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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

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

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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Neumann, Emanuel, 1939.

Feb. 1, 1939

Mr. Emanuel Neuman
P. O. B. 325
Jerusalem, Palestine

My dear Emanuel:

It is a long time since I have written to you or have heard from you. I trust that you and your family are all well.

The immediate purpose of my writing this note is to inquire about Mr. Nathan Kaplan. I understand that he is in hard straits financially. Some of his friends here have suggested that he be employed by the United Palestine Appeal in some capacity or another. Others have made other suggestions. I am wondering what the real situation is. Would a purse raised quietly among his friends in this country, say a thousand dollars, be of help to him and would he have any objections to it? Perhaps you could feel out the situation for me. Inasmuch as the United Palestine Appeal is merged, this year, with the Joint Distribution Committee in a United Campaign, it is hardly likely that place can be found for Mr. Kaplan within the set-up for this year.

With all good wishes to you and yours in which Virginia joins me most heartily, I remain

As ever

AHS:BK

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February 26, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

I was delighted to have your letter of February 1st, which reached me the day before yesterday.

With regard to our mutual friend, I know that he is in serious straits and that things have reached ~~the~~ pass where it is necessary for friends to do something for him. It is a pity that there seems to be no possibility of utilising him for the Appeal, as that would, I think, be the best thing for the moment. If that is out of the question, one might consider the second suggestion, although a thousand dollars ~~will~~ not help very much. It is a palliative which may have to be applied, but is no solution. I will look into the matter a little more closely, and perhaps have a talk with him myself and advise you thereafter.

While I am at it I would like to write you about two other matters.

The first is the Mifde Ezrachi, about which I spoke to Lipsky and Solomon Goldmann when I saw them in Europe last summer. As you probably know, this is a fund which has been set up at the initiative of the General Zionist "A" and "B" Groups for the purpose of extending constructive aid during the crisis to those elements of the population who are not assisted out of the funds raised by Labor. I gave a bit of time to this effort last year, having served as Chairman of the Campaign Committee. For an initial venture in this direction, the Mifde has been fairly successful. We raised about LP.26,000.-, on the strength of which we were able to arrange for long-term loans at low rates of interest to artisans, small manufacturers, tradespeople, small farmers, etc.; and by entering into

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combinations with the Agency and local banks we have been able to turn over a much larger amount than the money had at our own disposal. It is, of course, much more difficult to raise money this year, but we are going ahead.

I discussed with Lipsky and Goldmann the possibility of getting some supplementary funds in America. They were both sympathetic, but each proposed different procedure. Goldmann thought we ought to send a delegation to America to raise funds, with the probable result that an allocation would be secured from the U.P.A. in order to avoid a separate campaign - the same method, in other words, as had been used by the other parties, not without success. I explained to Goldmann that ~~we~~ we could not think of sending a delegation without being assured in advance of the cooperation of the ZOA, and since the ZOA was very intimately connected with the UPA, it involved the consent of the latter as well.

Lipsky agreed with me and thought that the delegation was unnecessary, but that we should make an application in writing and he would favour an allocation for this purpose. About the sametime representatives of the General Zionist Organisation here also communicated personally and in writing with the ZOA leaders, requesting an allocation which should go through the channel of the Joint Committee ~~and~~ of the General Zionist Organisations in Palestine, for various purposes, including assistance to kibbutzim of the General Zionists who are not receiving adequate assistance.

Recently I heard from Lipsky, who said that there was some talk in America of including some allocation in the budget, but he also told me that both Wise and Goldmann were hesitating because they feared the funds might be used "to check the activities of Labor"; while others had misgivings about turning the money over through the ZOA.

I want to say that the Mifde is, in my opinion, the most suitable institution for such purposes, it being widely representative of the General Zionists and non-socialistic elements of the community, who, so far as relations with the public institutions are concerned, are definitely in the position of the "under dog". On its Board are represented not only General Zionist Groups "A" and "B", but also the Manufacturers' Association, Farmers Federation, etc., etc. The Mifde works in harmonious collaboration with the Jewish Agency Executive and two members of the Executive are actually on its Board. The Agency has participated

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with thousands of Pounds in some of the loan funds which the Mifde has established, and even some of the Labour Institutions(such as Workers Bank, Yakhin, etc) made contributions to the Mifde ~~thru~~ the efforts of Remez himself. That ought to make it sufficiently kosher, I think, "afilu l'mehadrin".

The difficulty as to the "channel" could best be overcome, I believe, by the ZOA and UPA naming a Committee in Palestine, consisting of several Americans living here, formerly prominent in the ZOA and UPA in America. It would be very easy to find such a group that would be willing to shoulder the responsibility, and in whom confidence could be reposed (e.g. Ben Rosenblatt, Nathan D. Kaplan, Mrs. Rose Halpern, Neumann, etc.)

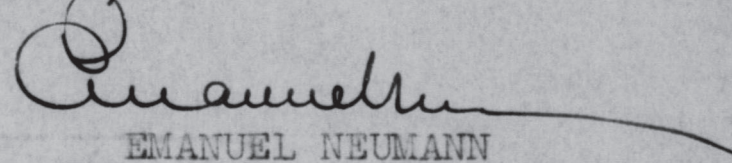
The other matter I wish to write to you about is concerning a plan which I have evolved for establishing in Palestine a Herzl-Nordau Institute, but I cannot write about it in detail now and will do so in a subsequent letter.

We are all well, but in a state of tension. I have just received word this moment that our representatives have decided to break off conversations, and there are bombings and shootings all over the country.

Fan joins me in sending most affectionate regards to Virginia, the boys and yourself.

As ever,

Yours,


EMANUEL NEUMANN

EN:JS

March 15, 1939

Mr. Emanuel Newman
Kupat Am Building
Achad Ha-Am Street
Tel Aviv
Palestine

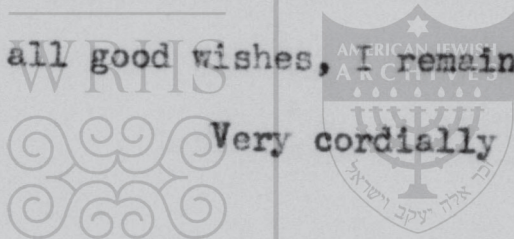
My dear Emanuel:

Some time ago, I send you the enclosed letter. I am afraid it didn't reach you. I would appreciate it if you would let me know about Mr. Kaplan as soon as you can.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.



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April 2, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

By this time you must have my letter which
I sent you in reply to yours of the 1st of February.

Since I wrote that letter I had a talk with
our friend and he told me that at the moment it would
not be possible for him to go to America in any case
because he has to look after things here. It is also
clear that a purse, such as you suggested, would not
be acceptable. He would like to come for the Campaign
perhaps in the Fall. If financial assistance is thought
of it would have to be in a much more substantial scale
so as to enable him, partly at least, to get out of
certain financial difficulties.

I wonder when I am going to see you next?

Hearty Pesach greetings to you all.

As ever,

Faithfully yours,

Emanuel Neumann
EMANUEL NEUMANN

EN:JS