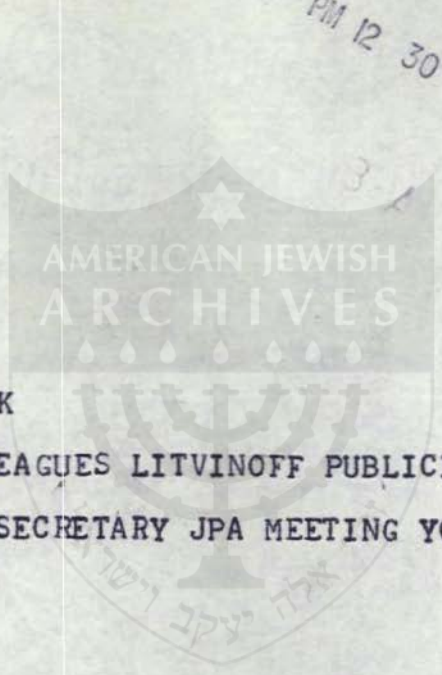
FRIEDMAN UJAPPEAL NEWYORK

THANKS YOUR WIRE MY COLLEAGUES LITVINOFF PUBLICITY

OFFICER HARWICH GENERAL SECRETARY JPA MEETING YOU AIRPORT

MONDAY MORNING REGARDS

BAKSTANSKY





*Overseas
Imp. London
Jan
1960*

המרכז הציוני בבריטניה הגדולה ואירלנדיה

THE ZIONIST FEDERATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND 77 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

GENERAL SECRETARY:
L. BAKSTANSKY, LL.B., B.SC.(Econ.)

25th January, 1960.

Rabbi Dr. H. Freedman,
Dorchester,
Park Lane,
W.1.

Dear Dr. Freedman,

I very much regret that a long standing engagement which commits me to be in Manchester for a series of meetings on behalf of the Joint Palestine Appeal and the Zionist Federation will prevent me from having the pleasure of welcoming you in person to this country, and deprives me of the opportunity of attending your meetings during your short stay here.

May I therefore take this opportunity of hoping that you will have a successful and satisfying time here and I am looking forward to a future occasion when I may have the pleasure of meeting you in person.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Wolf Perry
Wolf Perry.
Chairman.

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