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

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American Zionist Emergency Council, "T," "U," "V," "W," "X," "Y,"
and "Z", 1943-1944.

(3)

Ch. Barlas
Pera Palas

Istanbul, 24. 9. 1943

C o p i e

Monsieur
G. S i m o n d
Delegue du Comite de la
Croix Rouge Internationale
I s t a n b u l

Cher Monsieur Simon,

Je me refere a notre entretien de ce jour au sujet de l'action de secours aux Juifs en Pologne, Roumanie etc. par des envois de vivres.

1) Je vous fais parvenir ci-joint copies d'une offre de la maison Mehmet Sipahioğlu, Istanbul du 22.9.a.c. ~~Nr~~ainsi que de la confirmation du Ticaret Vekaleti du 15.9.a.c. Nr.5/14487, dont il resulte que le permis a ete accorde pour l'exportation de 250 tons de vivres dans certaines conditions.

2) Comme explique deja, l'Organisation de Secours Juive dans les Etats-Unis d'Amerique (American Joint Distribution Committee) a promis de fournir les fonds necessaires a ce sujet. Le J.D.C. soignera le necessaire pour l'obtention de permis requis pour financer cette action.

3) Suivant ma proposition d'aujourd'hui, j'aimerais bien que le Comite de la Croix Rouge se declare d'accord de nous aider dans cette action. Je me permets de preciser ci-pres ma proposition:

a) L'action sera financee par l'envoi de sommes en mains du Comite de la Croix Rouge Internationale a Ankara.

b) La Croix Rouge a Ankara effectuera le paiement pur les vivres a la firme y relative.

c) L'envoi des vivres se fera au nom de la Croix Rouge Internale de chaque pays ou au nom du Comite local de la Croix Rouge dans les pays respectifs.

d) La distribution des vivres a la population juive se fera par les organes de la Croix Rouge, d'accord avec un Re-presentant a choisir par la Communauté juive.

4) Il va sans dire, que tous les frais y resultant pour le Comite de la Croix Rouge Internationale seront regles par nous.

Je voudrais ajouter, que les pays suivants devront etre pris en consideration pour les envois de vivres, ci- haut mentionnes:

transnistrie (Mohilov), Slovaquie (Bratislava), Pologne (Krakow), Protectorat/B. et M. (Theresienstadt), France, etc.

Connaissant votre attitude bienveillante en ce qui concerne l'action de sauver les juifs, j'espère, Cher Monsieur, Simond, que vous entreprendrez toutes les démarches nécessaires pour réaliser cette action humanitaire.

Dans l'attente de votre réponse définitive, je vous prie d'agréer, avec mes remerciements anticipés, mes salutations les plus empressées.

Ch. Barlas
Representant, Jewish Agency for Palestine

annexes.



October 22, 1943

Mr. Max Zaritsky
United Hatters, Cap & Millinery Workers Int. Union
245 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Zaritsky:

I have just had occasion to read the Report of the American Federation of Labor containing the proceedings of the session of Friday, October 8, and the resolution which was adopted on the rescue of Jews from Nazi Europe, and on Palestine. May I tell you how deeply impressed I was by the truly magnificent resolution, by the statement of Mr. Woll for the Committee on International Labor Relations, and by the very moving utterances of Mr. Goldberg. I cannot conceive of a more statesmanlike resolution and a more dignified presentation of our case. You have rendered the cause of our persecuted brothers abroad as well as the cause of the Jewish National Home a great and distinguished service for which the American Emergency Council is deeply grateful. This gratitude, I am sure, will be shared by the delegates who attended the American Jewish Conference whose sentiments and convictions you so faithfully represented.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

November 1, 1943

Dr. J. Marshall Taxay
United Temple
Terre Haute, Indiana

My dear Friend:

Thank you so much for your kind note and for the good wishes which you convey to me. I am particularly grateful to you for your offer of assistance. We shall need it. As you probably know, Rabbi Feuer has taken a leave of absence from his congregation to assume charge of community contact work under the Zionist Emergency Committee. He will, I am sure, communicate with you.

With all good wishes, and hoping to see you in the near future, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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P
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(2)

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

Jerusalem, 5th November 1943

Prof. Norman Bentwich
Jerusalem.

Dear Prof. Bentwich:

I refer to our conversation of the 2nd Nov. with regard to the situation of Jews in Bulgaria, etc. In this connection, I would like to submit to you the following remarks.

According to information available, the number of Jews in the four countries referred to, viz., Bulgaria, Greece, Roumania and Yugoslavia, may be summarized as follows:

1) Bulgaria. At the beginning of the war the population of Jews in Bulgaria was estimated at about 62,000. Several thousand left during the first years of the war. In the spring of 1942 the Bulgarian Government introduced anti-Jewish laws which resulted in the expulsion of Jews from Sofia in April of this year. About 22,000 Jews, Bulgarian subjects, were dispersed in several towns and villages, and are living there under the most difficult conditions. There are villages where hundreds of Sofian refugees are living in one synagogue there, etc. About 14,000 Jews, non-Bulgarian subjects (although a number of them were born in Bulgaria), were sent to Poland and nothing is known of their fate. Now about 40,000 Jews are still living in the country and require help.

2) Roumania. The Jewish population of Roumania, which was estimated at the beginning of the war at about 800,000 is now considerably reduced by the fact of 1) mass massacres of the Jews in Bessarabia and Bukovina; 2) by the annexation of provinces of Transylvania to Hungary; 3) by the flight of Jews from Bukovina to Russia at the beginning of the war with Russia. The greater part of the Jews from Bessarabia and Bukovina (about 180,000) were expelled to Transnistria (the area previously belonging to Russia.) Of this number only about 75,000 Jews remained alive, while 20,000 died or were killed during the period of their expulsion. The actual number of Jews in Roumania may be estimated as follows:

<u>Old Roumania:</u>	Bucharest	100,000	
	Galatz	25,000	
	Yassi	25,000	
	Various	<u>25,000</u>	175,000
	Bukovina		16,000
	Transnistria		<u>75,000</u>
	<u>Total:</u>		<u>266,000</u>

The Jews in Transnistria are living under the most tragic conditions. They are concentrated in about 50 camps and are divided into three categories: 1) "free", i.e. Jews who are allowed to work, mostly originating from Bukovina; 2) Ghetti, in Mohilev, etc.; 3) concentration camps, employed in forced labor. Their situation is the more dangerous now when

the Russian army is approaching this area and there is serious danger of their being massacred by the Roumanian hordes during the period of hostilities. Their fate requires special care now before the war action begins there.

3) Yugoslavia. The whole population of 75,000 Jews who lived in peace in Yugoslavia has disappeared except for a number of about 2,000 Jews living in concentration camps near Zagreb. A considerable number of Yugoslavian Jews, about 12,000, escaped to Italy, where the war has reached them now. It is probable that these Jews will attempt to return to Yugoslavia at the first opportunity after the reoccupation of the country by the Allied Forces, and this problem requires special attention now.

by the Allied Forces, and this problem requires special attention now.
 A number of Yugoslavian refugees in Italy, about 1,000, mostly children,
 are registered for immigration into Palestine, but unless shipping accommo-
 dation will be found at an early date, they will also have to return to
 Yugoslavia. It may be added that a considerable number of Yugoslavian
 refugees are also scattered in Hungary where they are tolerated together
 with many other Jewish refugees from Poland, Slovakia, etc.

4) Greece. The Jewish population in Greece was previously concentrated for the most part in Salonika, about 60,000, while another 10,000 to 12,000 lived in Athens, Crete, etc. At the beginning of March 1943 the Germans expelled all the Jews from Salonika to Poland. This exodus was effected within the short period of two weeks. Of the whole Jewish community of Salonika only about 3,000 succeeded in escaping to Athens and another 3,000 to the Islands, where they are living in hiding and deprived of all means of existence. About 60 families of Turkish origin were saved and repatriated by the Turkish Legation, while another group of 380 Spanish refugees were protected by the Spanish Legation and efforts are being made for their return in transit to Spain with a view to their immigration to Palestine.

This is a short picture of the situation of the Jews in the four countries ~~mentioned~~ referred to with regard to the relief action you are undertaking with a view to rescuing the remainder of the Jewish communities in these countries. I regret that I am unable to prepare a more detailed report on this subject because of my early departure for Turkey. I refrain from making any suggestions as this would entail more careful consideration of the whole problem than I am able to give to it at present, but I shall be glad to keep in touch with you and send you reports which may come into my possession while I am in Ankara.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Ch. Barlas

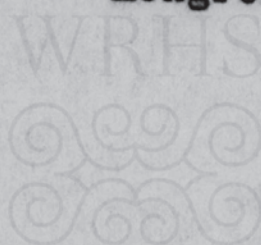
C o p i e .

Ch. Barlas, Perapalace, Istanbul

Lisbon, 13. 12. 43.

En France vivent environ dixmille juifs nationalite turque depuis generations mais suite precedentes lois nationalite contestee stop on veut les considerer apatrides et deporter en Pologne priere intervenir urgence aupres Gouvernement Turc priant au nom humanite sauver ces malheureux en leur accordant protection previsible et instruisant Consuls consequence.

Isaac Weissmann Delegee World Jewish
Congress Avenida Libertad



Istanbul, 15.12.43

N o t e

concernant 10,000 Juifs ex sujet Turc en France .

I. La question des Juifs Turcs, qui sont disperses dans divers pays en Europe, est devenue actuelle depuis le commencement de la guerre. Le Gouvernement Turc a adopte une attitude bienveillante et humanitaire envers cette question. Il y a, cependant, deux categories a distinguer:

1) Les Juifs, dont la sujetion turque est indubitable. Ceux-ci ont ete preserves des persecutions en Europe. Plusieurs centaines en France, Grece etc. ont ete repatriees en Turquie avec l'aide des Legations Turques, etant sauves de cette maniere du sort affreux des Juifs dans ces pays.

2) Les Juifs de Turquie, qui avant plusieurs annees, meme avant des generations, sont emigres de Turquie et qui, maintenant, par suite de la loi entree de vigueur avant quelques annees, ont perdu leur sujetion. Cette categorie, tout en etant dans la mesure du possible protegee par les Représentants du Gouvernement Turc, n'est pourtant pas consideree comme sujet turc. Par consequent, elle est expose aux persecutions de la part des autorites nazies comme apatrides. Q

II. Il appert d'un telegramme recu de Lisbon, qu'environ 10,000 Juifs de la categorie mentionnee sub 2) vivent en France, qui sont en danger d'etre deportes en Pologne, et pour lesquels une protection immediate est damndee. Le sort des Juifs deportes en Pologne de divers pays d'Europe est bien connu: massacre dans des camps d'extermination, a Oswiecim, etc., ou des certains de milliers sont tombes comme victime.

III. Il est bien comprehensible que le Gouvernement Turc ait pris de certaines mesures en ce qui concerne des sujets refractaires aux reglements gouvernementaux de se presenter au Consuls etc. Il est a presumer que le sens de la loi etait tel, de leur interdire la rentree en Turquie, mais il est sur que le legislateur turc n'a pas pus prevoir que cette loi soit entrepretee de maniere de permettre aux autorites dans les pays relatifs d'entreprendre des mesures de la peine capitale contre des malheureux sans protections.

C'est dans ce sens que le Gouvernement Turc est prie d'accorder ■ ulterieurement sa protection a ces pauvres malheureux gens, en prolongeant la validite des documents turcs, pour leur epargner le sort terrible d'une deportation, ce qui egale a la mort.

(6)

Istanbul, 15.12.1943.

Note for Colonel H. Bon

Director International Red Cross

regarding transportation of Jewish immigrants into Palestine.

1) Exchange scheme.

There are about 1200 Jewish refugees in Poland, the Protectorate, etc., for whom the Jewish Agency has obtained the entry permits into Palestine. Negotiations are being carried on between the British and German Governments, by intermediary of the Swiss Federal Government, as the Protecting Power, to enable the transportation of these families to Palestine, under the so-called "Exchange Scheme", i. e. against Germans, living in British territories. For the time being, there is little hope that this scheme should be put into action, because there are very few Germans in British territories willing to leave for Germany.

In the meantime, the would-be Jewish immigrants in Poland etc. are facing serious danger of being massacred as many hundreds of thousands of their coreligionaries.

It would be appreciated very much of the International Red Cross would undertake the necessary steps to ensure the protection of these families, for whom the entry permit into Palestine has already been granted, in a way that they should be kept in a concentration camp until it will be possible to carry on with their transfer to Palestine.

The particulars are known to Mr. Lichtheim, the Representative of the Jewish Agency in Geneva, who is in close contact with the Swiss Authorities in the matter, and who will be able to give you any information necessary for your action.

2) Transit via Bulgaria.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine has got about 5000 immigration certificates for children (accompanied by 10% of adults) living in Roumania, Hungary and Bulgaria (2000 Roumania, 1000 Hungary, 2000 Bulgaria). I have succeeded in obtaining the permission of the Turkish Government for the transit of these immigrants. But the only obstacle is now the refusal of the Bulgarian Government ~~xxxxxxx~~ to let these immigrants pass in groups, as it is stipulated by the regulations of the Turkish Foreign Ministry in Ankara.

the

I therefore ask you to use ~~xxx~~ influence of the International Red Cross in Sofia, by approaching the Bulgarian Government with a view to permitting the exit and transit of groups (at a rate of 150-200 weekly) via Bulgaria. This would enable to carry on with the action we are dealing with since a year in vain.

3) "Magen David Adom". (Relief Society in Palestine).

The "Magen David Adom" is proposing to undertake an action of medical assistance to Jews living in German occupied territories.

I have instructed the "Magen David Adom" to get in touch with Mr. Courvoisier, according to your suggestion.

4) M.E.R.R.A., Cairo.

The M.E.R.R.A. (Middle East Refugees Relief Association) has agreed to the participation of Jewish Organisations in Palestine in the proposed plan of relief to refugees in Balkan countries at the proper time.

I am sending you a copy of my memo of the 5/11.a.c. to Professor Bentwich, which is self-explanatory.

For your information, please.

5) Neutral steamer of immigrants.

I have explained to you the proposal regarding a steamer to be put at the disposal of the International Red Cross, on the assumption that for a period of some months the steamers should be utilized for transportation of Jewish immigrants from Constanta or Varna to Istanbul, under the auspices of the International Red Cross. (The immigrants are of course in possession of Permits to enter Palestine).

I shall be glad if you will let us know, whether you are inclined to accept this proposal, according to which the steamer, running under Swiss Flag, is the property of the International Red Cross.

I shall advise the Representative of the Jewish Agency in Geneva to get in touch with you, and I am confident you will give us your assistance in the humanitarian work, to enable the immigrants to get to their destination.

CH. BARLAS

Ch. Barlas18. 12. 1943Report on ImmigrationImmigration via Turkey

1) The difficulties in putting into action the plan of emigration from the Balkan countries were sufficiently explained in my previous reports. The Turkish Government agreed to facilitate the transit of the immigrants, in groups, as far back as in February 1943. Since then, lengthy negotiations were carried on, via London - Jerusalem, with regard to the simplification of the procedure in granting the visas by the Swiss Consulates etc. Great difficulties arose with regard to enabling the transportation by sea. No neutral ship could be found for this purpose, although the International Red Cross had agreed to give its sign and protection for transports of Jewish immigrants to Palestine.

In April 1943 a new obstacle arose by the fact that the Bulgarian Government suddenly prohibited the exit or transit of Jewish immigrants through the country. This restriction caused to stop the emigration altogether.

I then approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara with a view to permitting the transit via Turkey of Jewish immigrants as individual passengers, who might perhaps obtain Bulgarian visas, as the transit in groups became impossible. This was approved and the Turkish Consuls in Bucarest, Budapest and Sofia were instructed to grant individual visas at a rate of 9 per week (families) in each country, totalling to 400 persons per month approximately (27 x 4).

The Transit under this scheme has begun in September a.c. During 2 months 215 immigrants succeeded in arriving in Istanbul. We have arranged for their transportation to Palestine on the ground of immigration certificates put at my disposal. Among these immigrants were some very tragic cases from Transnistria; escapees from Poland, who lived for some months in Budapest, etc.

The influx of immigrants under this scheme is continuing. Lists of about 1020 immigrants were submitted to the Foreign Office, Ankara, for approval under this scheme, and it is hoped that the immigrants will be granted facilities for their transit during the next few months.

2) At the same time several groups of Jewish immigrants from Greece succeeded in escaping to Turkey. They are coming in small boats to Izmir, where they obtain visas for Palestine, under the Schedule of the Jewish Agency. The number of these immigrants, arrived till now, is 312. I made the necessary arrangements for their transportation via Aleppo to Palestine. The British Embassy, Istanbul, as well as the Greek Consulate in Izmir are very helpful in the matter.

3) Needless to say, that, notwithstanding this "individual transit" scheme, negotiations are being carried on to enable also the transportation of immigrants in groups, according to the previous plan. The

latest information from Bucarest are encouraging with regard to the transport of some groups of immigrants from Transnistria and Bucovina. I shall let you know by cable of the developments.

4) In summarizing the activities with regard to immigration via Turkey during 1943, I may give you the following figures, including the refugees from Roumania, who were sent, as you will remember, to Cyprus some months ago:

Jan.-Sept. 1943

Youth-Aliyah
(children up to 16 y.
and 3 convoyers)

Hungary	125	
Roumania	<u>74</u>	199

Refugees

Bulgaria	<u>150</u>	
		<u>349</u>

Oct.-Dec. 1943

Individually

Budapest	108	
Bucarest	34	
Sofia	15	
Various	58	
Athens	<u>312</u>	527

Refugees to Cyprus

Roumania	180	
Bulgaria	<u>72</u>	<u>252</u>

Total:		<u>1128</u>
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The result of the immigration in numbers are in no comparison with the tragic situation of Jewry in the enemy-occupied countries, but taking into consideration the almost unsurmountable difficulties, I may say that it is a miracle, that even this small number has escaped from the hell.

Let us hope, that from now on our task to rescue will be facilitated and that our plan will be carried out.

5) The immigration into Palestine of Jews living in Turkey is continually progressing, due to the economic situation. The infiltration of Jewish immigration from nazi-occupied territories via Turkey also affected, to a great extent, the Jews in this country, who begin to understand the situation. In comparison with previous years, when the immigration of Turkish Jews was very limited in numbers, a great movement is to be noticed now in this direction. The numbers of Jewish immigrants from Turkey amounted to:

Jan.-Sept. 1943

Immigrants (single and families)	1558	
Youth Aliyah	<u>270</u>	1828

Oct.- Nov. 1943

	<u>310</u>
	<u>2138</u>

A further number of 450 certificates (including 200 for youths) was approved recently, during my stay in Jerusalem, for Turkish immigrants under the current Labor Schedule.

The selection of the immigrants under the conditions prevailing here (the Hachsharah movement being prohibited) creates problems of organizing the work in accordance with our principles governing the immigration into Palestine.

Ch. B.



THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

Immigration Dept.

Jerusalem

Ch. Barlas
Pera Palas

Istanbul, 18.12.43

No. 713/43

Dr. Nahum Goldmann
c/o Emergency Committee for
Zionist Affairs
41 East 42nd Street
New York

Dear Dr. Goldmann,

I am glad to inform you that Mr. L. Steinhardt, the Ambassador of the U. S. A. in Ankara, was so kind as to allow me to convey to you reports in urgent matters in a way, that they will reach you without delay. I take advantage of this courtesy to send you now a short report regarding my activities on Immigration and Relief matters.

I hope you received the report sent to you from Jerusalem with regard to the situation of Jewry in Turkey. I am happy to be able to tell you now, that a considerable amelioration is to be noticed in the economic position of Jews, who were severely affected by the heavy tax on fortune imposed on minorities here (Jews, Greeks and Armenians) a year ago. About 1400 persons, mostly Jews, ^{who} were sent to forced labor, because they were unable to pay the taxes, have been set free a few days ago and sent to their homes. It is now known, that this fact is due to the intervention of the Ambassador of the U. S. A., who took up the matter, more than once, with the leaders of the Turkish Government.

Furthermore, I should like to emphasize the fact, that at several occasions the Ambassador agreed to intervene also in matters of immigration into Palestine, so far as the transit via Turkey is concerned. The semi-official conversations the Ambassador had with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, when I applied to him in critical moments, influenced, to a great extent, the favorable decision of the Government with regard to the transit. Hundreds of Jewish refugees from Nazi-satellite countries have been thus enabled to escape from this hell and make use of the certificates granted to them for entering Palestine.

The attached report will give you a picture also on matters of relief to Jews in German-occupied or -controlled territories, carried out here by the Jewish Agency, in close cooperation with the International Red Cross and by help of the American Joint Distribution Committee, who is providing the necessary funds for the relief work.

May I draw your attention also to the attached memo of the 5.11. a.c. to Prof. Norman Bentwich, dealing with the question of preparing a machinery for relief to Jews in the Balkan-countries in the near future, when these territories will become free again. This matter was thoroughly discussed at several meetings in Jerusalem, where Dr. I. J. Magnes, Miss Henrietta Szold, etc. participated, and I presume that some information about the plan reached you already by now.

I shall be glad if you will be so kind as to acknowledge the receipt of this report by cable.

I am looking forward for your news.

With best personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

CHAIM BARLAS
(signed)

Enclosures.



File under
Turkey

Letter to Dr. N. Goldmann,
New York, Nr. 713/43 of
the 18.12.43.

List of enclosures.

- 1) Report on Immigration
concerning immigration via Turkey to Palestine
during 1943.
- 2) Copy of a memo to Prof. Norman Betwich, dated 5.11.43,
regarding organization of Relief for Jews in
Roumania, Bulgaria, Greece and Yougoslavia.
- 3) Copy of a letter to Mr. G. Simond, Delegate of International
Red Cross, Anakara, of the 24.9.43,
regarding the action of Relief by sending foodstuff
parcels to Jews in Transnistria.

Note:

The Turkish Government agreed to the exportation of 250 tons of Foodstuffs to Transnistria etc. The whole action is being conducted under the auspices of the I.R.C. On my advice, the Joint Distribution Committee have transmitted \$100,000.00 to the I.R.C. in Ankara on this account.

A Commission set up here by me, to deal with the matter on a commercial basis, is working very actively, and I hope the first 5 waggons of foodstuffs (10,000 packages) will be sent to Transnistria in the course of some two weeks' time.

- 4) Copy of a cable of the World Jewish Congress, Lisbon,
dated 13.12.43,
with regard to 10,000 Jews ex-Turkish subjects in
France.
- 5) Statement with regard to the troubles in Palestine, caused
by a search for arms in the agricultural settlement
(Kibbuz) of Ramath-Hakovesh (near Tel Aviv).
- 6) Note for Col. H. Bon, Director of the International Red
Cross of the 15.12.43.

Note:

Col. H. Bon is the Representative of the I.R.C. for the Middle East in Cairo. While his visit here, on his way to Geneva, I discussed with him the problems of our work. The note is dealing with these problems, in which Col. Bon promised the full assistance of the International Red Cross.

C.B.

March 17, 1944

Commander John S. Young
Office of the Under-Secretary of the Navy
1642 - 29th St.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Commander Young:

It was a great pleasure for me to have had the fortuitous meeting with you on the train from Washington last Friday. I was very happy to make your acquaintance and to chat with you. I trust that we shall have an opportunity to meet again soon and to follow up some of the subjects which we touched on.

You evidenced an especial interest in the history of the Palestine Jewish Army. I requested our office in New York to prepare a memorandum on the subject which I am enclosing herewith. The information will, I am sure, be welcome to you as indicating the eagerness with which the Jews of Palestine and the World Zionist Organization placed themselves at the service of the military to help in the war effort of the United Nations.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

UNITED HATTERS, CAP AND MILLINERY WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION
MAX ZARITZKY, PRES.
~~844~~ 245 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

April 5, 1944

inv 3-1881
Shall

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

My dear Dr. Silver:

You will recall a conversation we had several months ago in which we discussed the advisability and the practicality of organizing a trade union committee for disseminating educational information about Palestine to the trade unions of America and through them to the American people generally. We felt then that such a project would be extremely valuable in the work of propagating for the open door in Palestine and for the establishment of a democratic Jewish Commonwealth in that country.

As a result of this conference I undertook to call together a substantial and representative group of Jewish labor leaders, and at this meeting I placed the matter before them. Their response was not only wholehearted but enthusiastic. They recognized the great need for such an organization, and I am now pleased to inform you that this organization is already an established fact. It is to be known as the American Jewish Trade Union Committee for Palestine, and it is to devote itself to the task outlined above.

There are at this writing sixty representative leaders of Jewish labor who are either officers or members of the Committee. They represent a wide cross section in the Jewish trade union field. Within a few days, or weeks at the most, we will add to their number substantially and we are confident that we will not only have the most important Jewish element in the trade union field in New York, but a nucleus in every city in the United States in which there is an organized Jewish trade union movement.

At the last meeting of our Executive Committee we unanimously decided to call upon Abe Tuvim to be our Executive Secretary. We are convinced that his knowledge of the trade union field and his intensive work in that field makes him the logical person to direct our efforts. He is most willing to undertake this task, since it is something in which he believes and for which he is eminently qualified.

April 5, 1944

I don't know his exact status with the American Zionist Emergency Council except that recently he directed your most excellent Madison Square Garden demonstration. But, as you know, labor leaders have a tendency to act first and then ask questions. In this case we have acted and have insisted that he take on this job. If he is not on your permanent staff, I feel that he should be in order that you might "lend-lease" him to us for the most important work that lies ahead of us.

The project which we have laid out for ourselves is a most ambitious one. I am convinced that it will be of inestimable value to the work ahead of all of us who are deeply concerned with the problem of the Jewish people and with an early solution to that problem.

I hope that we will have an occasion to meet very soon to discuss the plans that our Committee has already set in motion. I know that you will be deeply interested in them.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Max Zaritsky, Chairman
American Jewish Trade Union Committee
for Palestine

MZ:TEG

April 11, 1944

Mr. Max Zaritsky,
245 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Friend:

For three things I am grateful to you: (1) the splendid talk which you gave last Sunday evening at the Third Seder of the Histadruth, (2) the splendid article "Repeal the White Paper" which I read in the New Leader of April 1st, and (3) and most important, your organization of the Trade Union Committee for Palestine. This is a truly notable achievement, one for which we have waited a long time and one which could not have come to pass without your dynamic leadership. Through its organization, you have made a distinct contribution to our great cause.

I hope that when I am next in New York I will have the opportunity to talk over the program of activities of your Committee with you. The Zionist Emergency Council is most happy to "lend-lease" Mr. Abe Tuvim to you to act as the Executive Secretary of your Committee.

I should very much like to have you attend the Executive meetings of the Zionist Emergency Council so that we may have the benefit of your judgment in all things relating to our work.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:NEK

Abba Hillel Silver

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

342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
M U r r a y H i l l 2-1160

April 25, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

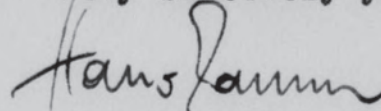
Dear Dr. Silver:

The Young Zionist Actions Committee of New York has informed me that it has asked you for a message of greeting for their first district rally to be held in Washington Heights this coming Sunday night, April 30th.

I understand that Dr. Wise and Dr. Goldstein have already sent such messages.

This group would very much appreciate receiving a note of encouragement from you in their fight against the White Paper and for the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. Your message should be sent to this address.

Very sincerely yours,



Hans Lamm

HL:CF

April 27, 1944

The Young Zionist Actions Committee
New York, N.Y.

Dear Friends:

May I extend to you my heartiest
felicitations on the occasion of your rally.
I want you to know how deeply we appreciate
the very valuable services which you are rendering
our common cause in carrying on your vigorous
fight against the White Paper and in behalf of
the Jewish commonwealth in Palestine. These
great days call for maximum devotion and you are
giving excellent proof of it in your energetic
and faithful work. More power to you!

Cordially yours,

AHS:BK

July 17, 1944

Sr. Vicente Lombardo Toledano
Artistas 51
Villa Obregon
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Senor and Brother:

I have just heard from Mr. Louis Segal about his most stimulating conference with you and the nature of your discussions. I know I need not tell you with what interest and enthusiasm we received this report.

Mr. Segal has suggested that you would like to be informed as to the background of our organization, how it was formed, and what purposes it is intended to serve. I am only too happy to comply.

Our Committee was organized early this year, but for many years prior the individual trade union leaders who comprise the Committee were quite active in behalf of various organizations which sought to spread the doctrine of a Jewish Palestine in which the organized labor movement would hold a key position for the economic, cultural and social advancement of the nation.

We have long been inspired by the splendid record of the Palestine Federation of Labor. We have been thrilled by its exploits and by the modern, constructive and progressive projects which it has sponsored so successfully. The organized trade union movement of Palestine has long been a beacon light shining in and through a territory which has otherwise been backward in all social and economic aspects.

Within recent years the problem of a Jewish Palestine has risen to a boiling point. This was brought about largely by the declaration of the Chamberlain government in 1939, known as the White Paper policy, which closed the doors of Palestine to further Jewish immigration, denied the Jews the right to expand in land purchase, and to all intents and purposes created a walled-in ghetto which, if permitted to exist, would throttle all the splendid aspirations of the Jews in Palestine and those who seek to enter there.

July 17, 1944

We in the Jewish trade union world felt that at such a time of crisis organized labor should have a direct voice through which to be represented in this struggle for elementary justice to a people who have been the first and the worst victims of Nazi and Fascist despotism. As a result we called a conference and decided to form ourselves into a Committee with the following objectives: 1) To carry to the entire labor movement in the United States a true picture of the problems affecting the Jews in relation to Palestine. 2) To agitate for the passage by the Congress of the United States of the resolutions calling for the implementation of the Balfour Declaration to the end that the doors of Palestine might be thrown open to unrestricted immigration so that ultimately the Jews may have the right to establish a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth in that country.

It will interest you to know that our program received the widest and the warmest acclaim in labor circles in the United States. If you will look upon our letterhead you will find the names of the most outstanding leaders in the trade union movement. I want to point out to you that these are not only names, but that all these men are committed to our program and have pledged their unqualified support. This they have given us on every occasion.

The message brought to us by Mr. Segal, namely that it was your intention to organize a Latin American counterpart of our Committee, was a source of great courage to us. There is a very definite need for such a movement. Not only is it important to add the strength of the free and democratic trade union movements in the Latin American countries to the drive for a free Jewish Palestine, but your action will also serve to bring about a more sympathetic understanding between our peoples.

I am enclosing herewith several copies of the original declaration adopted by our Committee, as well as several articles and news stories which will give you a clear picture of our activities.

I would suggest that the Federacion General de Trabajadores adopt a similar statement and issue it to the press of the world. If such action is taken, I would appreciate it very much if you were to send me a telegram announcing it so that we may issue a release to the entire labor press of America at the same time that the daily newspapers get it.

We in the United States are preparing now for the time when the Palestine resolutions will be brought up again in Congress. It will be interesting for you to know that these resolutions, introduced in the House by Representatives Compton and Wright, and in the Senate by Senators Taft and Wagner, are being held in abeyance. They have not been shelved or forgotten, and the tremendous majority of the members of both Houses are awaiting the opportunity to bring them up again. This opportunity may come in late August or early September. We state this on the advice received from important officials in the government.

Sr. Vicente Lombardo Toledano

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July 17, 1944

It would be of world-wide significance if a similar resolution is introduced in the Mexican Congress. I can assure you that the millions of oppressed Jews who are suffering untellable hardships under the heels of the German despots and their satellites would find new hope and new courage in such action.

I am enclosing copies of the resolutions introduced in the House and Senate of the United States. You will also find in the declaration of our Committee the resolutions on Palestine adopted at the last conventions of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations. You may be guided by these in your deliberations with regard to your own Federation of Labor.

I shall look forward most eagerly to receiving word from you. I know that our entire Committee will be inspired by this development.

With highest fraternal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Max Zaritsky
Chairman

MZ:TEG
Enc.

July 17, 1944

Mr. Max Zaritsky
General Delivery
Miami Beach, Florida

My dear Zaritsky:

Enclosed you will find copy of a letter which I have dictated to be sent to Vicente Lombardo Toledano, head of the Mexican Federation of Labor. The letter follows a report given to me by Louis Segal, who has just returned from Mexico and who is quite inspired by the offer of cooperation he received from Toledano, who would like to organize a Latin American group patterned along the lines of our Committee.

There are some political aspects to this. Toledano does not sit very well with some of our A.F. of L. leaders, and it might be in good judgment to temper our association with him with an eye to that. Let me know what you think.

We received word from Berl Locker of London that Sir Arthur Greenwood cannot come to New York for a dinner, and doubt was expressed that some other responsible leader of the British Labor Party would undertake to make such a trip at this time. The cable recommends, however, that Greenwood make his address by wireless telephone. This he has consented to do, and it is worth thinking about. If we could get Both Green and Murray to come to New York, we could have a "bang-up" dinner conference, timed for the Congress Resolutions, at which to receive the message from Greenwood. Let me know what you think about this also.

I am also enclosing copies of telegrams which were sent to the persons indicated. This became necessary because of the situation with reference to the Palestine plank in the platform of the Democratic Party. The one proposed, according to report, has all the earmarks of the American Jewish Committee and commits the Party to absolutely nothing. There is no mention of land purchase, Balfour Declaration, Mandate, or Commonwealth. Dr. Stephen Wise is in Chicago heading a number of Zionist leaders who are carrying on the fight to get a resolution that will have some teeth in it.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Abe Tuvim

AT:EG
Enc.