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Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

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94

American Zionist Emergency Council, "B", 1942-1944.

Western Reserve Historical Society

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ZIONIST ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY

OF PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND תִּסְדֵּן 177

41 EAST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
MURRAY HILL 2-0028

TELEGRAM

Washington, D. C.
January 17, 1942

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
National Conference for Palestine
Hotel Statler
Cleveland, Ohio

The National Conference for Palestine can be held at no more propitious hour. The land of Palestine looms large on the immediate horizon as a strategic key to the control of the Middle East. Hitler must capture it if he is to reach Iran and the Mesul Oil Fields he needs. We in the United States must help strengthen Palestine against that aggression.

In this critical hour every last measure of help must be given Palestine for yet another reason. Once again a would-be world conqueror finds this little country in his path. Japan hopes at the same time to capture Singapore and move westward toward India thus closing in on that storehouse of Allied resources in a gigantic Pincer movement. But Hitler dares not march through Turkey while Syria and Palestine thwarts his lines of communication.

Palestine is a tiny country on the map of the world but it is shaped like a thorn. It is a thorn indeed in the flank of Hitler. We must strengthen that thorn until it becomes a sword that will halt the tyrant's eastward march.

In Palestine Hitler faces the wrath of the people he has starved and tortured and degraded - Jews, over half a million strong, many of whom know the ache of a storm trooper's kick, the agonies of the Schutzstaffel's lash.

On this side of the Atlantic at this National Congress for Palestine are Jewish leaders representing millions of patriotic citizens who are glad to make any sacrifice to save Democracy. It is my earnest hope that some of the fortitude of America can be passed on through your organization to the valiant defenders of our common cause in Palestine. The Jewish haven in peacetime has become a bulwark for Democracy in wartime. Lend it your strength! Sincerely yours,

FRANK KNOX
(Secretary of the Navy)

The Land of Israel, for the People of Israel,
according to the Torah of Israel.

ארץ ישראל, לעם ישראל,
על פי תורת ישראל

הסתדרות המזרחי באמריקה

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WATKINS 9-4686-7-8

CABLE ADDRESS
"MIZORIENT"

September 22, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

May I take this opportunity of extending to you again my warm wishes on the new responsibility which you have assumed in the conduct of American Zionism's political affairs.

May I also bring to your attention the following matter which relates to the interests of the Mizrachi Merkaz Olami. During previous conversations, you were good enough to assure me that upon reorganizing the Emergency Committee, a small Political Committee would be constituted and that Rabbi Wolf Gold, chairman of the Merkaz Olami, would surely be a member thereof.

I understand that this plan was given up and that the Executive Committee will rather act in the capacity of the above mentioned Political Committee. It is inconceivable to me that Rabbi Wolf Gold, representing the Mizrachi World Organization, should be kept out of the Executive Committee, as happens to be the fact. May I, therefore, urge that you kindly find a way of coopting Rabbi Gold to the Executive, so that the opinions and participation of the Mizrachi World Organization may be reflected and registered with your important political body. This is not intended to increase the vote of Mizrachi from two to three in the Executive. It is merely a request and an intent to have the Merkaz Olami represented and heard in all matters pertaining to political policy. It will also help interpret the acts and considerations of the Emergency Committee to the Mizrachi World Organization in Jerusalem.

With kindest regards and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,

Meyer Berlin
Meyer Berlin

MB:RW

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Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Rabbi Silver

October 1 1943

Care of or Apt. No. _____

Street and No. _____

Place _____

WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by WESTERN UNION"
or similar phrases may be
included without charge.

EXCEEDINGLY REGRET TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO

BE IN CLEVELAND SATURDAY. I AM MOST ANXIOUS TO MEET WITH YOU AT YOUR

EARLIEST CONVENIENCE EITHER IN NEW YORK OR IN WASHINGTON.

PETER BERGSON

Washington, D.C.

Sender's Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____

COPY

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington

October 6, 1943

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
41 East 42nd Street
New York City

My dear Rabbi:

I received your telegram this morning
and am looking forward with pleasure to seeing you
on Monday, October 11th at 11:00 a. m.

Please call at my office at the Foreign
Affairs Committee in the Capitol.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) SOL BLOOM

SB:Cv

New York, Oct. 13, 1943

Dear Dr. Silver

The enclosed article of mine about the necessity of changing the policy in our political work in Zionism which appeared in the "Morning Journal" this week will, I hope, be of interest to you in view of your splendid work in the political field.

Yours
Georgias Rublick

1133 Blway

October 15, 1943

Mr. Gedaliah Bublick
1133 Broadway
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Bublick:

Thank you so much for your kind note and the article which you enclosed. I read it with keen pleasure, and I agree with you completely.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you early next week at the meetings of the American Jewish Conference and the Emergency Committee. With all good wishes for a very happy new year, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Esco Foundation Palestine Study • 521 Fifth Avenue • New York, N. Y.

REMOVED TO
8 WEST 40th STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
TEL. LACKAWANNA, 4-5512

Murray Hill 2-3918

October 19, 1943.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Hotel Commodore
New York, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I tried to reach you this morning by telephone but did not succeed, nor have I been able to make contact with Mr. Montor.

I understand from Miss Trebach, secretary to Mr. Montor, that the memorandum on absorptive capacity handed to you was an incomplete draft which I had intended merely for Mr. Montor's comments. Please make sure that you get the complete and revised memorandum.

It is imperative that I discuss the memorandum with you before you let anybody see it. Some of the figures require explanation. I understood from Mr. Montor that you planned such a discussion with me. There are also a number of matters in connection with the method of preparation of the memorandum about which you ought to know.

I shall be home till 3 o'clock, and you may reach me at MO. 2-4081.

With best regards and wishes for a happy New Year,

Cordially yours,

IBB/JE

I. B. Berkson
P. J. E.

I. B. BERKSON.

P.S. I am sorry I could not sign the letter personally. I am home and had to telephone it in.

- 1) Write Wife of T. J. - send him
~~copy of T. J. D. A. letter.~~
~~check on T. J. letter.~~
- 2) ~~Write La. Thompson~~
- 3) ~~Write letters & transfer to~~
~~Boston~~
- 4) ~~Write the Passes~~
- 5) ~~Jack Fickner -~~
~~changes~~
- 6) ~~Hoffman~~

Selma

national Hall

→ Dick Kister
 — Hoffman Kister

I.B. Berkson
submitted
Nov. 15, 1943.

Dr. Silver -

Proposal for
INSTITUTE FOR PALESTINE RESEARCH AND REPORTS

The work of the proposed Institute should include the following:

- I. Collection and Organization of Data,
- II. Preparation of Memoranda and Reports,
- III. Service to the various departments of the
Emergency Council.

I. Collection and Organization of Data:

Data relating to the establishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine will be collated and filed for ready reference in accordance with headings relevant to the needs of the Emergency Council and the study of the Zionist endeavor generally. Three aspects should be borne in mind especially: (1) British and Zionist policy; (2) Development of Palestine with special reference to Economic matters, immigration and increase of absorptive capacity; (3) Arab Culture and Affairs in Palestine and in neighboring countries. The material gathered in the course of the study sponsored by the Esco Foundation for Palestine may serve as a good basis for the organization of this data.

II. Preparation of Memoranda and Reports:

Three types of memoranda are envisaged:

(A) Precis and Briefs

These are conceived of as short memoranda on specific aspects of the Zionist problem prepared on request for submission to the State Department or for some other official purpose.

(B) Studies or Monographs

A number of studies should be prepared, similar to memoranda issued by the Jewish Agency in London, from time to time, and submitted to the Permanent Mandates Commission or to some special commission. These studies should be written from the point of view of the development of the Jewish National Home; they should at the same time

be thorough-going and scientific in character. A good deal of the material for such studies is available in monographs prepared by the various writers in connection with the Esco Foundation Palestine Study. The studies contemplated include:

- (i) Agricultural and Industrial Development in Palestine, and the capacity to absorb new immigrants;
- (ii) Social, Educational and Health developments in the Jewish National Home;
- (iii) The Jewish Community of Palestine and its internal organization;
- (iv) Arab Culture and Affairs in Palestine and Neighboring Countries;
- (v) Outline of British and Zionist policy and summary of present-day political proposals.

(C) Cumulative Report on Palestine

A report will be kept in outline form in such a way that a full memorandum can be prepared at relatively short notice. This report will be submitted to official bodies in connection with the peace conference.

III. Service to Other Departments:

The Institute should be prepared to supply data in oral or written form to other departments of the Emergency Committee which deal directly with the general public, e.g. to the Press, Publications, Education and Information Departments.

In order not to swamp the Research Institute with multifarious demands, it will be necessary to work out a careful procedure routing all requests for information and data to the proper department.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

41 East 42nd St.
New York, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

November 30, 1943

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

FROM: Mr. Henry Montor

Attached hereto, for your information, is a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Paul Baerwald from Mr. Herbert S. Benjamin.

HM:CCM

Enc.



C
O
P
Y

November 18, 1943

Mr. Paul Baerwald
Suite 800
270 Madison Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Baerwald:

There is attached herewith the Proxy requested, due to that fact that I will be unable to attend the meeting of the National Council of the American Joint Distribution Committee, to be held on December 5th.

I definitely wish to enter my protest, however, against the use of any United Jewish Appeal money to support the political organizations of Zionism that are functioning under the guise of helping Palestinian Jews. In other words, I think it a definite dishonesty on the part of all of us to go to our communities, as we have done here in Baton Rouge, and obtain funds under the War Chest auspices for the United Jewish Appeal and then have any of these funds diverted to Jewish political ambitions.

While my protests will probably not be heard I do ask your indulgence in passing this information on to your Committee. This small community of which I am a member has just secured \$6,000 under the auspices of our Community War Chest and it was secured under the guise that it was War charity. Should the non-Jewish members of this and other War Chest Boards ever believe that any of their funds are being used to further the political ambitions of any group I think we will be out in the Cold.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert S. Benjamin

HSB/as

AMERICAN PALESTINE INSTITUTE, INC.

165 BROADWAY • NEW YORK, N. Y.

M. H. BLINKEN
PRESIDENT

December 14, 1943

Dr. A.H. Silver
Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York City

urgent

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

I sent you yesterday a copy of my letter to Mr. A.K. Epstein, in answer to his letter of December 7th to Dr. Nahum Goldmann, together with a tentative outline of the investigation which Mr. Robert R. Nathan and his staff will undertake into the economic potentialities of Palestine.

At the conference with Mr. Nathan on Saturday to which I referred in my letter, Mr. Nathan asked me to explain the difficulties which he was having in organizing a staff to undertake the work. He has already taken on Mr. Oscar Gass, the Rhodes scholar whom you met at the conference in your hotel room at Washington. He also wants to retain the services of a Mr. Fred Kahn, whom he considers to be a bright young economist. He told me that Mr. Kahn was retained by Mr. Neumann and that he had conferred with Mr. Kahn, who would be glad to work under Mr. Nathan's direction. However, he is faced with the problem of avoiding any conflict with Mr. Neumann.

The problem, therefore, is this: Will you use your good offices to arrange for Mr. Kahn to be released from his employment by the Commission on Palestine Surveys, so that he can be employed by Mr. Nathan for a period of about six months, commencing with January 1, 1944 or sooner if his services are sooner available.

As I explained to you, Mr. Nathan is trying to get the organization work done before the end of this month, so that he can go to Hot Springs for his health. From that point he will attempt to supervise the job for a month or so and then, after evaluating the work already done by Mr. Gass and the others, plans to take a trip to Palestine. If, therefore, you can help Mr. Nathan to round out his staff before the end of the month, I think it would be worth while all around.

Cordially yours,

M. H. Blinken

MHB:RJ

December 14, 1943

NOTED BY	REFER TO
DATE	DATE
DEC 15 1943	
ANSWERED	

Mr. Albert K. Epstein
c/o Epstein Reynolds & Harris
5 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 3, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Epstein:-

I wish to call to your attention a typographical error in the letter which I sent to you yesterday. The word "not" was omitted from the 8th line of the second paragraph of page 2 of that letter. That line should read as follows:

"take and continue, if they have not already undertaken, the job of"

*Change
inserted
on p. 2.*

The point here is that the Emergency Council has begun to issue a political pamphlet entitled "Palestine" which can be utilized as a medium for this educational process at the political level.

Sincerely yours,

M. B. Bunker

MHB:RJ

December 20, 1943

Mr. M. H. Blinken, President
American Palestine Institute, Inc.
165 Broadway
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Blinken:

Thank you for your kind letter of December 14. Mr. Neumann is now in Mexico. I expect that he will return within a week and I will then take up the matter of Mr. Fred Kahn with him.

I think, however, that it would be highly desirable if you would sit down and have a talk with Mr. Neumann covering the whole situation. I am confident that much good will come out of such a conference.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 20, 1943

Mr. Maurice M. Boukstein
32 Broadway
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Boukstein:

Thank you for your kind letter of December 16 and for bringing to my attention the documents which were prepared in 1937. I am sure that they will prove very helpful in the preparation of the memoranda which we have in mind. I shall bring it to the attention of the committee which will be charged with the drafting.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ARS:EK

AMERICAN PALESTINE INSTITUTE, INC.
165 BROADWAY • NEW YORK, N. Y.

M. H. BLINKEN
PRESIDENT

December 23, 1943.

RECEIVED			
NOTED BY		REFER TO	
DATE		AHS	DATE
		DEC 24 1943	
<i>HLS</i>			
ANSWERED			

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Silver:-

Thank you for your letter of December 20th. I have planned to talk to Mr. Neumann to review the entire situation, in order, first, to acquaint him with what is being done in Washington and, secondly, to indicate the point at which Mr. Nathan's investigation can utilize the data prepared by Palestine Surveys. I was informed that Mr. Neumann is in Mexico, and I left word at his office to ask him to call me when he returns.

I received another letter from Mr. Oscar Gass, asking me to press the matter of Mr. Fred Kahn, because Mr. Nathan and Mr. Gass have already begun their work in Washington and are anxious to get on with the selection of their staff. They have rented an office at 1731 K Street, N.W. and will occupy it next week. In the meantime they are utilizing Mr. Nathan's home for their temporary office.

There are several points which I should like to discuss with you when you come to New York. Would you be good enough to ask your secretary to call me.

Cordially yours,

MHB:RJ

M. H. Blinken

R C A
RADIOGRAM

FA127 KCX TY95 BEYOGLU 23 2 2247

Rabbi Hillel Silver 41 EASTFOURTYSECOND STREET NEWYORK

2271 YOURS 23/4 RE FAMILY LUSTIG HAVE APPROVED IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATE
UNARRANGEABLE AT THIS TIME.

CHAIN BARLAS

CFM: 2271 23/4

WRHS

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

LAW OFFICES
MAURICE M. BOUKSTEIN
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
NEW YORK 4
32 Broadway
HANOVER 2-3795
CABLE: MAUSARAN NEW YORK

January 13th, 1944.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

This will acknowledge receipt of your telegram from Washington, D. C. stating as follows:

"UNDERSTAND DEAN LANDIS BACK IN COUNTRY
INASMUCH AS YOU HAD INITIAL CONTACT WITH
HIM WOULD SUGGEST YOU ARRANGE INTERVIEW
EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY SO THAT YOU
CAN GET REPORT FROM HIM KINDEST REGARDS"

I immediately proceeded to arrange the appointment with Dean Landis and I have just now been advised that an appointment has been made for tomorrow, Friday, January 14th, 1944 at 2:30 P.M.

I shall leave for Washington early tomorrow morning and I shall report about my conversation with Dean Landis as soon as I return. If you are not in town then I shall send you a memorandum to Cleveland.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours

MAURICE M. BOUKSTEIN

MMB:LG

MAURICE M. BOUKSTEIN
COUNSELOR AT LAW
32 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 4, N.Y.
HANOVER 2-3795

January 19th, 1944.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Enclosed herewith is a Memorandum
on my conversation with Dean Landis, in his office
at the State Department, last Friday, January 14th,
1944.

I had intended to dictate the
Memorandum on Monday, but I was out ill until today
and hence the delay.

There were a number of items touched
upon in the conversation with Dean Landis which are
not referred to in the Memorandum, and about which I
shall be glad to report to you when you are in New
York.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours

Maurice M. Boukstein
MAURICE M. BOUKSTEIN

MMB:LG
Encl.

AIRMAIL

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

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January 25, 1944

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Would you favor me, for publication in the Z.O.A. News Reporter with a statement on the significance of the Z.O.A. national membership campaign for 150,000 members in this decisive hour for our people?

I am anxious to feature a statement from you in the next issue of our campaign newspaper which goes to press on February 2nd. I know that Zionists throughout the country will be extremely interested in what you have to say.

EB:ES

Sincerely yours,

E. Barbarash,
Publicity Director



January 28, 1944

Mr. E. Barbarash, Publicity Director
Zionist Organization of America
1720 - 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Barbarash:

For our political work we need a maximum Zionist membership. I therefore commend most highly the effort which is being made to raise the membership of the Zionist Organization of America to 150,000. The Cleveland Zionist Society, of which I have the honor to be President, has within the last few weeks doubled its membership, raising it to a total of 1400, and the very active Membership Committee is still vigorously carrying on. We must muster our strength in this decisive hour.

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



1003 K STREET, N. W. • WASHINGTON, D. C.

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AMERICAN DISTRICTS**

PERSONAL

February 3, 1944

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road & E. 105th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Henry Monsky received your message through Rabbi Feuer, and just before leaving Washington today, he requested that I write you in accordance with the enclosure.

Moreover, he wishes you to know that we shall make our views known to the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House.

With kind wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Maurice Bisgyer
Secretary

MB:EEG
encl.

February 4, 1944

American Zionist Emergency Council
1720 16th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Miss Barofsky

My dear Miss Barofsky:

Inasmuch as I did not use the plane on
Thursday evening, I am returning herewith the
plane ticket.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.



MAURICE M. BOUKSTEIN
COUNSELOR AT LAW
32 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 4, N.Y.
HANOVER 2-3795

February 4th, 1944.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

On the chance that you may not have seen this morning's New York Times, I am sending you herewith a copy of an item entitled

"LEBANON'S PRESIDENT BARS 'GREATER SYRIA'

This report, which purports to be the expression of the official view of the President of the Lebanese Government, fully substantiates our own views as to the practicability of the scheme of an Arab Federation.

The last paragraph of the item is of particular significance.

The item also bears out the report of Mr. Szold on the subject.

It occurred to me that you may want to call this dispatch to the attention of some of your contacts in Washington.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours

Maurice M. Boukstein
MAURICE M. BOUKSTEIN

MMB:LG
Encl.

AIRMAIL

JOSEPH BRAININ

Study:

241 WEST 97TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY 25
MOnument 2-2498

February 4, 1944

Mr. Meyer W. Weissgal
342 Madison Avenue
New York City

Confidential

Dear Meyer:

It is not my habit to formalize or confirm conversations between you and me. And I would particularly have preferred not to put down in writing the subject-matter of our talk of the other evening. Even something that springs from a pure and idealistic motive becomes distorted into a commercial agreement once it is set down in a letter of confirmation. But I shall accede to your request and recapitulate in simple terms the various points upon which we agreed.

1. FORGOTTEN ALLY BULLETIN. Pierre was of the opinion that such a Bulletin, coming from an unattached outside source, could have been developed into an effective political weapon. He had done quite some thinking about it and, after several talks with Lipsky, was all set to begin. However, after I conveyed to him Silver's views (which you so eloquently advocated), Pierre agreed to defer to Silver's judgment. So the Forgotten Ally Bulletin is out.

Pierre will be glad to contribute, from time to time, to "Palestine," which, I understand from you, reaches the same type of readers as those for whom the Forgotten Ally Bulletin was intended.

JOSEPH BRAININ

Study:

241 WEST 97TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY 25
MOnument 2-2498

Meyer W. Weisgal - 2/4/44 - 2

2. ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN. Pierre is willing and eager to write four messages for four full-page ads. He has definite ideas on the approach and theme. It goes without saying that you will have full opportunity to discuss and advise on the final copy. (Pierre is to get a reasonable fee for his work in this connection.)

3. Now about Silver's suggestions for articles by Pierre in large-circulation magazines. This matter is not quite so simple. Magazines like Collier's, the Saturday Evening Post, Life, etc., only very rarely take articles expressing an opinion. As a rule they insist on what they call "informative and objective" material. It will require a great deal of ingenuity to get the right kind of stuff through. Fortunately there are magazines like Redbook (circulation over 2,000,000), Look (over 2,500,000) and Liberty (close to 2,000,000) which are extremely eager to get Pierre's articles. I therefore believe that we shall be able to put through some articles dealing with the subject of Palestine in whole or in part. In such articles the treatment will have to be of broad scope, and to be related to some more or less timely topic. Pierre and I feel we will be able to find a way of doing this. You and I will help to the best of our ability. Jacques Chambrun, Pierre's literary agent, can be of great assistance here. If necessary, we shall have to make this worth his while. For such articles Pierre does not want to accept any special remuneration; his fee from these magazines is ample. Nor should any attempt be made to persuade the magazines to accept the articles for a reduced fee. Any such suggestion is out of the question, as the editors would never accept it.

JOSEPH BRAININ

Study:

241 WEST 97TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY 25
MOnument 2-2498

Meyer W. Weisgal - 2/4/44 - 3

4. There is no doubt that magazines of the type of the Atlantic Monthly, Harper's, the Nation and the Protestant will gladly publish Pierre's stuff on Palestine and the Zionist case. But since they pay very little it would undoubtedly accelerate action if his fee from these publications were supplemented. This, I understand, is agreeable to all concerned.

There is only one more point. We agreed that in lieu of direct compensation for articles you will finance a full-page ad for THE FORGOTTEN ALLY in the New York Times daily edition (the cost is about \$2,000). Such an ad would actually be good Zionist propaganda, since it would feature approval by literary reviewers from coast to coast of the thesis set forth in THE FORGOTTEN ALLY.

This, I believe, covers our agreement on the various points we discussed. The above enumeration of them in telegraphic style merely serves as a memorandum, to avoid any possible misunderstanding. Pierre is fully informed of all this, and ready to proceed. Needless to say, you, he and I shall from time to time have to consult on various aspects of these points.

Please consider this confidential. Not that there is anything sinister about it - but if such matters are talked about even the best intentions may be nullified.

Sincerely,

JOE

For Dr. Heller
from I.B. Berkson / Document
to be filed
enclosed

AMERICAN ZIONIST
EMERGENCY COUNCIL
February 9, 1944

NOTE ON THE KING-CRANE COMMISSION

The King-Crane Commission was appointed by President Wilson during the Peace Conference at Paris in 1919 to investigate conditions in the territories formerly belonging to the Ottoman Empire, with a view to helping decide a dispute between France and Great Britain -- the Arabs being centrally involved -- concerning the assignment of mandates. Originally, the Commission was planned to consist of representatives of all the Allies, but France, suspecting a political maneuver, withdrew and Great Britain followed suit. The American section proceeded alone; they made a hasty tour of Syria and Palestine in an atmosphere which they admit was permeated with propaganda and intrigue. On the basis of oral interviews and of petitions whose value was dubious, they drew conclusions which coincided with the resolutions of the Syrian-Arab Congress held in Damascus during the investigation. There were three experts on the Commission. One joined Mr. Crane and Dr. King in their Recommendations, but the two experts best acquainted with the areas of Syria and Palestine presented separate reports differing radically from the suggestions of the Commission.

Before the Commission left, President Wilson has reassured Professor Felix Frankfurter that he adhered to the Balfour Declaration. This was in May, 1919, just two months after his famous declaration in favor of the Jewish Commonwealth interpretation of the Balfour Declaration. The commissioners, however, went out of their way to make a virulent attack against Zionism, strictly following the line of the extreme Arab nationalists; they recommended the radical limitation of Jewish immigration as well as the abandonment of the idea of a Jewish Commonwealth. Incidentally, the King-Crane report shows that the Balfour Declaration was at that time interpreted both by its enemies as well as its friends as meaning the eventual establishment of a Jewish state or commonwealth.

The report ^{of the Commission} was delivered to the American delegation in Paris in August, 1919.

President Wilson had already left, and Mr. Crane cabled the contents of the recommendations to him. At the end of September, the full recommendations were submitted to the White House and filed with the State Department. Whether the document was considered by Wilson is not known but, at any rate, it had no effect on the subsequent action either of the United States or of the Allies.

Recently, the King-Crane Recommendations have been unearthed by anti-Zionist forces who have focused attention on the unfavorable opinion expressed in reference to Zionist aspirations in Palestine...without giving any indication of the fact that the method of investigation followed by the Commission was much open to question and that its conclusions not only on Zionism but on the major problem it was appointed to investigate were never seriously considered. The late George Antonius reproduced the Recommendations of the Commission in The Arab Awakening. However, he gave only the Recommendations, and not the full Report as first published in 1922 in Editors and Publishers under date of December 2nd. The full Report contains a section "For Use of Americans Only" which frankly tells the story of intrigue and propaganda which surrounded the work of the Commission.

It is not clear what the official status of the Report is. In any case, the major decisions on Palestine at San Remo in April, 1920 and the approval of the Mandate in July, 1922, were taken after the Report had been completed and filed, and the same is true of the official action by the United States in approval of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

SIoux CITY, IOWA

February 15, 1944.

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Cleveland Ohio.

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ZIONIST ORGANIZATION
OF SIOUX CITY
SENIOR HADASSAH
JUNIOR HADASSAH
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN OF HADASSAH
MIZRACHI
YOUNG JUDEA
PAOLE ZION
PIONEER WOMEN

My Dear Rabbi Silver:

On Purim night, which is March 9th of this year, we are planning to hold a City Wide Mass Meeting, in the Ballroom of one of the leading hotels (The Mayfair) under the auspices of our local Zionist Organization.

The principle speaker is to be the Reverend Richard Evans whom you will recall spoke with such eloquent force at the Convention held in Columbus.

Because of his appearance the Sioux City Ministerial Association and the various Civic Luncheon Clubs are participating with us to make this meeting one of the "outstanding events" in the history of Sioux City Jewery.

Our purpose is of course, to stimulate and create more interest in Zionism, by making new "converts" and to help our membership drive in which we are now engaged.

In addition a resolution will be introduced by one of our leading non-Jewish Citizens, calling on the President and the State Department, for their support on behalf of our Cause.

The Committee in charge of arrangements is going to great lengths to make this affair as impressive and dignified as is possible and we anticipate some 500 people in attendance.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

SIoux CITY, IOWA

2

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PAOLE ZION
PIONEER WOMEN

I know that a few words from you either in the form of a telegram or a letter (addressed to me) which I shall read from the platform, will add much to the occasion.

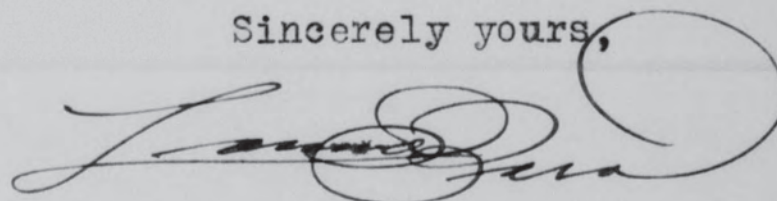
I trust therefore, that I may hear from you, within the near future at your convenience.

I recall with much pleasure of having met and being with you both at Columbus and more recently at the conference held in your city, and pray the day is not far distant when you will visit our Community, and allow us the distinction of being your host.

May you continue in your noble efforts on behalf of World Jewery and all Humanity.

With Zion's Greetings, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



L.B:H.H.-1.

February 16, 1944

Mrs. Isadore L. Bronstein
401 Arcadia Court
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Bronstein:

Mrs. Blanche Shepard, of the American Zionist Emergency Council, has written me that you requested a biographic sketch of Dr. Silver and that she sent you one. For more detailed information, may I suggest that you consult "Who's Who" a copy of which I am sure you may obtain at any public library.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.

LAW OFFICES
HERMAN BLANK
FEDERAL TRUST BUILDING
24 COMMERCE STREET
NEWARK, N. J.
—
TELEPHONE MARKET 3-1111

February 21st,
1944.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

At a recent discussion between a group of men, a statement was made that you did, at one time in a speech, or otherwise, say the following:

"That the only way to eliminate persecution of the Jews is by race suicide of the Jewish race."

Would you be good enough to either deny or confirm that fact, as there is considerable interest among this group as to what your sentiments are.

Thanking you for any courtesy you may extend to me, I am

Very truly yours,
Herman Blank
HERMAN BLANK.

HB:RJG

February 25, 1944

Mr. Herman Blank,
24 Commerce Street,
Newark, N. J.

My dear Mr. Blank:

I do not recall having made such a
statement as you indicate in your
letter.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:NEK

Abba Hillel Silver

March 2, 1944

The Honorable Sol Bloom
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

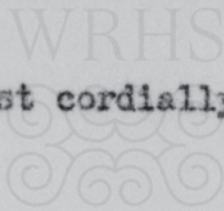
My dear Congressman Bloom:

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness
in sending me a copy of the official
Congressional Directory which I am sure
will prove very valuable to me now that
I have entered the field of politics and
have been hobnobbing with so many of your
confreeres on Capitol Hill.

I trust that you are well and in
your usual good spirits. With best wishes,
I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



V.M. Bienstock
War Correspondent
c/o PRO, HQTRS
USAFIME
APO 787, Postmaster, N.Y.
April 1, 1944

Overseas News Agency - NY

Dear JL:

I may have had to inform you by cable before receipt of this of my woes. Apparently I have made myself a nuisance to the authorities in Palestine and they requested the Americans to recall me. Meanwhile something intervened and I seem to have a period of grace. I don't know for how long.

The difficulty apparently started with my dispatches over the situation here. I took a very critical attitude but, I think, a fair one - I showed the cables concerned to a disinterested person who agreed to that, as did one or two of my colleagues here. The authorities however declined to differentiate between fair criticism and anti-British propaganda. The fact that I said last Monday what other correspondents have subsequently been able to state in the last two days seems to be sufficient to make me "anti-British" in attitude. I never was anti-British and I won't let them make me so here.

In any case, the first take of my Monday message was not controversial and the military censor passed it for transmission. So apparently did the Palestine Government censor. I received my voucher copy of that sheet marked "passed by censor." But apparently it was never transmitted. When I tried to query the PG censor on it, he said he refused to discuss it with me.

My Wednesday cable was completely stopped because of its "tone." I appealed and on Thursday was told that it might go with certain deletions. I agreed to those but then was told it couldn't go in any case. Meanwhile I learned that the Army was recalling me to Cairo at the request of the British, but that the instruction was later either stopped or deferred, I don't know which. I've heard from Cairo sources that the story there is that I am engaged in "inciting" activities here.

To complicate matters, the American intelligence, at the request of the British, has been after me about the Mikhailovich ultimatum sobry I filed through the censorship last December. They want me to disclose the source. I naturally had to refuse.

I don't know how long I'll stay here now - or rather be permitted to stay. I'm not sure that it'll be possible for me to work in the Middle East theatre if the British authorities are going to consider me a hostile person.

My only 'crime' here - and Lord knows it seems to be serious enough - is that I think that the local authorities are following a policy that's bound to result in a lot of trouble. I think that a situation is being unnecessarily created. I don't think its anti-British or tendentious to point that out.

Right now, too, I've got a slight case of flu and don't care much what happens. I think you had better begin consideration of the question of recalling me at least temporarily to write under War Department censorship what I know and cannot report from here and probably not from the Middle East. If my usefulness here is ended, and I'm afraid it is, I'd like to work in London - if the central authorities don't consider me a danger to the British Empire.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

V. M. Bienstock

American Zionist Emergency Council

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS:

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

WASHINGTON BUREAU

1720 Sixteenth Street, Northwest
Michigan 4480

April 6, 1944.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Mr. Boyd Crawford, Clerk for the
Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
resentatives, sent me the enclosed notes and asked
that they be turned over to you.

With very best regards and sincere
wishes for a happy Passover,

Sincerely yours,

Naomi Borowsky
Naomi Borowsky

NSB:joy
Encl.

Please
return to
Rabbi Silver

I am deeply grateful to the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee for the privilege afforded me to appear here and speak in approval of the Resolutions 418 and 419 which have been introduced in the House. These Resolutions reflect the spirit of a similar resolution adopted unanimously by both Houses of Congress in 1922. They evidence again the profound interest of the American people, speaking through their chosen representatives in Congress, in the great historic cause of the rebuilding of the Jewish National Home in Palestine.

May I say, at the outset, that nothing is further from my mind and from the minds of those for whom I speak -- *and I believe I speak for* the millions of Jewish citizens of the United States -- who through the representatives of their national organizations and the elected delegates of their respective communities gathered at the great American Jewish Conference last September and voiced overwhelmingly their endorsement of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine and called for the abrogation of the White Paper -- than to embarrass our great and gallant ally -- Great Britain -- whose heroic defense of civilization against Nazi barbarism in the dark days when she stood alone will remain an epic of high courage and spiritual grandeur to inspire all future generations. We have no quarrel with Great Britain. We can never forget that it was Great Britain which, first among the nations, gave recognition to the national aspirations of the Jewish people in the issuance of the Balfour Declaration. But, a ~~false~~ *wrong* and unjustifiable political policy affecting the Jewish National Home which this very Declaration welcomed and committed His Majesty's government to its achievement, is about to be consummated. It would to all

intents and purposes liquidate the Jewish National Home. It is this policy, which has been sharply criticized by the foremost Statesmen of Great Britain herself that we ask to be rescinded. We retain our strong confidence in the integrity and the abiding goodwill of Great Britain that this will be done. - ~~Shaggy~~ Insert

May I also be permitted to give a brief historical background to the movement to reconstitute the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, *perhaps a subject which will not be covered by the other people who will* It is not a recent movement. It did not begin with modern Zionism, nor with the first Zionist colonies which were established in Palestine 65 years ago. The ideal of national restoration ~~is nearly 2000 years old.~~ It dates from the year of the destruction of Jerusalem and of the Temple in the year 70 A. D. and from the beginning of the widespread dispersion of the Jewish people. *specific here?*

Throughout the following centuries the hope of ~~returning to~~ *rebuilding* their national home was never absent from among our people. Modern Zionism is only the latest expression of that ~~unbroken~~ and undeviating will to national restoration which has persisted through the ages.

For fifteen centuries and more prior to the time of the great Dispersion, the Jewish people lived in Palestine as a nation, undergoing all the changing political vicissitudes which all nations, large or small, are bound to experience over a long period of time ~~alternating periods of expansion and contraction, independence and subjugation.~~ But never was the strong ~~sense of life and the will to survive wanting among our ancestors.~~ They stubbornly resisted all attempts to submerge or annihilate them.

During some of those centuries they made their greatest

contribution to civilization in the religious field. They gave the Bible to the world and formulated the great spiritual and ethical ideals of mankind. In Palestine and from the Jewish nation came both Judaism and Christianity.

Whenever disaster threatened their national existence, they found strength to surmount it. The destruction of the first Temple in the 6th century B. C., and the exile of the best part of Israel to Babylonia did not result in the death of the nation. By the rivers of Babylon they sat down and wept as they remembered Zion and in their exile they vowed: "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget her cunning."

In the second pre-Christian century, the Jews revolted against their Syrian overlords and regained their political independence. A century later they lost it again to the Romans. When the oppression of the Romans became too great, they revolted again. This great revolt lasted for six years, until 70 A.D., when Jerusalem and The Temple were destroyed. But the Jewish nation did not perish then. In 115 the Jewish people revolted again. And in 135 they revolted a third time. Determinedly they resisted the greatest empire of the earth in defense of their national life and liberties.

In the following centuries and as a result of persecution, Jewish life in Palestine sharply declined from its high levels but it continued on a relatively large scale up to the 7th century when we again hear of Jews fighting for their freedom. Jews clung to Palestine all through Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Christian and Turkish domination, to this very day. "Throughout the ages, even in the darkest periods of the Crusades, the protracted wars of the Middle Ages, and in modern times, the Jews never entirely left the soil of

Palestine." ~~They never ceased to think of it as their national home.~~
 They never surrendered the hope that some day they would rebuild their national life there. The bitter experiences of two thousand years of exile, outlawry, ghettos and massacres only served to re-enforce that hope.

The effort to return to Palestine were unremitting through the ages, ~~although of necessity, sharply restricted and inhibited.~~ The living bond with Palestine was never broken. The hope of return became part of the Jews' creed. It echoed through the pages of his Prayer Book. His festivals were redolent of memories and hopes of Palestine. The messianic hope which sustained the spirits of our people throughout the bleak centuries was essentially the hope of Israel's return to Palestine. All through the Middle Ages, when travelling was most difficult and danerous, Jews found ways, singly or in groups, to return to Palestine.

In the 19th century, this age-old national aspiration finally entered the phase of political organization and practical action.

Orthodox Rabbis and lay leaders, moved by convictions both religious and national, were among the first to advocate planned and concerted colonization projects in Palestine.

A strong urge towards political action for national emancipation came also from the circles of ~~the so-called assimilated~~ Jews of Western Europe who had become disillusioned with the results of 19th century enlightenment and emancipation. Sudden and violent outbursts of anti-Semitism in unexpected places forced upon these Jews who had so sanguinely awaited the early liquidation of the Jewish problem, the necessity of taking stock of their position anew.

They realized that the problem of the national homelessness of

the Jewish people was the principal source of the Jewish millennial tragedy and that it remained as stark and as menacing as ever. It simply could not be circumvented by wishful thinking or pleasant day-dreaming.

These Jews began to look for the basic solution of the problem and they soon discovered it. Fundamentally the root of all the trouble was that the Jewish people was a nationally homeless people in the world and the only solution for national homelessness is a national home.

Great thinkers from among the intellectual circles of Westernized European Jewry formulated this new insight and conviction. The theme common to all was emancipation through national restoration. Not that all Jews should return to Palestine any more than that all Englishmen living in all parts of the world should return to England, or all Frenchmen to France, or all Germans to Germany. Every nation today has many of its former nationals, citizens of other countries. But just as there is an England, a France, and a Germany so must there be a Land of Israel in order that the status of the Jewish people might be normalized throughout the world. Politically the Jewish people as a people must become, like every other people, possessed of an independent life in a national home.

J. C. cannot intend for all - Jews Citizens - Am. Jews

- I say this

In 1897, Theodore Herzl convoked the first Zionist Congress at Basle, Switzerland. There the official Zionist platform was adopted: "The aim of Zionism is to create ^{for} the Jewish people a Home in Palestine secured by public law."

Within twenty years of the organization of modern political Zionism the movement received formal approval at the hands of the greatest empire on earth -- Great Britain.

On November 2, 1917, Arthur James Balfour, then Secretary of

State for Foreign Affairs, issued the ^{frances} following declaration in the name of the British Government:

"His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home ^{--with the emphasis on "national"--} for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

The Balfour Declaration, which represents a turning point in the history of the Jewish people, was not, as has sometimes been represented, a purely British formulation of policy. It was for many months the subject of long and earnest negotiation between the principal Allied Powers.

In February and March of 1918, the French and Italian governments respectively issued parallel statements in support of the Balfour Declaration. President Wilson had followed the negotiations, and had encouraged the issuance of that Declaration. ^{and our govt. insisted on having a hand in the drafting of the Declaration} At a meeting of the Supreme Council

of the Allied Powers, held at San Remo in April, 1920, the Balfour Declaration was unanimously adopted and embodied in the Mandate for Palestine which was offered to Great Britain. On July 24, 1922, the Council of the League of Nations unanimously ratified the British Mandate, with the incorporated Declaration as an integral part. That same year the Congress of the United States adopted the following resolution: ^{which has been read to you this morning.}

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which ^{etc., and then occurs the rest of the Balfour Declaration,} may prejudice the civil and religious rights of Christians and all other non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and that the holy places

and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected." (June 30, 1922)

would like to call it to your attention:
The Preamble to the Mandate contains this significant clause; and I

"Whereas recognition has hereby been given to the historical connections of the Jewish people with Palestine and the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country"

These are the words of the Preamble of the Mandate.
(P) *In other words,* the creation, or reconstitution, of a Jewish Homeland in Palestine was thus accepted as a world policy. It was also regarded as an act of restitution. It was a recognition both of the present need of the Jewish people and of the continuity of its claim to its Homeland, a continuity unbroken by the vicissitudes of two thousand years of history.

What did the framers of the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate have in mind when they spoke of the establishment of a National Home for the Jewish people in Palestine? Their utterances leave no doubt as to their clear intent. They meant a Jewish State, a Jewish Commonwealth.

Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain at the time of the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, writes in his memoirs:

"It was not their (the British Cabinet's) idea that a Jewish State should be set up immediately by the Peace Treaty without reference to the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants. On the other hand, it was contemplated that when the time arrived for according representative institutions to Palestine, if the Jews had meanwhile responded to the opportunity afforded them by the idea of a National Homeland had become a definite majority of the inhabitants, then Palestine would thus become a Jewish Commonwealth. The notion that Jewish immigration would have ^{to} be artificially restricted in order to ensure that the Jews should be a permanent minority never entered into the head of anyone engaged in

framing the policy. That would have been regarded as unjust and as a fraud on the people to whom we were appealing."

(Stop) General Smuts, still one of Great Britain's foremost statesmen, who in 1919 was a member of the Imperial War Cabinet, declared that he envisaged an increasing stream of Jewish immigration into Palestine and in generations to come a great Jewish state rising there once more. #1

Winston Churchill, when he was Secretary of State in 1920, and as recent as 1941 in the midst of the second World War has stated:

"If, as may well happen, there should be created in our lifetime by the banks of the Jordan a Jewish State under the protection of the British Crown, which might comprise three million or four million Jews, an event will have occurred in the history of the world which would from every point of view be beneficial and would be especially in harmony with the truest interests of the British Empire."

+ President Wilson, in 1919, declared:

"I am persuaded that the Allied nations, with the fullest concurrence of our government and our people, are agreed that in Palestine shall be laid the foundations of a Jewish Commonwealth."

Our then Secretary of State, Charles E. Hughes, writing to Lord Balfour in January, 1922, concerning the Mandate for Palestine which was a subject of extensive negotiation between our government and Great Britain, and which negotiations resulted in substantial modifications in the draft of the mandate, assumes that what was being planned in Palestine was a Jewish

There were three or four drafts.
State. (See pg. 60 "Mandate for Palestine" -- prepared in the Division of Near Eastern Affairs -- Publication of the Department of State, Washington, 1931). (Stop)

It is, therefore, ~~most proper, as well as~~ historically accurate, and in view of what has transpired since those years, politically sound,

~~sound~~, for the Resolutions which have been introduced in the House, to speak of a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. It is not a new concept. It is exactly what was originally contemplated. Attempts have been made to whittle down the meaning of the term, "a national home" employed in the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate. It has even been asserted that a Jewish national home already exists in Palestine and that a permanent Jewish minority within a Palestine state, such as the White Paper envisages, is quite consistent with the avowed purposes of the Mandate. This of course, is not the case. It is well, therefore, to stress the ^{true} ~~true~~ objective of the Mandate which was the reconstitution of the Jewish Commonwealth, which presupposes a Jewish majority in the country, as Mr. Lloyd George correctly points out. The experiences of the last twenty-five years indicate that no such majority will ever be attained unless the control of immigration is vested with the Jewish Agency which alone is interested in the creation of absorptive capacity and in the intensive agricultural and industrial development of the land in order to absorb rapidly large numbers of immigrants and provide them with the means of earning a livelihood.

It was not contemplated to set up two states in Palestine, or to set up a Palestine State in which Jews would be a permanent minority. The mandate made Great Britain "responsible for putting into effect the declaration officially made on November 2, 1917, by the Government of his Britannic Majesty", i.e., the Balfour Declaration. The Mandatory was charged with the responsibility "for placing the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish National Home." (Article 2) The Mandate nowhere speaks of the establishment of an Arab National home in Palestine.

The Mandate calls for the recognition of "an appropriate Jewish

Agency as a public body for the purpose of advising and cooperating with the Administration of Palestine in such economic, social and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish National home ... and to assist and take part in the development of the country." The Mandate nowhere speaks of the recognition of an Arab Agency for it was not required, inasmuch as it was not contemplated to set up in Palestine an Arab National State.

Under the terms of the Mandate the Zionist Organization of the World was invited "to secure the cooperation of all Jews who are willing to assist in the establishment of the Jewish National home." (Article 4)

The Mandatory was charged with the duty of "facilitating Jewish immigration" into Palestine and of encouraging "in cooperation with the Jewish Agency" close settlement by Jews on the land, including State lands and waste lands not required for public purposes." (Article 6)

It was called upon to enact a nationality law "so as to facilitate the acquisition of Palestinian citizenship by Jews who take up their permanent residence in Palestine." (Article 7)

There are no provisions in the Mandate for facilitating Arab immigration into Palestine or their close settlement on the land.

The Administration of Palestine was asked to "arrange with the Jewish Agency to construct or operate any public works, services and utilities, and to develop any of the national resources of the country." (Article 11)

What do all those clear provisions mount up to? That Palestine was to be built up as a Jewish national state - and that for the transition period, until a Jewish majority is achieved and the country is ready for self-governing institutions, Great Britain was entrusted by

the Principal Allied Powers with a Mandate to administer the country upon terms and powers clearly defined in the Mandate by the Council of the League of Nations.

Was the proposed re-establishment of the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine unfair to the Arabs? May I be permitted to quote the words of the Rt. Hon. Alfred Duff Cooper, former First Lord of the British Admiralty, spoken here in Washington in the Spring of 1940:

"In 1914 there was hardly any territory which the Arabs could call their own. They were almost throughout the Near East subject to Turkish suzerainty. Since 1914, they have acquired vast tracts of territory where they are independent: the whole of Arabia; Trans-Jordania, which was taken away from the original conception of Palestine; Syria, where again they exercise semi-independent rights. No nation in the world has so little ground for complaining of what the Germans call lack of lebensraum as the Arab race. They have vast spaces in which to expand. They have been amongst the greatest beneficiaries of the World War, and now they are subject to no particular evils."

"And what, meanwhile, has happened to the Jews? Did anybody imagine when Balfour made his Declaration, what was going to happen in the Continent of Europe in the years to come? Could anybody, believing in progress, in human nature and in Christian civilization, have dreamt of the ghastly, hideous and shocking persecution that has befallen the Jewish race?"

Realizing that the Arabs would have their national aspirations satisfied after the war by the establishment of a number of national ~~states~~ states and that these states would have land areas so large that it would take them centuries to develop them, and realizing also that the Jews stood in desperate need of a place of refuge, for their people, the Allies reserved "the tiny notch" of Palestine, as Balfour called

for the Jewish people.
 it, --just 10,000 square miles. The Arab lands cover more than a million square miles and they are underpopulated and largely undeveloped.

Provision, of course, was made in the Balfour Declaration and in the Mandate for the political equality of all citizens and for the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities. These rights have been fully protected. The Palestine Arab has not been exploited. In fact there are no Arabs on the face of the earth today more prosperous than the Arabs of Palestine.

The Survey of Palestine made by the Peel Commission in 1937 contains the following statement: "It is difficult to detect any deterioration in the economic position of the Arab upper class... We are also of the opinion that until now the Arab cultivator has benefited on the whole from the work of the British Administration and from the presence of the Jews in the country... Wages have gone up; the standard of living has improved... The large import of Jewish capital into Palestine has had a general fructifying effect on the economic life of the whole country... The reclamation and anti-malaria works undertaken in the Jewish colonies have benefited all the Arabs in the neighborhood... Broadly speaking, the Arabs have shared to a considerable degree in the material benefits which Jewish immigration has brought to Palestine ... The Arab charge that the Jews have obtained too large a proportion of good land cannot be maintained. Much of the land now carrying orange groves was sand dunes or swamps and uncultivated when it was purchased."

we believe
 The establishment of the Jewish national home in Palestine will be a great boon to the entire Near East and to all the Arab peoples. Jews are bringing scientific skill, technical knowledge, material resources and high enthusiasm to the upbuilding of Palestine. Palestine is destined to become the hub of a great and rapid economic development of the entire Near East. The prosperity of Palestine will stimulate and, in the course of time will come to depend upon the prosperity of all the adjacent Arab countries. *Stop*

It is the Jews of Palestine who are the true pro-Arabs. The Jews of Palestine wish to work in complete friendship and cooperation with the Arabs-- but not at the sacrifice of their national rights.

It has been alleged that promises were also made to the Arabs during the last war to the effect that Palestine was to be included in the area in which Arab independence would be established. Sir Henry McMahon, then His Majesty's High Commissioner in Egypt, who negotiated with the Sherif of Mecca, later King Hussein, is alleged to have made such a promise. The British government has consistently maintained that Palestine was definitely excluded from McMahon's pledge.

McMahon, himself, in a letter to The Times, London, July 23, 1937, stated:

"I feel it my duty to state, and I do so definitely and emphatically, that it was not intended by me in giving this pledge to King Hussein to include Palestine in the area in which Arab independence was promised.

"I also had every reason to believe at the time that the fact that Palestine was not included in my pledge was well understood by King Hussein."

During the years 1917-1921 no claims to Palestine were raised by the Arab representatives. Indeed, they did in various ways explicitly agree to Palestine being treated differently from Arab territories.

Emir Feisal, son of Hussein, afterward King of Iraq, the leader of the Arabs, in the crucial war years, stated in December 1918: "The two main branches of the Semitic family, Arabs, and Jews understand one another, and I hope that as a result of interchange of ideas at the Peace Conference, which will be guided by ideals of self-determination and nationality, each nation will make definite progress towards the realization of its aspirations. Arabs are not jealous of

Zionist Jews, and intend to give them fair play, and the Zionist Jews have assured the Nationalist Arabs of their intention to see that they too have fair play in their respective areas."

And in January, 1919, Emir Feisal, for the Arab Kingdom of Hedjaz, and Dr. Chaim Weizmann, on behalf of the Zionist Organization, signed a Treaty of Friendship which clearly showed ^{ed} that Feisal regarded Palestine as a land reserved for Jewish national settlement. He also submitted to the Peace Conference a Memorandum on the Arab claims in which he ~~asked~~ ^{ASKED} for the independence of a number of Arabic areas with the explicit exception of Palestine.

(Stop)
The record, then, of what was intended for Palestine and what was undertaken is quite clear. The civilized world recognized the right of the Jewish people to rebuild their national home in Palestine. Great Britain accepted a mandate to facilitate its consummation. The Jews of the world set themselves to the task of upbuilding.

Thus a new era in Jewish history was ushered in. The Jewish people threw itself into the work of upbuilding with incomparable zeal and enthusiasm. The task was enormous -- untrained hands, inadequate means, overwhelming difficulties. The land was stripped and poor -- neglected through the centuries. European Jewry was shattered and impoverished by the war and could not be quickly rallied to the work of reconstruction. Plans had to be improvised and carried through piece-meal. Nevertheless the record of pioneering achievement of the Jewish people in Palestine in the twenty years between two world wars, the story of their heroic labors and sacrifices and their courageous experimentation have received the acclaim of the entire world. A veritable miracle of colonization was performed. The Jewish population increased from 55,000 to 600,000. Close to 300 colonies have been

established. Social vision and high human idealism went into the planning and structure of many of them. Some 2,000 factories and 4,000 small workshops were opened. The waters of the Jordan were harnessed for electric power. The Dead Sea was made to yield up its vast chemical resources. Barren hills and valleys were reafforested. Marshes were drained. A splendid educational system was developed, crowned by the Hebrew University on Mt. Scopus. A modern health service was established throughout the country, available to Jews, Mohammedans and Christians alike.

It was fortunate indeed that Palestine was available, readied and prepared by the labor of these Jewish pioneers, when the horrible Hitler persecutions swept over European Jewry. For that little country was able to absorb more than 300,000 refugees from Germany and Central Europe. Today Jewish Palestine is again vindicating its claim to full life and national freedom by the extraordinary contributions which it is making to the war effort of the United Nations. Some 23,000 young Palestinian Jews out of that small population have volunteered for service in the armies of the United Nations, have fought bravely, many of them with rare distinction. The civilian population is engaged in an all-out effort to back up the fighting armies in the Near East by providing them with many vital supplies and services. 50,000 Palestinian Jews are engaged in defense work.

~~These remarkable achievements did not come about easily. Resistance was encountered almost from the very start and it has increased in intensity with the years.~~

The administration of Palestine has unfortunately not always been conducted on a plane corresponding to the high intentions of the framers of the Balfour Declaration, nor did it reflect the good will and

unflagging sympathy of the English people whose historic friendship the Jewish people will never forget. Local British officials, though of high integrity, have shown little understanding of the processes involved in the building of a Jewish Homeland. They have not ~~grasped~~ grasped the implications of the organic relationship between the Jewish people outside of Palestine, to whom the Balfour Declaration was issued, and the land which they administered. The ~~facilitation of the~~ rebuilding of the Jewish Homeland implies a dynamic outlook. The outlook of British officials has been in the main static, based on the tacit assumption that Palestine alone, and not the integration of large numbers of immigrants with an evolving Jewish Homeland, was their concern.

They have therefore tended to look upon the local difficulties associated with the upbuilding of the Jewish Homeland as unnecessary disturbances of the status quo, instead of a natural part of the task assigned to them. No corrective to this attitude was applied by the home government in London. ~~There, too, a tendency manifested it-~~ self to meet difficulties by relinquishing the objectives which a high statesmanship had set. No consistent attempt was made to bring home to the Arabs of Palestine the fact that the Balfour Declaration was an Inter-Allied policy, and later, that the Mandate was international Law, and the first evidence of recalcitrance on their part -- namely the riots of May, 1921, -- was rewarded by a temporary suspension of Jewish immigration.

Concession led to concession. The White Paper issued in 1922 declared that "the terms of the Balfour Declaration do not contemplate that Palestine as a whole should be converted into a Jewish National Home, but that such a home should be established in Palestine." This

was the beginning of "re-interpretation." It introduced an element of ambiguity into what had been quite clear till then.

The Palestine contemplated in the Mandate had consisted of Transjordan and cis-Jordan. In the year 1922, Transjordan -- three times the area of cis-Jordan -- was closed ~~by administrative decree~~ to Jewish immigration.

In subsequent years, Palestine's British officials took the view that they were not primarily concerned with the facilitation of the creation of a Jewish Homeland, but with the administration of the country in its existing condition.

This view has dominated the policies and actions of the Palestine administration ever since. The national rights of the Jewish people in relations to Palestine which had been internationally acknowledged, and which alone gave legal basis for the Mandatory presence there ^{at all} were progressively and consistently sacrificed.

Following the disturbances of 1936, a Palestine Royal Commission was sent to Palestine to investigate. Its report proposed to partition ^{the} ~~Country~~ ^{Country} ~~Palestine~~, and to create an Arab and a Jewish State, and an area reserved for British administration.

A technical commission (~~the Woodland Commission~~) ^{then} was set up to work out the details of a partition plan. It declared that the partition plan was unworkable.

Following discussions in London in 1939, to which representatives of Arabs and Jews were invited and which brought no positive results, the British Government of the late Mr. Chamberlain prepared the White Paper of May 17, 1939. ^{How} The Commons reluctantly consented to it during a tense period of international complications, only after the Government insisted

The W. Paper
on acceptance as a vote of confidence. ~~It~~ was formally disapproved by the Permanent Mandates Commission. It was never submitted for approval ^{to} ~~by~~ the Council of the League of Nations, although Article 27 of the Mandate clearly states that "the consent of the Council of the League of Nations is ^{required} ~~required~~ for any modifications of the terms of the mandate." It was thus denied legal validity. However, despite all this, it was put into effect.

Under the terms of this White Paper, Jewish immigration was limited to 10,000 a year for the next 5 years. A bonus immigration of an additional 25,000 was allowed in consideration of the plight of ~~the~~ Jewish refugees. However, after March, ^[this year] 1944, Jewish immigration is to be discontinued entirely "unless the Arabs of Palestine are prepared to acquiesce in it."

The White Paper likewise grants the High Commissioner of Palestine general powers to prohibit and regulate transfers of land. Regulations ~~in performance of this provision~~ have been issued according to which Jews are allowed the right of free purchase in only 2.6% of the total area of Palestine -- 260 square miles! A total prohibition on transfer of land to Jews was imposed in about two-thirds of the country; in the remaining area transfer is permissible only under severe restriction and subject to the consent of the High Commissioner.

Discriminatory laws against Jews in their own national home!
Thus the Jews were left to build their national home without men and without land, just as their ancestors in Egypt were expected to make brick without straw.

The White Paper is by no stretch of the imagination the fulfillment of the national aspirations of the Jewish people recognized in the Mandate. It is their total liquidation.

This White Paper when it was issued in 1939, in the distasteful Munich appeasement era and as part of that tragic political and spiritual debacle of those days, aroused the bitterest opposition. It was denounced, both at home and abroad. The foremost British Statesmen, Lord Snell, Sir Archibald Sinclair, Leopold Amery, Herbert Morrison, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl of Lytton and Winston Churchill, himself the greatest stout heart of England, repudiated it.

Mr. Churchill, in voting against the proposals of His Majesty's Government, declared in the House of Commons:

"My Right Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs may use his great legal ability. He is full of knowledge and power and ingenuity, but unless this can be answered, and repulsed, and repudiated, a very great slur rests upon British Administration. It said specifically on Page 10 of the White Paper that Jewish immigration during the next 5 years will be at a rate which, if the economic absorptive capacity allows, will bring the population up to approximately one-third of the total population of the country. After that the Arab majority, twice as numerous as the Jews, will have control, and all further Jewish immigration will be subject to their acquiescence, which is only another way of saying that it will be sufferance. What is that but the destruction of the Balfour Declaration? What is that but a breach of faith? What is it but a one-sided denunciation -- what is called in the jargon of the present time a unilateral denunciation -- of an engagement?"

"We are now asked to submit," he further declared -- "and this rankless mob with me -- "to an agitation which is fed with foreign money and ceaselessly inflamed by Nazi and by Fascist propaganda."

If the White Paper was found odious and morally unjustifiable

in 1939, before the Second World War and before the appalling disasters swept over the Jewish communities of Europe driving hundreds of thousands of Jews helpless and impoverished from their homes to wander over the face of the earth, how utterly insupportable and insufferable is it today!

The last five years have been the blackest in Jewish history. They climaxed five other years which the Nazi regime ushered in, during which one Jewish community after another in Central and Eastern Europe was broken and myriads of Jews were driven into exile from countries and homes where they had known dignity, honor, and where they and their ancestors had lived for centuries. Myriads of them crowded the highways of the world in quest of refuge and sanctuary and finding most doors barred against them. But a worse fate awaited those who could not escape in time. For them Hitler has decreed total extermination -- systematic, ruthless annihilation -- in gas chambers, by machine guns, in human slaughter-pens. Two million managed to escape, and after months of wandering finally reached the shores of Palestine -- the shores of the Jewish national home -- were turned away. They were refused admission. They had no certificates. The last door of hope was shut to them. Many tried to enter illegally. Hundreds of them were apprehended, sent to concentration camps and later forcibly evacuated to the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean where they are rotting to this day. Many perished in Haifa Bay. 760 souls perished in the Black Sea on the ill-fated "Struma", because permission to enter Palestine was refused to them. But for this infamous ~~White~~ White Paper, they might have been saved. Had the doors of Palestine been wide open these last years of Nazi terror and had the Mandatory Government fully cooperated in the task, tens of thousands of additional refugees might have been saved from Hitler's mass execution.

In March of this year, the pitifully restricted immigration scheduled permitted under the White Paper will come to an end. Only the 30,000 unused visas-unused, principally because of the administrative difficulties put in the way by Palestine officials -- remain. Thereafter no more Jews will be permitted to Palestine except on Arab sufference and consent. This confronts the Jewish people and the whole civilized world with an appalling prospect. It is self-evident that Jewish homelessness will be wide-spread after the war. There will be hundreds of thousands of Jews, perhaps millions, who will seek new homes in a world which will be inhospitable to immigration. The struggle for existence in a ravaged post-war Europe will be harsh and bitter. Famine, poverty, and misery will stalk over the face of that war-riven continent. There will be ruined economies, worthless currencies, ~~mix~~ social collapse and revolutions in every defeated country -- just as after the last war. The youth of half the world which has been indoctrinated with the racial and nationalistic mythologies of Nazi-fascist dictatorship will be spiritually lost and unsuited to a democratic way of life which they have been taught to hate and despise.-- and they will be virulent Jew-haters. Jews will again be eyed ^{Sullenly} ~~solemnly~~ as unwelcome economic competitors by millions of job-hungry and career-hungry men. Economic hostility will once again be rationalized into the well-known and quite servicable anti-semitic theses.

No doubt the Jews of Europe, following an Allied victory, will be restored to their political rights and to equality of citizenship. But they possessed these rights after the last war -- even minority rights in some of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe; and anti-semitism was never so rampant, ^{and} so vicious as after the last war.

Can Europe, can the world, can America, which is for all time to come so inextricably bound up with the rest of the world, permit this menacing situation to continue indefinitely after the war?

The Jewish people must be permitted and helped to develop their homeland in Palestine in such a way as to be able to drain off, in a relatively short time, two or three million Jews from the crowded and economically tensioned centers of Central and Eastern Europe. This will ease the pressures upon the Jews who will remain there, who will then cease to be foci of irritation, conflict, and unrest.

There are no other opportunities for mass emigration of Jews anywhere else in the world. There will be none. We wish it were otherwise, but wishes are not horses. Feeble trickles of immigration will be permitted in this or that country, but waves will be fiercely resisted; and it is with waves, and not with trickles that we must concern ourselves. - Not opposed - Santo Domingo (Becked)

We must not forget the experiences of Jewish refugees in the last ten years. These experiences will be no different after the war. They may be even more difficult; for nations will then be in the grip of vast economic dislocations and they will be thinking in terms of helping their own people over the extremely formidable transition period when their national economies will be passing from a war-time to a peace-time footing. They will refuse to complicate their lives with large influxes of impoverished immigrants.

here A free and open Palestine is the indispensable condition not only for a peaceful solution of this most obdurate problem of Europe, but also for the pacification of Europe and the world.

Statesmen should clearly understand this. If the problem of mass Jewish emigration and of the national homelessness of the Jewish people is not clearly faced and solved after the war, it will return over and over again to harass and unsettle the world. Reaction will exploit the situation again and again. The defenseless position of the Jews was exploited by the Nazis to rise to power.

They employed it as a weapon to achieve the disintegration of Europe. Fascist adventurers after the war will continue to exploit it. The Jewish problem is quite as much the world's problem as it is that of the Jews.

What the world will do concerning the Jewish people and concerning the restoration of its national life in Palestine after the war will be the true index of the nature and character of the entire program of world reconstruction. The world pattern of reconstruction will unerringly reflect the decisions which will be made concerning the Jewish people and its national status. If in the case of the Jewish people, which possesses no armies or navies and which will emerge from the World War the most shattered of all peoples, the United Nations will act in a spirit of justice, vision and true statesmanship, then there is hope that, by the same spirit, the entire world will be healed and saved.

Surely, the Jewish people is no less deserving than other peoples whose national independence and freedom have been guaranteed by the United Nations. They have been the worst victims of Nazi brutality, and their casualties have been proportionately the heaviest. The Jewish people desperately needs Palestine for its homeless millions now and after the war, and for its national security, dignity and normalcy. Jews have shown a remarkable capacity for pioneering, for labor and sacrifice. They have built worthily and well in Palestine. They have made Palestine their own again by their heroic labor, by their blood and sweat. ~~What~~ ^{They} ~~is~~ ^{are} hopeful, promising and progressive in that country today, the Jews have created.

What has been called the noblest enterprise of our time must not now be cruelly sapped and undermined.

These Resolutions which have been introduced in the House, and in the Senate, and which have received the endorsement of the leaders of both political

parties, ask our government to use its good offices, as it did once before, to assist a sorely tried and harassed people in accomplishing the task of rebuilding its national life in its ancestral home -- a task approved of by our government and our people and by 52 other nations at the close of the last war -- a task, however, which cannot be accomplished without the free entry of Jews into the country and without the fullest opportunities for colonization and economic development. The reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth would ^{be} ~~the~~ ^{to us a fact} fulfillment of prophecy ^{to all} and an act of historic justice to an ancient and long-martyred people.



Our government insisted on being consulted in the drafting of the Palestine Mandate. It maintained, through an extensive series of correspondence, that it is directly interested in the terms of the Mandate. On Nov. 20, 1920 Bainbridge Colby, then Secretary of State, wrote to Curzon, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, "The United States is, undoubtedly, one of the powers directly interested in the terms of the mandates, and I therefore request that the draft mandate forms be communicated to this Government for its consideration before their submission to the Council of the League." The various drafts were submitted before one was finally approved by our government. Our government further ^{stipulated} ~~insisted~~ that the consent of the United States shall be necessary to any modification of the mandate after it has been agreed to. (letter to American Ambassador Harvey to British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Curzon, August 24, 1921). Consultation was not enough. We insisted upon consent. We ^{asked for} ~~insisted on~~ a special convention with Great Britain in which the Palestine Mandate would be recited in full.

The interest of our government in helping along in the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home and in strengthening the hands of the Jewish Agency in the work of upbuilding is sharply indicated by the following fact: Our government had been insisting that a special provision be inserted in the Mandate preventing the Mandatory from developing the natural resources of the country for his own benefit. It was opposed to the Mandatory having monopolistic concessions in Palestine. On December 29, 1921 the British Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Crowe wrote to the American Ambassador Harvey, suggesting that the inclusion of such a provision was unnecessary because it was intended that such concessions to develop the natural resources of the country should be turned over to the Jewish Agency. I quote, "So far as Palestine is concerned, Article 11 of the mandate expressly provides that the administration may arrange with the Jewish agency, mentioned in Article 4, to develop any of the natural resources of the country in so far as these matters are not directly

undertaken by the administration. The reason for this is that, in order that the policy of establishing in Palestine a national home for the Jewish people should be successfully carried out, it is impracticable to guarantee that equal facilities for developing the natural resources of the country should be granted to persons or bodies who may be actuated by other motives. The general spirit of the Palestine mandate in the view of His Majesty's Government, seems to render unnecessary the insertion of an especial provision preventing the Mandatory from developing the natural resources of the country for his own benefit.

Our government in its desire to help along in the work accepted this point of view and in a letter written by the American Ambassador Harvey to the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Curzon on April 5, 1922, the following declaration is made: "With respect to the matter of concessions, my Government has carefully noted the suggestions made by Your Lordship with respect to the peculiar conditions existing in Palestine and, in view of these conditions, it is not the intention of my Government to insist on the inclusion of a provision in this mandate against the granting of monopolistic concessions, as it is recognized that these may be justified to a certain extent for appropriate local development. The Government of the United States will be satisfied with the assurances which His Majesty's Government proposes to give in regard to equality of commercial opportunity. It should be clearly understood, however, that this position is taken by my Government solely in recognition of the special situation in Palestine and is not to be considered as prejudicial in any respect to the contentions which have been made, and which are still being made, in connection with other mandate territories.

In a letter written on Oct. 2, 1922 by the British Secretary Curzon to the American Ambassador Harvey, Lord Curzon refers to the interest which was taken in the United States in the policy of establishing a national home for the

Jewish people in Palestine and to the "warm support which it has received in that country, of which the recent resolutions of both houses of Congress have afforded striking evidence."



March 3, 1944

Mr. Lawrence Baron, President
Zionist Organization of America
Sioux City, Iowa

My dear Mr. Baron:

I have learned with great satisfaction of the city-wide mass meeting which you are planning to hold on March 9 under the auspices of your Zionist Organization and that you will have the pleasure of receiving a message from Dr. Richard Evans whose words are always enlightening and enkindling.

I know that your meeting will be very successful, for the cause which it aims to serve is one of the noblest and most cogent in Jewish life today.

The great sacrifices and terrible suffering of our people in this war will prove irredeemably tragic if they do not arouse the conscience of the world to make secure for our people its national life in its ancestral home after this war. A just and peaceful world order which we all hope for is inconceivable without a permanent solution of the problem of the national homelessness of the Jewish people. Our beloved America, which played a significant role in the framing both of the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate should now raise its voice to see that the spirit of its international commitments is fulfilled and that the doors of Palestine shall remain open.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington

April 11, 1944

Blom
Mr. Louis Lipsky,
American Zionist Emergency Council,
342 Madison Avenue,
New York City

My dear Louis:

As soon as I received your letter introducing and recommending Mr. Elias Souraski, I immediately contacted the State Department and was able to arrange for his matter to be taken care of for the time being.

You may be assured that it will be a pleasure to assist further in every way possible.

With kindest personal regards and very best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Sol

SB:Cv

IX: 4/12/44

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington

April 11, 1944.

Bloom
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise,
American Zionist Emergency Council,
342 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, N. Y.

My dear Rabbi:

Immediately upon receipt of your letter and recommendation concerning Mr. Elias Souraski, I was pleased to take his matter up with the State Department and have arranged matters satisfactorily for him for the present.

You may be assured that it will be a pleasure to do everything possible to assist further in his case.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Sol

SB:Cv
IK:4/12/44

MEMORANDUM

April 17, 1944

To: Dr. Israel Goldstein

From: Dr. S. Bernstein

We have received today an important cable from Mr. Barlas, Director of the Palestine Bureau in Istanbul, Turkey, containing the following information.

From now on we need not cable our applications for Jews in Hungary to Jerusalem since he, Barlas, has been authorized to approve the immigration certificates. He further states that our cases have been duly noted but for the time being he has no communication with Budapest. The transit of individual immigrants by some of the Balkan countries via Turkey is now extremely limited but he is making an effort to arrange sea transport via Roumania "WHEN POSSIBILITIES REOPENED".

What Mr. Barlas has in mind by saying when possibilities will be reopened is probably the expectation that the Russians will very soon be in control of Roumania, so that the immigrants will be able to go to Turkey by boat, via Constanza, a voyage of two or three days.

Accordingly we will now inform applicants coming to our office in behalf of their relatives in Hungary that we are ready to submit the cases by cable to Istanbul, provided the prospective immigrants are able to reach Roumania. On the other hand, I think it would be advisable that the Hungarian cases be registered with Mr. Barlas' office for assistance which may be possible in very near future. We will make a decision on this matter after we will have gathered some additional information.

Mr. Barlas' cable reads as follows:

"AM NOW AUTHORIZED APPROVE IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATES

HERE WITHOUT REFERENCE JERUSALEM STOP MENTIONED

CASES DULY NOTED BUT NO COMMUNICATION BUDAPEST TIMEBEING

STOP TRANSIT INDIVIDUAL IMMIGRANTS BEING EXTREMELY LIMITED

ENDEAVOURING ARRANGE SEA TRANSPORT VIZ ROUMANIA WHEN

POSSIBILITIES REOPENED".

Copy for
Dr. Abba Hibel Silver

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

April 22, 1944

Miss Naomi Barowsky
American Zionist Emergency Council
1720 Sixteenth St. N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Please reserve train accommodations Wednesday evening April 26th from Washington to Cleveland. Reserve also hotel, preferably Statler. Please wire. Regards.

Silver

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA



NEW YORK OFFICE

41 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

PALESTINE DEPARTMENT
DR. S. BERNSTEIN, DIRECTOR

May 1st, 1944

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
President

DR. HARRY FRIEDENWALD
Hon. Vice President

DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN
EDMUND I. KAUFMANN
JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINthal
LOUIS LIPSKY
BERNARD A. ROSENBLATT
JUDGE MORRIS ROTHENBERG
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
ROBERT SZOLD
DR. STEPHEN S. WISE
Vice-Presidents

DR. JAMES G. HELLER
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JOEL GROSS
RABBI ISRAEL H. LEVINthal
IRVING D. LIPKOWITZ
RABBI IRVING MILLER
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CHARLES J. ROSENBLUM
EZRA Z. SHAPIRO
BERNARD SHULMAN
HERMAN SHULMAN
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
RABBI MILTON STEINBERG
DEWEY D. STONE
ELIHU D. STONE
HERMAN L. WEISMAN

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am sending you a copy of the April issue of DOS YIDDISHE FOLK, and I desire to draw your attention to our editorial on the Palestine Resolution in Washington. I am confident that you will approve of it and I desire to assure you that in this editorial I have expressed the point of view of the Z.O.A. administration.

Let me tell you, dear Dr. Silver, how deeply moved I was by your appeal at the previous meeting of the Z.O.A. Executive. You completely won the hearts of everybody and thus rendered an enormous service to our cause by this stirring appeal for unity and discipline.

If you would ask me - as indeed our friend Mr. Emanuel Neumann did - why did I not express these views before this meeting, my answer would be first, - the less frequent appearance of DOS YIDDISHE FOLK. But secondly - and this is the answer - I simply did not know what was going on in the Emergency Council. I cannot editorialize things and events which I did not live through myself and which I know only from hearsay and rumors. I am not admitted to the meetings of the Emergency Council. An editor of the official Yiddish organ of the Zionist Organization of America, which is being read by ten thousand Zionists, is obviously not qualified enough for admittance to the inner sanctum. Last year I risked my neck and came to a meeting at the invitation of Mr. Grossman who was then a member of the Council and it was like coming into the lion's den, all eyes directed towards the intruder and invader. Of course, this happened before the Emergency Council was reorganized and became alive. But nevertheless, I still haven't got enough daring to venture forth to these meetings.

Therefore, by the fact that I was at last privileged to experience the event myself - by listening to your personal report and explanations - was I in a position to say what I did in the editorial.




If Herzl could have achieved what the present Emergency Council did achieve, namely to compel the large political world to take up the "Judenfrage" in its full aspect, he would have considered it as the greatest triumph of Zionism and as the initial steps for the realization of his hopes.

for time I also want you to read - if you have ~~not already~~ ^{enough time and} ~~done so~~ - my article on Brandeis in the same issue. This article has created a stir among Zionists in New York. They all say that this is a brand new point of view on Brandeis hitherto unnoticed and practically unknown. Some even fear lest Mizrachi claim the late justice as its American founder and protector.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

S. Bernstein
Dr. S. Bernstein



WRHS



SB:tf
enc.

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
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WESTERN UNION

1207

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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	TIME FILED

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Louis Bernstein

Care of or Apt. No. 1540 Broadway

Street and No. New York, N.Y.

Place

May 26, 1944 19

WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by WESTERN UNION"
or similar phrases may be
included without charge.

I SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE WITH YOU ON TUESDAY JUNE TWENTIETH. KINDEST

REGARDS.

A H SILVER

Sender's Name

Address

Tel. No.

C O P Y C O P Y

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
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WESTERN UNION

1213-D

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Dr. PHILIP DAVID BOOKSTABER

1944 May 20 P.M. 1 109

Street and No. HOTEL HARRISBURGER

Place HARRISBURG, PA.

FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORMATION OF AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE
WILL BE MADE AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, MAY 24th IF YOU UNABLE AT-
TEND STATEMENT FROM YOU FOR ~~RELEASE~~ TO PRESS IN SUPPORT OF AIMS OF LEAGUE
TO GAIN FOR FREE PALESTINE REPRESENTATION IN COUNCILS OF UNITED NATIONS
AND ON BATTLEFIELD WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN GAINING WIDER UNDERSTANDING
OF PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES. PLEASE WIRE COLLECT

HARRIS LOUIS SELDEN AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE
11 WEST 42nd STREET

Sender's address
for reference

TELEGRAPH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS—25c TO ANY WESTERN UNION POINT IN U. S.

Sender's telephone
number

OFFICERS

MR. MORRIS E. JACOBSON, HONORARY PRESIDENT
MR. JACOB MILLER, PRESIDENT
MR. EDWARD W. SCHLEISNER, VICE-PRESIDENT
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MR. JOSEPH GARNER, TREASURER
MR. EPHRAIM BRENNER, WELFARE DIRECTOR

Ohev Sholom Temple

FRONT AND SENECA STREETS
HARRISBURG, PA.

Rev. Dr. Philip David Bookstaber, M.A., Ph.D., Litt.D. - Rabbi

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MISS MARY SACHS
MR. IRVIN YOFFEE

5/27/44

Dear Abba!:-

Enclosed are self explanatory.
Have sent copies to Wm &
Flem.

Hope this finds you as
well as ever. Shemath greetings.

Yours devotedly -

Brother.

P.S. Note letter #4 especially

May 29, 1944

May 29, 1944

Dr. Philip D. Bookstaber
Ohev Sholom Temple
Front and Seneca Streets
Harrisburg, Pa.

My dear Phil:

I was most happy to receive copies of the communications which you enclosed in your letter, and more especially, the one of May 26 in which you resign from the Executive Committee of the Bergson outfit. I regard your action as both wise and helpful. I know that you had to deliberate long before you took the step for you were active in helping the earlier activities of this group. Their latest activity, however, is a menace to the integrity of the Zionist Movement, utterly irresponsible, and one which has been rightly condemned by every responsible group in the United States.

I shall look forward to seeing you at the Rabbinical Conference in Cincinnati. With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:BK

COPY OF NIGHT LETTER SENT 5/21/44

Mr. Harry Louis Selden,
American League for a Free Palestine
11 W. 42nd St., New York City

Your telegram regarding meeting on the 24th at hand. Have already written my regrets in being unable to attend. I feel that these further activities indirectly sponsored by the Emergency Committee to save the Jews of Europe will militate more and more against the unity with the Zionist organizations about which you, Meyerowitz and I spoke. The recent statement about the establishment of an "Embassy" has already created serious "resistance - obstacles". How can you and I ~~at~~ attain our objectives of harmony and unity? I feel Gerard will not go along and neither will others who are on our list.

I feel I have put in a tremendous amount of joyful, arduous and productive work for the "Jewish Army" and the "Emergency Committee". I also feel I have gone "all the way" towards implied and expressed objectives. I cannot lend my name nor give a favorable statement regarding a "Free Palestine" and other matters in your letter. Please ask the meeting to be both circumspect and meditative, and especially considerate.

Yours for Zion

(Signed) Rabbi Philip David Bookstaber

C O P Y

5/26/44

Webster
Mr. Gabriel ~~Webster~~,
Executive Secretary,
Emergency Committee to
Save the Jews of Europe
25 W. 45th Street,
New York City

Webster
My dear Gabriel ~~Webster~~:

I hereby request that my name no longer be included on the list of the Executive Committee. I have worked diligently, and, thoroughly, for the welfare and objectives of the Committee. The record will show my consistent loyalty to the aims and purposes from its inception; the road from the "Jewish Army", to the "Conference" and to the "Committee"

I feel there is no more to be done; the Committee has fulfilled its objectives. There has been other activities organized under the direct or indirect influence, inspiration andegis of the "Committee" such as is implied in the "Embassy", etc. This latest development has been most embarrassing to me personally and to the well-established and constituted agencies with and for Palestine with which I am in accord.

With kindest regards to you and all friends of Zion and the refugees, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Philip David Bookstaber

C O P Y

HARRY LOUIS SELDEN

Suite 450
11 West Forty-Second Street
New York 18, N. Y.

May 17, 1944

Rev. Dr. Philip D. Bookstaber
Hotel Harrisburger
Harrisburg, Penna.

Dear Dr. Bookstaber:

I want to thank you for your kind undertaking to try to arrange a meeting with Dr. Wise and Dr. Silver.

Rabbi Meyerowitz has just told me that Professor Yehuda has expressed a willingness to attend such a conference. I understand, too, that Dr. Wise would probably not consent to such a meeting if Mr. Bergson were to be present. This is regrettable, but should not be an obstacle in the way of such a meeting.

I am not sure whether I told you that Mr. James W. Gerard is deeply interested in participating in our work, provided we can achieve some measure of unity with other Jewish groups. He too suggested that we seek an accord with Dr. Wise.

As I told you, I shall hold myself available for such a meeting whenever you can arrange it.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) Harry Louis Selden

June 2, 1944

From: Jacob Billikopf
To: Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

I sent copy of Dr. Walter Clay Lowdermilk's
PALESTINE: LAND OF PROMISE to more than a hundred and
twenty five eminent non-Jews - friends and acquaintances -
and I am anticipating many favorable responses.

I am enclosing copy of a self-explanatory letter
from Dr. Frank Aydelotte, former President of Swarthmore
College and now President of the Institute for Advanced
Study in Princeton.

Best regards.



C O P Y

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
Princeton, N. J.

May 23, 1944

Dear Billikopf:

Many thanks for your letter of May 19 and for your kindness in sending me Lowdermilk's book. The fact is that I have already read it and consider it the most impressive justification of Zionism I have ever seen. With your permission, I shall not return the book but shall place it in the Institute Library, as a gift from you, since there are several members of our faculty who are interested in the subject and I should like to make it available to them. I can easily see how Jewish work in Palestine pursued along the lines Lowdermilk recommends would be a blessing to the entire Near East.

With kindest regards, I am

Affectionately yours,

/s/

FRANK AYDELOTTE

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

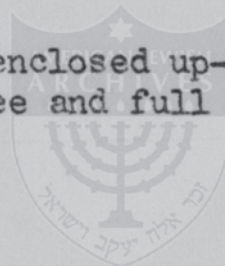
MEMORANDUM

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date June 2, 1944

From Lillian Benjamin

You may wish to have the enclosed up-to-date list of
members of the Executive Committee and full Emergency Council.



LB

June 8, 1944

Miss Lillian Benjamin
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Benjamin:

Thank you for sending me the up-to-date list of the Executive Committee and the full Emergency Council. There is one correction to be made. The Executive Committee has no co-chairman. It is the full Emergency Council which has two co-chairmen.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

COPY

Address official communications to
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

In reply refer to NE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 14, 1944

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I have received your letter of June 5, 1944 with which you sent me a copy of a telegram from the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, regarding the attitude of the Jewish community in Palestine toward the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation which recently established a "Hebrew Embassy" in Washington.

I wish to assure you in this connection that the Department does not recognize the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation as having any representative status.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ A. A. Berle, Jr.

Assistant Secretary

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, 17, N. Y.

MN
6-16-44