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Jewish Agency, "R", 1947-1948.

Rivlin (m)

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see

Palestine Maritime League



March 10, 1947

Arthur Lourie, Esq.
The Jewish Agency for Palestine
16 East 66th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Arthur:

The undersigned, acting as a sub-committee on behalf of the American Section of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine under the terms of your letter of February 20, 1947, have looked into and considered the matters stated in that letter, and report as follows:

I

AS TO THE STATUS OF THE NON-ZIONISTS
IN THE JEWISH AGENCY

The status of the non-Zionists in the Jewish Agency is determined, in the first place, by the Constitution of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, which is embodied in the Agreement between the Zionist Organization and bodies of Jews in various countries not affiliated with the Zionist Organization and desirous of participating in the Jewish Agency, dated and signed at Zurich, Switzerland, August 14, 1929. By that Constitution, it is provided (Article 3) that the object of the Agency shall be to discharge the functions of the Jewish Agency as set forth in the Mandate; with particular emphasis on the encouragement of immigration, the meeting of Jewish religious needs, the fostering of the Hebrew language and Jewish culture, the acquisition of land as the inalienable property of the Jewish people and the promotion of agricultural colonization based on Jewish labor.

Article 4, Section (1), of the Constitution provides that the organs of the Agency shall be (a) the Council, (b) the Administrative Committee and (c) the Executive; the supreme governing body to be the Council (Article 5, Section (1)), which shall be composed as to one-half of representatives of the Zionist Organization and as to the other half of non-Zionists of various countries according to an agreed upon allotment (Article 5, Section (2)). Article 5, Section (3), provides that the Zionist Organization shall appoint its representatives in accordance with its own constitutional practice, and that the non-Zionists of various countries entitled to representation "shall appoint their representatives in such manner as may appear in each case to be best suited to local conditions; provided that it shall be recognized as a guiding principle that the method of appointment shall, so far as practicable, be of a democratic character." Vacancies on the Council occurring by reason other than the expiry of term of office are to be filled by the body which appointed the member whose seat has fallen vacant (Article 5, Section (4)).

The Constitution also contains provisions for the dissolution of the enlarged Jewish Agency by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the entire membership of the Council, as constituted at the time, at a meeting

of the Council held after three months' written notice to the members of the Council that action is proposed to be taken at such meeting with respect to the dissolution of the enlarged Jewish Agency (Article 12, Section (1)).

Pursuant to the Constitution, the enlarged Jewish Agency was organized in 1929 and has continued in theory to this day. The American non-Zionist members of the Council, constituting approximately 40% of all the non-Zionist members from all over the world, were appointed in 1929 by the late Louis Marshall, Felix M. Warburg and Lee K. Frankel, who signed the Agreement embodying the Constitution on behalf of the non-Zionists of the United States of America. Subsequent appointments of the American non-Zionist members were made every two years up to and including 1939 by a committee appointed for that purpose by the original American non-Zionist members of the Council. In point of fact, these appointments were made by the late Cyrus Adler, Felix M. Warburg and Sol Stroom, so long as they lived. In making these appointments, these gentlemen seem not to have acted in their capacities as Presidents or on behalf of the American Jewish Committee. Indeed, neither the American Jewish Committee nor any other organized body of American Jews has ever officially made any appointments on the Council; although the American Jewish Committee "was instrumental in the creation of the Jewish Agency for Palestine" in 1929, as stated by Judge Proskauer at the 40th annual meeting of the Committee on January 25 and 26, 1947.

Upon the organization of the enlarged Jewish Agency in 1929, the Mandatory Power was duly advised thereof with the request that it "recognize the enlarged Jewish Agency for Palestine constituted by this Agreement (embodying the Constitution) as the Jewish Agency referred to in the Mandate," pursuant to Article 15 of the Constitution. The British Government thereupon formally recognized the enlarged Jewish Agency as the Jewish Agency referred to in the Mandate and stated in its letter that

"In the event of the dissolution of the enlarged Agency, His Majesty's Government, on being notified by the Zionist Organization that the enlarged Agency has been dissolved, will, provided they are satisfied that its organization and constitution are at that time appropriate, recognize the Zionist Organization as the Jewish Agency for the purpose of Article 4 of the Mandate for Palestine, and the Organization shall in that event be deemed to have reverted in all respects to the status which it possessed before the enlargement of the Agency."

The Jewish Agency today derives its official status under the Mandate from the recognition thus given by the British Government to the enlarged Jewish Agency established by the Agreement of 1929. That enlarged Jewish Agency has never been dissolved. If it were to be dissolved in the manner provided by the Constitution, new recognition for the Zionist Organization as the Jewish Agency would have to be sought and obtained from the British Government before the Zionist organization could legally claim and have status as the Jewish Agency under the Mandate.

In March, 1946, the Jewish Agency submitted a memorandum on its Constitution, Activities and Powers to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, in which the Agency recited the history of the organization of the enlarged Jewish Agency in 1929, and stated that while "the provision for equal representation (on the Executive) was found to be impracticable (in the course of the years) and the Zionist membership of the Executive increasingly outnumbered that of the non-Zionists", the Executive at that time included Dr. M.B. Hexter, Mrs. Rose Jacobs and Dr. M. Karpf. These three members of the Executive were American non-Zionists.

On February 12, 1947, the Colonial Office in London pointedly addressed an inquiry to Mr. Linton as to whether "your representatives (in the talks with the British Government) were appearing in their capacities as the Executive elected by the General Council of the Zionist Organization or whether they were representing the Executive of the Jewish Agency." The letter of the Colonial Office proceeded to inquire, in view of Mr. Linton's oral statement that both bodies were now virtually identical in membership, "how this affects the principle hitherto maintained that there should be non-Zionist members of the Executive of the Jewish Agency", and "exactly what the present position is in regard to non-Zionist representation". In answer to this inquiry of the Colonial Office, Mr. Linton wrote a letter to the Colonial Office, dated 21st February, 1947, the full text of which is annexed hereto as an exhibit. Particular attention is called to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Linton's letter in which he stated that "it is contemplated to call a meeting of the Council of the Jewish Agency as soon as an outline scheme for relating the organization of the non-Zionist section of the Jewish Agency with the post-war situation has been worked out....."

II

RECOMMENDATIONS

The undersigned were invited by your letter of the 20th "to make any recommendations with regard to future action which you think desirable." We accordingly recommend that the promise contained in Mr. Linton's letter to the Colonial Office of 21st February, 1947, should be fulfilled at the earliest date possible. Our reasons are the following:

1. The situation in which the Zionist movement now finds itself, and particularly the possibility that the Palestine question will be referred to and dealt with by the United Nations, renders it advisable that the Jewish Agency for Palestine should retain its full legal status as the Agency recognized by the Mandatory Power under the Mandate and that we should give the Mandatory Power no legitimate pretext for withdrawing its recognition. Our continued failure, now that the war is over, to act in accordance with or live up to the present Constitution of the Agency, calling for non-Zionist representation on the Council, etc., might give the Mandatory Power

such a pretext, which it would be difficult for us to label as merely a pretext. It might further support a contention which the Mandatory Power might make to the effect that the Zionist Organization speaks for only a part of world Jewry, and that the rest of world Jewry may not be in sympathy with its present program.

If the Agency should succeed in preserving its present legal status as the Agency recognized under the Mandate, it may be allowed to appear officially before the United Nations in connection with the consideration of the problems and questions raised under the Palestine Mandate; whereas if the Agency's recognition under the Mandate should be withdrawn, it would no longer be the Agency provided for in the Mandate and would most likely not be able to sustain its claim to official status before the United Nations.

2. Whichever way the Palestine question is going to be considered and resolved, whether by the United Nations or outside of the United Nations, it is certain that the United States of America will be, from our point of view, one of the dominant factors in the situation and that we should bend every effort to secure the active initiative and intervention of the United States in favor of a Zionist solution. In order to further this objective we should try our utmost to secure as nearly a unanimous voice upon the subject by the Jews of America as is humanly possible, both in representations to the Government and in the organization of public opinion in our favor. This is self-evident. At present any claim of the American Zionist organizations or of the Jewish Agency to speak on behalf of nearly the whole of American Jewry can be seriously questioned, to the detriment of the Zionist cause. While it is true that the majority of the Jews of America are actually in sympathy with the general Zionist aim, the force of that fact is to some extent obscured and therefore dissipated by the existence of independent Jewish organizations in the United States, such as the American Jewish Committee, the B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Labor Committee and perhaps other bodies, which are not officially represented in the Agency and which have heretofore made and will doubtless in the future make separate representations on the subject of Palestine both to the United States Government and to the American people. If these bodies could officially be associated with the Agency as integral parts of it, it would strengthen the Agency's position considerably. For one thing, it would show up the negligible character of the Jewish opposition to Zionism, such as the American Council for Judaism.

The machinery for the integration of the American Jewish Committee, the B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Labor Committee, the American Jewish Conference and perhaps other similar bodies into the Jewish Agency for Palestine already exists in the Constitution of the enlarged Jewish Agency. It would seem from the pronouncement of Judge Proskauer at the last meeting of the American Jewish Committee in January of this year, already quoted above, that the Committee regards itself as "instrumental in the creation of the Jewish Agency for Palestine." Moreover, the Palestine resolution adopted by the

Committee at that meeting shows that the Committee fully supports at least one of the three alternative propositions which the Executive of the Jewish Agency informally submitted to the British Ministers at the recent talks in London as possible solutions of the Palestine problem which would be acceptable to the Agency, namely, the proposition that the White Paper of 1939, including the discriminatory land laws, be immediately abrogated, and that "Great Britain's obligation as expressed in its Mandate 'to facilitate Jewish immigration into Palestine'" be henceforth fully discharged. (The quoted matter is from the resolution of the American Jewish Committee.) The Committee's resolution furthermore is in accord with the present position of the Agency to the effect that "there should...be immediate recognition of the need and right of Jewish immigration and land purchase," pending the achievement of a final solution. In addition, it has been reported that Judge Proskauer personally has been ready for some time to support the contention for a viable Jewish State in an adequate area of Palestine.

So far as concerns the B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Conference, there should be no difficulty in securing adherence to the Agency's program. It is also probable that the Jewish Labor Committee would go along with whatever stand the American Jewish Committee should finally take.

In this connection, we call particular attention to the following explicit provisions of Article 4 of the Mandate:

"The Zionist Organization, so long as its organization and constitution are in the opinion of the Mandatory appropriate, shall be recognized as such agency. It shall take steps in consultation with His Britannic Majesty's Government to secure the cooperation of all Jews who are willing to assist in the establishment of the Jewish National Home."

We believe that the elements above referred to, which are not now affiliated with the Zionist Organization, should be integrated into the enlarged Jewish Agency under the Constitution. It would seem certain, in view of the tragic events of recent years affecting Jewish life and thought, that a majority of the Council of an enlarged Agency may be relied upon to support the essential features of the Zionist program.

Needless to say, the non-Zionist elements of other lands than the United States should likewise be integrated into the Jewish Agency so that the Agency would in fact represent and speak for the entire Jewish people.

Faithfully yours,
/s/ Morris Rothenberg Abraham Tulin

AT:SS

AMS
EN

Report on Meeting with Dean Rusk at U.S. Mission to United Nations

Monday, April 26, 1948

This meeting was called for the purpose of briefing organizations accredited to the U.N. on the State Department's position on Palestine. Dean Rusk stated in his opening remarks that unless it is possible for a truce to be agreed upon the present situation will reach a crescendo by May 15.

What will happen, he said, is that the Jews will declare an independent Jewish State and the Arabs will declare an independent Arab State; one or the other will be recognized by outside states and given assistance. The existence of these two competing governments, each inviting outside assistance, will result in a confused situation. This will give rise to prospects for a first-class war, not only in Jewish Palestine, but will undoubtedly involve the outside world.

The United States, France and Belgium, all of whom are not only members of the U.N. Security Council, but also have consular representatives in Palestine, will meet both in Palestine and at Lake Success, with representatives of the Arab Higher Committee and the Jewish Agency. Discussions will be held in both places at the same time to talk through truce terms.

A large map of Palestine was placed before each representative at this meeting. Dean Rusk pointed to the parts of Palestine, from Tel Aviv to Haifa, that belong to the Jews. He stated that actually de facto partition exists and came to the conclusion that truce implies the Jews will assume responsibility for the Jewish sectors and the Arabs for the Arab sectors. A common agreement must then be reached for the mixed communities. He further pointed out that truce requires agreement on the number of immigrants to be admitted during the period of truce and that some terminal date must be set. If both decide to fight it out, he said, a moral problem presents itself as to whether intervention by the U.N. would be justified. Therefore, in his opinion the question of truce is so important.

He went on to state that the success of the Jews in the last few days have

"hardened" them to truce discussion. The outside assistance that the Arabs can obtain has "hardened" their hearts. He then posed the question that if there is no truce by May 15, what then? "U.N. will have to pick up the pieces" and try to stop the fighting. Therefore, there must be no let-up in the effort to achieve truce by peaceful settlement. He impressed upon those present that American organizations regardless of their positions on the ultimate solution could be unanimous on truce.

Expressing the opinion of the American Government, Dr. Rusk stated that the first objective of the Government is truce, second the protection of Holy Places in Jerusalem. He quoted Mr. Parodi, who said that it would be a scandal of the twentieth century if 2,000 years of civilization were destroyed. He stated that the Holy Places can be protected with a minimum force of 5,000 to 10,000. However, the demand for an international regime for the entire Jerusalem area entails additional far-reaching responsibilities. The city with a population of Jews and Arabs of 200,000 requires provision for water, food, communications, etc. These can be obtained only if the large area encircling Jerusalem is included in the Jerusalem trusteeship. He stated that in order to insure the required security, for instance the key road to the airport would have to be included; also water sources which come from the Tel Aviv area would have to be included, etc. Such a plan would require a security force of 30,000 to 40,000 troops.

The American Government, he added, is not standing on ceremony for any particular truce or trusteeship settlement. The fact that Great Britain is getting out on May 15 brought the United States to the conclusion that trusteeship was the best solution, for under the Charter the U.N. itself can become the administering authority. He went on to say, however, the U.S. will accommodate itself to any "arrangement." This might take the form of an informal, ad hoc arrangement in order to prevent entanglement in trusteeship. He stated that the U.S. is aware that trusteeship as a solution is at the bottom of the list of both Jews and Arabs. It is at the bottom of the U.S. list also because the U.S. fears its own involvement in trusteeship, since this would

mean sending U.S. troops to Palestine. So far, he informed the group, the U.S. has found "no takers" to cooperate in the sending of troops. The other countries want the United States to "take it on and pay the bill".

During the question period that followed Dr. Rusk's presentation, he made these statements in answer to questions:

That Congress objects to sending troops to Palestine. A Congressional poll showed that 87% were opposed to unilateral action, and a majority were opposed to our being partners in a U.N. force.

That 50,000 to 75,000 troops would be required to enforce partition.

That a truce would mean the halting of military operations. Further, a truce would give recognition to the Jews of Palestine as a de facto community. This he said would be a permanent recognition and the Arabs would have to accept the fact.

In answer to a question on Russia, Dr. Rusk said the Western world cannot permit Russia to come into this highly strategic area. He reiterated that the objective of the U.S. Government is to achieve, (1) truce or cease fire (2) to install temporary administration (3) to provide for long-range development of the country -- immigration, taxes, loans from international banks. At this point he referred to Senator Austin's last statement before the Assembly in which he stressed the development of the country (4) negotiate for permanent political settlement.

In answer to a question of Miss Evans, he said that the United States is not prepared to send troops to Palestine to impose trusteeship if the Jews and Arabs oppose this solution. If a truce should be agreed upon, the U.S. (1) will police "truce trusteeship". The policing of an agreed truce will take every man out of our small strategic reserve.

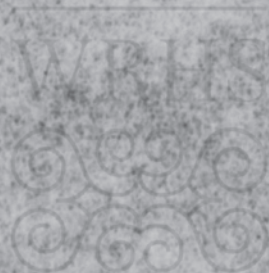
When questioned on the U.N. responsibility to Palestine, he replied that the Security Council had turned down the re-affirmation of the Assembly Resolution. The U.N. did not agree to take over Palestine, but agreed only to (a) international administration of Jerusalem (b) through Palestine Commission to act as intermediary

between Jews and Arabs. He pointed out that no budget had been provided for this.

In answer to a question on the effect of the reversal of the action on Palestine on the future of the U.N., he stated it would be a blow to the U.N., but not a fatal one; that the U.N. has been "up to bat 100 times this year." It is only an instrument for 58 nations to negotiate problems. The U.N. has not settled Korea or Greece, yet the U.N. goes on.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Esther Gottesman



Revisionists - Zionist - United

see letter (Yiddish)

United Zionists Revisionists



5-8-47



AHS

COPY

DAVID BEN-GURION JEWISH AGENCY
16 EAST 66 STREET NYK

NEW YORK
May 16, 1947

FOLLOWING COPY OF CABLE SENT JEW AGENCY EXECUTIVE JERUSALEM QUOTE BEHALF
REVISIONIST MEMBERS ACTIONS COMMITTEE DEMAND IMMEDIATE CONVOCAATION ALREADY
ANNOUNCED SESSION ACTIONS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PRESENTATION JEWISH CASE
BEFORE UN INQUIRY COMMITTEE STOP AGENCY EXECUTIVE HAS NO RIGHT TESTIFY
BEFORE UN COMMITTEE OR APPOINT SPOKESMEN WITHOUT CLEAR DIRECTIVES ACTIONS
COMMITTEE STOP WE SHALL NOT TOLERATE REPETITION APPEARANCE AGENCY
EXECUTIVE BEFORE UN WITHOUT CONSULTATION DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES
OF ENTIRE MOVEMENT.

REVISIONIST MEMBERS ACTIONS COMMITTEE NOW IN UNITED STATES
MEIR GROSSMAN AARON PROPES DR DAVID BUKSPAN DR JOSEPH SCHECHTMAN
NAHUM LIPSHITZ LAZAR SHOSTAK DR BEN-ZION NEZANYAHU



May
26th
1947

Memorandum to the American Members of the
Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

Attached hereto are six copies of a memorandum embodying the suggestions of the Legal Advisory Committee concerning the topics to be covered and the witnesses to be called by the Jewish Agency in the presentation of its case to the United Nations Special Committee of Inquiry. A brief word of explanation may be of some assistance to the Executive.

In the course of our Committee's deliberations it had reached the conclusion that the presentation of the case of the Jewish Agency to the Committee of Inquiry required both proof of facts and argumentation. The facts, we thought, should be developed by oral testimony and by documentary material. The argumentation, it was our view, should be presented both by oral advocacy on part of the Agency's authorized spokesmen and definitively in our principal brief.

This brief, it was our judgment, should contain a complete statement of our case written in readable, non-technical and persuasive language and consist essentially of the argument in support of our position and the refutation of the argument of our adversaries. We did not conceive of the brief as serving the purpose of orienting the Committee of inquiry to the problem or to the evidentiary material to be presented. That purpose, in our view, was to be attained by other means.

This being our theory of the brief, we had expected it to be presented toward the end of the committee hearings, after we had obtained a better idea of the slant of inquiry and of the lines taken by the

Arabs and the British. It now appearing that the Executive desires a full, written brief to be available at the outset of the hearings and serving, therefore, a somewhat different purpose, we shall endeavor as best we can to examine the draft being prepared by the staff and make such suggestions as the limited time permits; although we adhere to our original view that the definitive written argumentation of our case should not be presented at the very beginning of the hearings. Indeed, we apprehend some dangers in such a course. At the very least, the Agency should submit toward the close of the inquiry another statement, which, while not covering the same ground, will present its final views in the light of developments at the hearings.

Finding ourselves at variance with some members of the Executive with whom we have discussed our suggestions concerning the nature of the testimony to be offered at the hearings, we are stating our views in summary form as follows:

We recommend:

(a) The evidence should be primarily factual in nature with ample support for every fact asserted. The only argumentative testimony should be that of the spokesman for the Agency who presents the Agency's views on the ultimate solution. Generalities must be avoided.

(b) Impartial, objective and internationally known experts should be used to confirm the testimony of Agency representatives to the fullest extent possible. The Agency representatives are not, in the legal sense, disinterested witnesses, and their testimony may be discounted on that ground, particularly if, as is probable, contradictory evidence is submitted by the English or the Arabs.

(c) Witnesses coming from parts of the world other than Palestine should be used, in addition to Palestinian witnesses. It is in the British and Arab interests to localize this controversy to Palestine,

where the Jewish population is greatly outnumbered by the Arabs. It is in our interest to treat the Palestine question -- as it now is -- as a great international issue of concern particularly to the Jewish people outside, as well as inside Palestine. Moreover, American witnesses may create an impression of American support which will not be without psychological value.

(d) The testimony of every witness should be carefully reviewed in advance and no fact should be asserted, or argument advanced, which cannot be fully supported. This is not a counsel of perfection. We have an excellent case, and it is entirely possible to avoid all pitfalls. We must avoid the danger of unnecessarily saying the wrong thing, or saying the right thing in the wrong way. The able, dignified and persuasive statements made in our behalf before the Special Session have created a favorable impression upon the delegates to the United Nations and world public opinion. We should be extremely careful not to dissipate this splendid effect.

(e) The United Nations Committee comes to this problem without much knowledge and must, therefore, be educated from the ground up. If we fail to provide the education, the Committee members will receive their information elsewhere. They are charged with the responsibility of rendering a report to the entire membership of the United Nations, and like previous committees of inquiry they will range over the entire problem, including its historical, economic and legal aspects, as well as the current proposals for Palestine's future government. They will state the facts, as they find them, in the report, and if they obtain volumes of facts from the Mandatory and little from us, we must anticipate that their fact-finding may be adverse to us. A good deal of

the background can be covered in written statements, but we should not lose the opportunity of driving home important and dramatic facts by oral testimony.

(f) We have many strings to our bow and we must not place our sole reliance on any one to the exclusion of the others. We have a strong legal case which can be stated in Churchillian language without resort to logic-chopping and hair-splitting, or indulgence in dreary, dull or Jesuitical disputation. This case can be developed with broad strokes of the brush. It is based on solemn, international compacts whose total meaning has never been in doubt, however debatable particular words and phrases may be. We are concerned with the broad case, not with technical arguments based upon a microscopic reading of the documents. But our case is not limited to our legal rights — we have an equally strong case in terms of history and present day equities. This must be played up also. We must make the most of everything which is in our favor.

(g) We should request the Committee to invite testimony from outstanding personalities whom we might not be able to bring to Palestine to testify in our behalf. Such testimony may be invaluable to us.

(h) Care must be exercised in the selection of witnesses, to avoid using witnesses who, despite their expertness on the topic for which we select them, may have dangerous views on other and perhaps more fundamental points. Repetition must be avoided lest the Committee become bored and refuse to pay heed to the important material we want to present. Witnesses therefore should be selected essentially on the basis of their competence to deal with the topics assigned to them. In the assignment of topics, however, effort should be made to avoid overlapping so that witnesses do not testify about the same things, except

in those instances where the cumulative effect of expert testimony may be necessary because of the position taken by our adversaries.

We should be pleased to sit down with the Executive to discuss the attached outline in detail and to develop at further length any of the ideas herein expressed which may be of interest. We understand that upon the completion of the initial brief which we anticipate will be ready for submission to the Executive on or about June 1, 1947, the responsibilities of this Committee will have been discharged and the Committee may thereupon disband.

Respectfully submitted,

Simon H. Rifkind

Chairman, Legal Advisory Committee, in
behalf of the following Committee members:

Murray I. Gurfein
Milton Handler

Simon H. Rifkind
Abraham Tulin



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OPRESOR DEL PUEBLO JUDIO ES HACERLE EL JUEGO AL ENEMIGO
EXIGIMOS INVESTIGACION SEVERA Y CASRIGO EJEMPLAR PARA
MIERABLES PROVOCADORES=

SIONISTAS REVISIONISTAS COLOMBIA.

TRANSLATION

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
JUNE 9, 1947

NLT JEWAGENCY ABBA HILLEL SILVER
16 EAST 66TH STREET
NEWYORK

AFTER THE OUTRAGEOUS POGROM COMMITTED AGAINST BETARIM ON THE ISLAND
OF CYPRUS PEOPLE WHOSE ONLY GUILT IS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING
AGAINST THE OPPRESSOR OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WHO PRETENDS TO BECOME
THE JUDGE WE REQUIRE SEVERE INVESTIGATION AND EXEMPLARY PUNISHMENT
FOR THE MISERABLE PROVOCATEURS.

ZIONIST REVISIONISTS OF COLOMBIA



C
O
P
Y

AHS

MEMORANDUM

July 22, 1947

TO: MR. ARTHUR LOURIE
FROM: MARCOS ROITMAN, M. D.

Please be informed that in accordance with correspondence exchanged with Dr. Antonio Bruges Carmona and Mr. Toff, we have decided that Doctors Dario Samper and Jorge Soto del Corral, of Colombia, visit Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela in order to interview the delegates of those countries to the forthcoming Conference in Rio de Janeiro, and carry on, with their cooperation, all sorts of propaganda activities, such as public meetings, etc. Dr. Dario Samper, former Colombian Delegate to the New York Pro Palestine Conference, is at present the editor of the daily JORNADA. Dr. Jorge Soto del Corral, former Colombian Delegate to San Francisco and Chapultepec, is at present Vice-President of the Colombian Pro Palestine Committee.

We intend to request Dr. Eduardo Morgan, President of the Pro Palestine Committee of Panama, and Dr. Alfonso Francisco Ramirez, President of the Mexican Pro Palestine Committee, to undertake a similar mission through the Central American countries.

These activities form part of the program of work approved by the Executive for the Latin American Department.

As soon as we have the corresponding budgets ready, we will forward them to you for pertinent action.

mrigan

Dictated by Dr. Roitman on July 20, 1947
Translation.

Conversation with
Archibald Roosevelt

see report ?

Eliahu Epstein



RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF ZIONIST
FEDERATIONS OF EUROPE, HELD AT KARLOVY VARY (CZECHO-
SLOVAKIA) FROM 12th TO 15th AUGUST, 1947

I. ORGANISATION MATTERS

1. The Jubilee of the World Zionist Organisation

Assembled at Karlovy Vary fifty years after the historic moment when, following the call of Theodor Herzl, the first Zionist Congress assembled at Basle and proclaimed the foundation of the World Zionist Organisation,

the Conference of the Zionist Federations of Europe honours the memory of the father of political Zionism, our immortal leader, Theodor Herzl, who with prophetic vision made the correct diagnosis of the Jewish problem.

The Conference affirms its loyalty to the Zionist Organisation, which is leading the Jewish people to its national liberation, and solemnly undertakes to preserve Herzl's inheritance and to make the greatest sacrifices for the earliest realisation of our historic ideals.

2. The Establishment of Zionist Federations

The Conference notes with much satisfaction that in many European countries Zionist Federations, comprising all the Zionists there, have been set up and are functioning.

The Conference requests the Organisation Department of the Executive to make every effort to set up, in agreement with the local Zionist parties and in accordance with the resolutions of the 22nd Zionist Congress, Zionist Federations in all those countries in which none as yet exists.

The Zionist Federations shall have full and exclusive competence within their sphere of activity, and all parts of the Zionist Federations are bound in these matters to submit to the decisions of the governing bodies of the Zionist Federations.

The competence of the Zionist Federations shall extend to the following activities:-

- a) Joint Zionist information and propaganda;
- b) Distribution of the Shekel, elections to Congresses and to the joint local Zionist institutions;
- c) The National Funds (Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth Leisrael);
- d) Support for the Zionist Youth Federations and the Halutz movement in all its branches;
- e) Information service on Palestine;
- f) Propagation of the Hebrew language and support for all educational activities of any part of the Zionist movement;
- g) Founding and managing Hebrew schools, it being understood that the full educational and administrative autonomy of the religious section of our movement be preserved;
- h) External representation:
 - 1. in all matters within the competence of the Federation,
 - 2. in all those political matters on which agreement between the parties exists and which are not contrary to the policy followed by the Executive of the Jewish Agency.

Note: The Organisation Department declares that it will submit for decision to the Zionist General Council the question as to what representation there shall be for those political matters which are not within the general competence of the Federation and on which no agreement between the parties exists.

3. Organisation Activity

The Conference welcomes the efforts of the Organisation Department of the Executive to intensify information and education activity, as well as its extensive plans for strengthening the framework of organisation within the Zionist movement.

At the same time the Conference states that the resources which have been made available for this purpose bear no relation to the magnitude of the tasks.

The Conference requests the Zionist Executive to allocate the required sums for developing and extending the work of the Organisation Department in Jerusalem and of the Zionist Federations.

The Conference records with satisfaction the statement of the Board of Directors of the Keren Kayemeth Le-Israel that they have consented to allocate certain sums for the activities of the Federations.

4. Hebrew Schools

In view of the special importance of founding Hebrew schools in the Diaspora, the Conference requests the Zionist Executive to extend the practice of sending teachers (who have so far been sent only to the camps in Germany, Austria and Italy) to other European countries. The fact that tens of thousands of children lack any kind of Hebrew education requires immediate remedy. As a first step in this direction, 200 teachers should be enlisted in Palestine for this purpose.

The Conference expresses its gratitude to the Executive of the "American Joint Distribution Committee" for having made available the money to send the first 100 teachers to the camps of Germany, Austria and Italy, and it hopes that in future, too, the "Joint" will assist in sending additional teachers to various countries.

5. Shekel

The Conference of European Zionists considers the resolution of the 21st and 22nd Congresses on introducing the Annual Shekel an important step towards consolidating the Zionist movement by the systematic creation of a permanent membership in the Zionist Organisation.

In view of the fact that, according to these resolutions, only those Shekel-holders will have the right to vote in elections for future Congresses who have acquired the Shekel in every year of the Congress period, the Conference appeals to all Zionists and to all Zionist Federations and groups in Europe to make the greatest efforts

to distribute in the short time left before the end of the year such a number of Shekalim as will reflect the true Zionist strength in every country.

The Conference calls upon the movement to use the Shekel campaign for carrying out comprehensive and intensified propaganda on behalf of the Zionist ideal among the larger public.

II. POLITICAL MATTERS

1. The Conference sends most cordial greetings to its brothers and sisters, the refugees of the "Exodus 1947", on the deportation ships, to the thousands interned in camps in Cyprus and to all those who are following in their path.

The Conference declares: The heroic courage of the refugees and their national pride, which have roused public opinion in all progressive countries, bear testimony to the unshakable determination of the Jewish people to reach the shores of Eretz Israel, and prove that no obstacles can block their way.

The Conference expresses its full solidarity with the struggle of our brothers and sisters on the ships, and solemnly declares that everything must and will be done to deliver them from their oppressors and tormentors, and that they will yet live as free citizens in a free and liberated Eretz Israel.

The Conference expresses its absolute conviction that Jewish immigration and "Ha'apalah" will not be interrupted and that they will be continued by all ways and means until the inhuman blockade is broken and the hunting of Jews on land and sea ceases.

2. The Conference voices the strongest protest and indignation against the British Government, which by force and compulsion maintains the infamous White Paper with its despicable regulations and which has turned Eretz Israel into a place of unending arrests, persecution, provocation, death sentences and reprisals and which forces the British soldier to carry out its brutal and inhuman

policy. The Conference undertakes that the European Zionist Federations will do everything in their power to strengthen the Yishuv in its organised resistance and to enlist public opinion in their countries in support of the Yishuv and the responsible national institutions.

3. The Conference expresses its embitterment and its unconditional opposition to senseless terrorist acts by the dissident groups, which break national discipline and responsibility, facilitate by their deeds the provocation of the Government against the Yishuv, overshadow the actions of the British police régime, and cause untold harm to organised Jewish resistance and paralyse the life of the country.

The Conference declares its solidarity with the resolutions of the organised Jewish Yishuv to root out terrorist lawlessness by its own efforts.

4. The Conference records with appreciation the stand taken at the United Nations Assembly by the Soviet Union which was imbued with deep understanding and sympathy for the suffering of the Jewish people and the solution of the Jewish problem through Eretz Israel. It also appreciates the stand taken by other democratic countries at the United Nations Assembly. The Conference is convinced that progressive forces in all countries will continue to extend their assistance and support to the tortured and persecuted Jewish people for its revival in Eretz Israel.

The Conference records with gratitude the humanitarian attitude adopted by the French Government towards the refugees of the "Exodus 1947" and its outright refusal to assist in the British policy of hunting Jewish wanderers who are trying to reach Eretz Israel.

The Conference transmits cordial thanks to the Czechoslovak Government for the warm hospitality accorded to the visitors to the Conference and for its clearly expressed sympathy with the aims and ideals of the Jewish people.

III. THE NATIONAL FUNDS

1. The Conference of Karlovy Vary, the first European Zionist conference since the war, notes the immensely important tasks confronting the National Funds, the Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth Leisrael, in view of the serious political situation, and expresses its appreciation to the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael and the Keren Hayesod for their achievements in the recent decisive period. The Conference declares that the entire Zionist public in Europe will assist the Funds with all its might to fulfil their historic mission of reconstruction in Eretz Israel.
2. The Conference sincerely welcomes the new colonisation in the Negev which is of special importance at the present moment, both as regards the absorptive capacity of Jewish Palestine and the extension of agricultural settlement, and as regards its considerable political value in the difficult struggle for our existence and our future. The Conference sends warmest greetings to the redeemers of the Negev, the new courageous pioneers of reconstruction in the most advanced and distant positions in the country. The Conference sends its encouragement to the Boards of the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael in their splendid efforts to acquire land, ensure a water supply and establish new settlements.
3. The Conference charges the Zionist Federations to ensure that every Zionist fulfil his obligations towards the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael and the Keren Hayesod.
4. The Conference calls upon all Zionist parties and youth organisations to intensify their work for the Funds and to take an active part in all their activities and campaigns.
5. The Conference demands that the right to be elected to the institutions of the Federations be granted only to those who have fulfilled their obligations towards the Funds.

6. The Conference requests the Zionist General Council to implement the Congress resolution on the "Central Committee of Three", and recommends that the Federations establish in their countries "Committees of Three" in order to coordinate their fund-raising activities and to avoid competition in their campaigns.

IV. RESTITUTION OF JEWISH PROPERTY

The Conference regrets that very little has been done so far to recover Jewish property looted by the Germans and their accomplices in various countries. The Conference therefore welcomes in particular the decision of the Board of Directors of the Keren Kayometh Leisrael

- a) to extend legal assistance to Jews in Palestine to enable them to recover property they may have in European countries;
- b) to set up in various countries bodies which shall undertake the administration of restored property;
- c) to make efforts to find ways of transferring this property to Palestine.

The Conference draws the attention of the delegates to the importance of the Zionist Federations in their countries supporting the efforts of the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael to set up bodies for the "Recovery of Jewish Property in Europe". These bodies shall, under the control of the Keren Kayometh Leisrael, administer the property in Europe of those Jews who have made it over to the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael.

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WESTERN UNION

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JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

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1947 OCT 2 PM 4 42

DR A H SILVER=

HOTEL COMMODORE 42 ST AND LEXINGTON AVE=

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND THE JEWISH AGENCY ON THE IMPRESSIVE PERSUASIVE AND ELOQUENT PRESENTATION MADE BY YOU THIS AFTERNOON TO THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH I LISTENED TO WITH PLEASURE AND SATISFACTION OVER THE RADIO=

MORRIS ROTHENBERG.

Rosenberg
PALESTINE RESISTANCE COMMITTEE

123 WEST 44th STREET, SUITE 304 --- NEW YORK 18, NEW YORK.

BRyand 9-4691-2

October 3rd, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Chairman, American Section, Jewish Agency
16 East 66th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Silver:

We are in receipt of a communication from the Irgun Zvai Leumi in Palestine stating that the High Command of the Haganah has launched a campaign of active warfare against the Irgun and its members.

The communication informs us that Irgun members have been made the victims of economic reprisal through forcible exile from colonies and settlements, forcible evictions from jobs in business establishments and factories, kidnapping, extreme physical punishment by Haganah members, exposure to the police of individual members of the Irgun, and by exposure of arms caches of the Irgun to the British occupying authorities -- thus weakening the forces on which the Yishuv depends for defense against attacks and pogroms.

To all these provocations the Irgun has exercised extreme restraint, in full realization that Haganah-Irgun conflict will endanger our common aspirations for statehood, for which unity offers the best hope. A clash between the Irgun and the Haganah will be a national tragedy from which only our enemies will gain. Responsible Jewish leadership has the obligation of preventing the Haganah from carrying on any activity which may produce such a tragedy.

The Palestine Resistance Committee has decided to communicate with you, as chairman of the Jewish Agency's American Section, in the hope that you will take prompt and necessary measures to bring about discipline in the Haganah, which recognized the authority of the Jewish Agency, so that the Haganah will cease its fratricidal provocations against the Irgun.

The Palestine Resistance Committee has never publicly attacked any Zionist organization or institution and we believe it essential that internal strife among Jews not be laid open to the world.

We, American Jews, saddened by the political, factional, and sectarian differences which inspire, in large measure, the attacks upon the Irgun in Palestine, feel that we would be betraying the cause of Jewish statehood and national unity in Palestine if we did not exert every effort to prevent the widening rift between the Jewish defense forces in Palestine.

We believe that putting an end to the Haganah attacks on the Irgun will be a decisive contribution in bringing about Jewish unity in Palestine.

We pray that you will agree with us and hasten to do all in your power to further the cause of national unity by condemning the attacks on the Irgun and demanding the removal from positions of influence of those responsible.

With the pledge of our firm cooperation in the cause of united Jewry, we are

Yours for a free land of Israel,

/ s / JOHN J. ROSNER,

John J. Rosner, Exec. Chairman
Palestine Resistance Committee

JJR:rk

1m/10/6/1947



RRS

MEXICO CITY
OCTOBER 19, 1947

DR. ABBAHILLEL SILVER
JEVAGENCY
NEWYORK

ELIE SOURASKY ONE OF OUR MOST ACTIVE MEMBERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE ARRIVED
TODAY NEWYORK STOP MOTIVE TRIP DUE OUR URGENT CAUSE DEEPLY APPRECIATE
CONTACT HIM STOP INFORM HIS STAYING WITH TOFF STOP MY BEST WISHES FOR
SUCCESS IN OUR TASK REGARDS

TEDDY RESNIKOFF



DR. L. HENDIN, PRESIDENT
J. OPATOSHU, VICE-PRESIDENT
M. RIVLIN, SECRETARY-TREASURER

י. ל. פרץ שרייבער פאַראײן

YIDDISH WRITERS UNION

175 EAST BROADWAY

NEW YORK 2, N. Y.

ד. ל. הענדין, פרעזידענט
י. אפאטאשו, וויצע-פרעזידענט
מ. ריבלין, סעקרעטארי-טראזשור

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ח. נאטעספעלד
מ. דאנזיס
י. זאך
ש. יודסאן
א. כץ
ז. זאר

Oct. 23, 1947

Dr. A.H. Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver,

After four weeks of covering the Palestine sessions at the U.N. I decided that it was my duty as a Zionist to call your attention to a situation which in my opinion should be remedied, and at once.

I have noticed myself, and several delegates have called my attention to the fact that except for the time when the committee was in session, no one could see any representative of the Jewish Agency there. Some of the delegates actually complained that while they are continuously button-holed and belabored by the Arabs and their friends before and after sessions, they are hardly "bothered" by the Agency.

Believe me, Dr. Silver, that I know how hard the Agency people are working. But And believe me as well that what I am saying here is not intended to upbraid any one. I am writing to you, as the head of the American section of the Agency, because I feel that something should be done about it, particularly now that we are entering the crucial and decisive stage when the wavering delegations, that hold the balance, will have to make up their minds.

I am writing to your home and not to the Agency office because of the chance that it may fall into other hands, who may not understand my motive in writing to you. And I am sure, Dr. Silver, that you can rectify the matter without mentioning my name as the source of the complaint.

In the hope that I have rendered some slight service to our great fight, I remain,

Respetfully yours

M. Rivlin
M. Rivlin

Arnold Zwerg - The Axe
of Wandsbeck -

Lionel Fieldhouse

J. D. Sefton

A Study of History
in the Talmud

with

the Talmud



1. L. L. Schwartz 54

2. Barrows -

3. Tapt

4. Zvi Herzman

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ISIDOR ENSELMAN
BERNARD A. ROSENBLATT

80 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK 4, N.Y.

October 29, 1947

Dr. A. H. Silver
c/o Jewish Agency for Palestine
16 East 66th Street
New York City

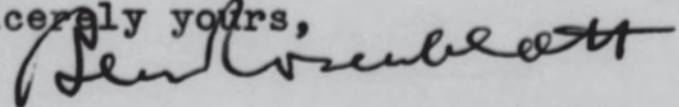
Dear Dr. Silver:

My brother is just in receipt of a letter from Senator McGrath after considerable correspondence in which it was pointed out to him that the test of American sincerity over Palestine will be shown in the vote of the Latin American bloc. Senator McGrath states:

"I appreciate the difficulties you mentioned and do feel that our State Department will take the proper steps."

I thought you ought to know about it.

Sincerely yours,



BAR/am

MR. JAMES RESTON AND THE ZIONIST BOOMERANG

In the event of a reply being attempted to Mr. James Reston's Washington dispatch to the New York Times of Tuesday, April 1st, the following points strike one as perhaps worth being adduced:

Mr. Reston does not conceal his sympathy with those officials in the State and War Departments who, he tells us, had been opposed to President Truman's Palestine policy on the ground that it was hampering American strategic, economic and political interests throughout the entire Arab area of the Near and Middle East. If, it is said, Greece and Turkey are not to be dealt with piecemeal but as part of the entire Mediterranean question, then the United States needs not only there, but throughout the Middle East, friendly States -- that is, friendly Arab States.

The answer to this is plain enough. The inefficacy of most of the Arab peoples in the 1914-18 war, the open efforts to aid the Axis by Arab States and influential Arab elements during the recent World War, show how little, in any final crisis, the Western Powers could rely on them. It is as true for the United States as she extends the scope of her responsibilities as it has been for Britain -- though after Balfour's time a diminishing number of the British accepted this view -- that a well-integrated, modern Jewish State, in close association with them, might offer better protection for the interests of the countries of the West.

Secondly, it is argued against the Zionists that at a time when Greece and Turkey are being strengthened to bolster up the American position, the United States should not pursue a policy opposed by most of the States in the Near and Middle East. But why are Mr. Reston's informants prepared to stand up to the dominant military Power in the Balkans, yet ready to give way to what are only by hypothesis or by courtesy military Powers in the Near and Middle East? You either hold firm all along the line or appease all along the line. Mr. Reston's mentors would put their foot down to Russia but bend the knee to the Arabs.

Whatever the internal conditions of Greece and Turkey may be, they do not pursue, in their foreign policy, goals inimical to those of the West -- insofar as the West dare not disregard the Jewish tragedy any longer or dishonor its clear pledges to a Zionist Palestine.

Power is not an end in itself but a means to an end. Those upon whom Mr. Reston leans forget that moral principles and the historic national objectives of the United States are in themselves an element of power, making the firm resolve of her own people and rallying to them the support of others.

Would, as it is claimed, a policy of stabilization prove to be the reverse in the Near and Middle East if the British were forced to accept American immigration and political policy in Palestine? World power entails world risks. You may stabilize where you can -- but not at any price. And since

when does the United States yield to threats -- threats, moreover, from Arab States whose existence depends on Anglo-American subsidies, private and public, Anglo-American markets for oil and other commodities, Anglo-American guidance in the sphere of defense? To take Arab bluster at its face value would reveal a failure of nerve scarcely befitting the greatest World Power as it stands on the threshold of its new era of leadership.

Finally, words lose their meaning when Mr. Reston's friends quote against the Zionists, the President's Greco-Turkish proposal to "support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressures". In the vast, empty, derelict lands of the Arab world, to which the Arabs effortlessly fell heir as a result of Allied victories but not through any liberating efforts of their own, who are the "free people"? To what extent in the light of the catastrophic conditions out of which Zionism arose and in the light of what it undertook with the consent and authority of the Powers, is this a description of anything -- other than Bedlam?

LIONEL GILBER
April 2, 1947.

January 8, 1948

Dr. Emanuel Neumann
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Neumann:

Dr. Silver received the enclosed letter.
As he is in Europe, I am taking the liberty of
forwarding it to you. I would appreciate it if
you would acknowledge it to Rabbi Ruslander.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. Silver

BJK
Enc.



COPY
TEMPLE ISRAEL
1821 Emerson Ave.
Dayton 6, Ohio

January 6, 1948

Original to Dr. Hirschman

Rabbi Abba H. Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Forgive me for intruding upon what I know is a most busy period for you but I want to call attention to an idea that was presented by a member of my congregation. Since it was for the cause of Palestine I did not hesitate to write.

A week ago a Mr. Hirsch Touff and an agronomist and landscape architect (a graduate of the University of Illinois) came to see me about the possibility of starting a project of collecting seeds; garden, vegetable, and farm varieties for Palestine. He felt that this would be a possibility for gaining additional wealth for the land.

This may seem a small project, but let me tell you something of Touff's background. Touff had originally gone into agriculture for the sole purpose of settling in Palestine. In the mid 30's he was Agronomist with the State Planning Board of Illinois. At that time Jacob Crane, one of President Roosevelt's advisors and he developed a survey of the possibilities of State Planning for agricultural development in Palestine.

This survey was given to one of the representatives of the Histadrut. It was later presented at a conference in Washington by the Histadrut representative as his own and was accepted at that time. Since then Touff's active work for Palestine has stopped.

He came to Dayton, as Chief Landscape Engineer for Wright-Patterson Fields and has remained here since the war. Once again he feels the urge to utilize whatever talents he may have for the redemption of the land and is willing to take over the operation of a project of this character without charge or without salary.

I wonder if any of our Zionist organizations would be interested in using him (his contacts with other agronomists in this country, and so forth) in this interesting little project which he has conceived.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,
SELWYN D. RUSLANDER

January 8, 1947

Rabbi Selwyn D. Ruslander
Temple Israel
1821 Emerson Ave.
Dayton 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Ruslander:

Permit me to acknowledge your letter of January 6 to Dr. Silver. As you undoubtedly know, Dr. Silver is abroad and will be gone for several months. I have therefore taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to Dr. Emanuel Neumann, President of the Zionist Organization of America, who will, I am sure, give it proper consideration.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Dr. Silver

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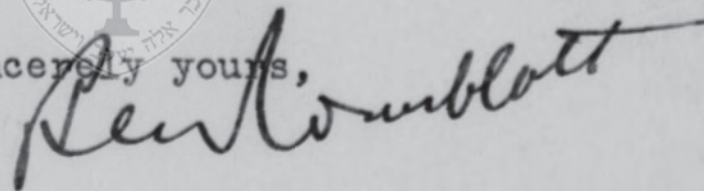
July 27, 1948.

Dr. A.H. Silver
c/o The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am surprised not to have received some answer to my letter of July 15. Omitting any personal consideration, it would seem to me that you should welcome some report on the situation in Palestine, particularly as it affects our general Zionist plans—a report that I have been vainly trying to get Dr. Goldstein to consider.

Sincerely yours,



BAR/ecc

ADAM BOND
KAS CONTENT

July 30, 1948

Mr. Ben Rosenblatt
80 Broad Street
New York 4, New York

My dear Mr. Rosenblatt:

You should not be put out over the fact that you have not received a reply to your letter of July 15th. Since that date I have been away from Cleveland twice, and I have also been tied up here in connection with a Testimonial which was given to me, and a good deal of my correspondence has lagged.

I am leaving for Palestine on Wednesday. I do not know when I shall be able to reach New York. I may get there on Tuesday; on the other hand, I may go straight from the train Wednesday morning to the boat. This will depend upon the amount of work which I have to do here. I would suggest that you telephone the Agency on Tuesday to find out whether I am in the city. In that case I shall be very happy to arrange for a meeting with you. On the other hand, to make sure that I get the benefit of your reactions to the situation in Palestine with reference to the General Zionists there, I would suggest that you write to me here. I am keeping in mind what you said in your first letter. I discussed it with one or two people yesterday in New York. Perhaps when we come to dig into the entire subject in Tel Aviv at the meetings of the Executive and the Actions Committee, we might find a solution. I would suggest that you also have a talk with Dr. Goldstein before he leaves for Israel.

With all good wishes and hoping to see you, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

Jacob Robinson
see

Abraham Case folder

