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American Zionist Emergency Council, Stettinius, Edward,
1944-1945.

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

JULY 12, 1944

American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I have received your kind letter of July 7, signed by Rabbi Silver and Rabbi Wise, enclosing a memorandum entitled "Palestine and Partition" which you have also submitted to Mr. Hull. I shall give it very close attention.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ E. R. Stettinius, Jr.

AHS

July 25, 1944

Hon. Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.
Department of State
17th Street & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Stettinius:

You may be interested in the enclosed statement which I issued on the Palestine plank which was included in the Democratic Party platform at Chicago.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

Abba Hillel Silver

AHS:EG

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 28, 1944

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you for your letter of July 25
enclosing the statement which you issued on
the plank on Palestine in the Democratic
platform. I shall review it at the earliest
opportunity.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) E.R. Stettinius, Jr.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

342 Madison Avenue,

New York 17, New York

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August 16, 1944

The Hon. Edward Stettinius
State Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

August 15th has passed and Dr. Silver and I hope and expect to see you as soon as you can arrange an appointment. Tuesday, August 29th, would be particularly good but we hold ourselves wholly at your command.

Things are developing so well and thank God so hopefully that we feel our problem should be dealt with at the earliest possible moment. As you best know, the Palestine Plank in both platforms, especially the Democratic one, not only makes the situation easier for the Chief but may have its influence even upon impervious London.

With most hearty greetings, dear Mr. Secretary,

Faithfully yours,

Stephen S. Wise

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1944

Dear Dr. Wise,

Thank you for your note of August 16 which has just reached me at Dumbarton Oaks where, as you know, I am heading the American Group to the Security Conference. I am spending my entire time here now and unfortunately, therefore, I shall not have the pleasure of meeting with you and Dr. Silver on August 29 as you suggest. At the conclusion of the conference, however, I should of course be delighted to meet with you at your convenience.

I well remember our last conversation and I still feel as I did then that it would be unwise to raise the Palestine question at this time.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) E.R. Stettinius Jr.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise
Camp Willamette
Lake Placid, New York

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November 28, 1944

Dear Abba:

The Report you submitted to the Convention of the Zionist Organization of America in Atlantic City on October 15th is superb and I have filed it for future reference.

I wonder what have been your experiences with the new Secretary of State. I assume you are aware that when Stettinius headed Lend Lease he leaned very heavily on Oscar Cox who was responsible for preparing the legislation governing Lend Lease and who, I am told, wrote Stettinius' book on the subject. Oscar Cox is a comparatively young man and I am informed by Isador Lubin, Professor Milton Handler of Columbia University, and others that Cox is the brainiest Jew in the Washington setup. Another friend who has spoken very highly of Cox is Eddie Kaufmann of Washington. In fact, they are very close to each other. I have corresponded with Cox off and on for several years but do not know him intimately.

Now that Stettinius is Secretary of State, it occurred to me that the services of Oscar Cox might be utilized if Cox has great sympathy for the Cause.

I am enclosing copy of a self-explanatory letter to Milton Handler, an ardent Zionist, who was the first General Counsel of the National Labor Board under Senator Wagner and who, for a number of years was associated with Oscar Cox either in Lend Lease or some other project.

*Handler is
Cox of Law
the Colum.
big name*

Several weeks ago I sent Louis Fischer a nine or ten page closely typewritten letter almost entirely devoted to Dr. Joseph Rosen - his attitude to the Dominican Project*, but more particularly his wholehearted acceptance of Zionism.

Kindest regards. As ever

Yours,

Bease

Rabbi Abba H. Silver

** NEGATIVE!!*

COPY TO DR. SILVER:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 4, 1944

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I appreciate tremendously your
thought of me at the present time.

With many thanks and best wishes always,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Ed Stettinius

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

American Zionist Emergency Council

342 Madison Avenue,

New York 17, New York.

(COPY)

December 12, 1944

The Honorable Edward R. Stettinius
The Department of State
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing herewith the draft of the statement which we discussed yesterday morning and copy of which you requested at the earliest moment. You were to receive this copy from Dr. Wise by telegram from New York. Your secretary informed me that you have not yet received it and I am, therefore, dispatching it to you by messenger.

I believe, Mr. Secretary, that the issuance of this statement promptly to the public will help to allay some of the misgivings and resentments which have already made their way into the public press. The Jewish press particularly is reacting bitterly and violently to the intervention of the State Department in the situation, and the President's position is being laid open to grave misinterpretation in view of his public pronouncement on October 15th.

Should you wish to reach me, I shall be at the Willard Hotel until this evening. With all good wishes, permit me to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Abba Hillel Silver

Enc.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
NE

December 13, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Dr. Wise:

The President has asked me to send you and Rabbi Silver the attached copy of a telegram to the President which was drawn up at a mass meeting of Arab groups in Cairo on November 19th.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) E. R. Stettinius, Jr.

Enclosure:

Copy of telegram.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Ph. D.
American Zionist Emergency Council,
342 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

Confidential

To the
President of the United States,
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington.

1. The Arabs, who are anxious to maintain cordial relations with America, do not wish to attach great importance to certain declarations regarding Palestine which were made during the recent political campaign, for they realize, on the one hand, that these declarations were made in abnormal circumstances and they consider, on the other hand, that the declarations contradict the spirit of justice sponsored by you and by the noble American Nation, and are prejudicial to the cause of peace for which America is fighting. Moreover, they are contrary to the right of Arabs to live freely in their own country.

The American political campaign is now over, and Arabs expect you, Mr. President, to dispel their fears, restore their faith in American justice, and draw closer the bonds of friendship planted by American schools and nurtured by American teachings and doctrines in the Middle East.

2. No country in the world has suffered a greater injustice than Palestine. From time immemorial it has been an Arab country. Jews entered it as invaders and only occupied it for a short time; for they were constantly at war with the aborigines, and other invaders soon drove them out until the Arabs, more than thirteen centuries ago, finally liberated the country and settled it.

3. Palestine is, by the will of God and the patriotism of its people, an Arab country and will forever remain so. Seventy million Arabs, supported by three hundred million Moslems, are determined to redeem it with their lives. Neither the Balfour Declaration, nor the declarations of statesmen and the power of Zionism employing various measures of force and coercion can change the course of history or dissuade Arabs from defending Palestine and checking the tide of Zionism.

4. Arabs have always sympathized with Jews in their afflictions in past, mediaeval and modern times, and history bears witness to this fact. But Zionism has met this kindness by conspiring against Arabs and attempting to wrest Palestine from them. This has naturally led to feuds and bitter feelings which have left no hope of reconciliation or mutual understanding.

5. The project of installing Jews in Palestine will undoubtedly lead to permanent conflicts which will not only come to an end by one people destroying the other, not only in Palestine but in the whole East as well. This fact is worthy of your attention and the attention of all those who are anxious to establish universal peace and tranquillity in the future.

6. Arabs cannot believe that Democratic America is capable of helping usurpers, encouraging injustice, sacrificing her reputation, repudiating her mission in this world, discarding her friendship with the Arab world, and foregoing the moral and material interests which she has in Arab and Moslem countries, all for the sake of a race which is widely scattered in the world, and which only relies on the power of money for the realization of its designs.

For the above reasons, Arabs meeting in Congress hope that you will uphold them in their own country and that Zionism will be given no support by you, your Government or your people.

(Signed)

THE ARAB UNION SOCIETY,
Fouad Abaza Pasha, President
Assad Dagher, Secretary General

THE YOUNG MEN'S MOSLEM ASSOCIATION,
Dr. Dardiri, Secretary General.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ARAB PARLIAMENTARY UNION CONFERENCE,
Mohamed Aly Allouba Pasha, President.

EL-IKHWAN AL-MUSLIMIN,
Hassan El-Banna, President.

MOSLEM SOFIE SECTS,
Shaikh El-Sayed Ahmed Al-Bakri, President.

HIGHER COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF PALESTINE
Hamed El-Meligui Bey, Secretary General.

(COPY)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1944

Dear Dr. Silver,

I received your letter written from the Willard, and, as promised, took the question up with the President.

Rabbi Wise called in my office yesterday afternoon and I took the opportunity of his visit to explain the reaction which I obtained on this. If Dr. Wise has not already told you of this, I am sure he will if you will make an inquiry of him.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) E. R. Stettinius, Jr.

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

C O P Y

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
NE

December 18, 1944

My dear Rabbi Wise:

I am acknowledging in behalf of the President the letter which you and Rabbi Silver sent to him under date of November 21, 1944 transmitting a copy of a memorandum which Dr. Weizmann recently submitted to the British Government respecting Palestine.

We have taken careful note of the contents of this memorandum, and your kindness in making it known to us is appreciated. The remarks and suggestions made in your letter are being given full consideration.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)

E. P. Stettinius, Jr.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Ph.D.,
American Zionist Emergency Council,
342 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington

April 25, 1945

Dear Dr. Wise,

Thank you for your letter of April 21st.

I am confident that after you consider the scope of the Conference as explained in my letter of the 20th that you will agree that the San Francisco Conference is not the appropriate place for the hearing to which you refer.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ED (signed)

Dr. Stephen S. Wise
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, 17, New York

copied 4/30/45:MH